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MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET
BY THE PRIME MINISTERScheme for the establishment in Malta of a
convalescent centre for Scandinavian patients

On 23rd September, 1969 Ministers had agreed that whilst they were favourably disposed to the proposals by the Swedish medical authorities for the establishment of a convalescent centre in Malta for Scandinavian patients, they could not agree to the choice of Bighi Hospital for this purpose, before the Commissioner of Land, as Chairman of the Standing Committee set up to select sites for hotel development, had reported on the possible eventual grant of Bighi Hospital for the construction of an hotel or some other tourist project.

The Commissioner of Land has now reported that the Standing Committee to select sites for hotel development had come to the conclusion that the Bighi complex could best be utilized as a Convalescent Centre and alternatively as a Convention Centre, although the former is considered more practical.

On the other hand the Committee considered that the Swedish project is too small to warrant the handing over of the Bighi complex to them but that more than one project could easily be housed on the site. Inter alia, the Commissioner of Land reports that the Malta Consul in San Francisco had applied to the Malta Development Corporation for assistance to enable an American Medical Team to set up at Bighi a convalescent home for Americans, although a 'health farm' would not justify ~~for~~ any grant or loan.

Ministers are asked to consider whether the same policy in calling for applications for hotel sites should be followed in this instance also and offers invited for due conversion and use of Bighi Hospital as a convalescent centre, as recommended by the Commissioner of Land.

23rd February, 1970.