

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE HON. PRIME MINISTER

Ricasoli Lido

In terms of the draft Malta Defence Agreement, the concept of Naval waters will disappear, but the Agreement provides for special arrangements to be made for the U.K. Government to have the unobstructed use of waters in the vicinity of Service establishments and to enable U.K. Service vessels to have access to such waters.

2. During discussions between the Malta representatives and the local Service representatives, the latter requested that the waters adjoining Ricasoli Lido which is perpetual user property, should be the subject of special arrangements as envisaged in the Agreement. The Services' request was to lay down floating spars (enclosing an area of water) for the purpose of keeping out oil and rubbish and of protecting children using the lido.

3. The Malta representatives rejected the Services' request as going beyond the special arrangements contemplated in the draft Defence Agreement. However, the Malta representatives agreed to submit the request for consideration outside the context of special arrangements for operational requirements.

4. The Services' request can be met, if the Government so wishes, by way of an encroachment permit, which would carry the conditions that (a) the Services would not hold any rights over the enclosed area, (b) the area would remain public and its use by the public should in no way be hampered or curtailed, and (c) the right to lay down the spars would be exercisable during the bathing season only. The Services are willing to accept these conditions. The Commissioner of Police and the Commissioner of Land do not object to such concession being made. The area which it is desired to enclose is shown on the accompanying plan.

5. In the view of the Deputy Attorney General the granting of the encroachment may be considered to fall within the scope of section 4(1) of Part 5 of the Agreement which provides that "The Government of Malta shall give effect to the reasonable needs of the British Forces in Malta to enable them to carry out their duties, including the maintenance of the necessary welfare arrangements, for the purposes of this Agreement."

6. Hon. Ministers are kindly invited to say whether they are in favour of the Services' request being granted in the manner proposed.

6th August, 1964.

L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta