

MEMORANDUM BY THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Exemption from duty on a ten pin bowling alley for  
the Vernon United Services Club

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The Directors of the Vernon United Services Club, who are the Heads of the Services in Malta, are contemplating the possibility of installing in the Club a ten pin bowling alley. They intend to apply for a grant from the Nuffield Trust to cover the cost.

The Club is run for the benefit of services personnel i.e. soldiers, sailors and airmen and the bowling alley will be installed for their recreation.

The equipment consists of prefabricated sections of specially prepared timber, mechanical pinsetters, some special electrical fittings (score boards) equipment for playing the game (bowls and pins) and maintenance equipment.

An enquiry has been made to the Comptroller of Customs as to whether this equipment can be imported free of duty under Section 9 of the Agreement on Mutual Defence and Assistance. It does not appear that the Vernon United Services Club has, by agreement, been included in the definition of "Authorised service organisation". Paragraph (1) (g) of Part I of the Annex to the Agreement on Mutual Defence and Assistance defines "Authorised service organisation" as meaning the N.A.A.F.I., the Royal Naval Film Corporation, the Army Kinema Corporation and the Royal Air Force Cinema Corporation and, in such cases and subject to such conditions as may be agreed between the British Authorities and the authorities of Malta, other non-profit making organisations authorised by the British authorities to accompany the British forces in Malta in order to provide for the needs of members of those forces, civilian component and dependants, and also any person acting on behalf of an authorised service organisation".

The Vernon United Services Club was founded through the philanthropy of a naval officer and it is administered by a committee composed, as mentioned earlier in this memorandum, of the Heads of the Services. Although it has no entitlement to duty free importation for its equipment, as it purchases its requirements by local purchase, it would appear that for the importation of this particular item, which cannot be obtained locally, it merits the favourable consideration of the Government for the purpose of an exemption from the duty chargeable.

The Financial Secretary considers that the request is rather premature as the Club has not yet obtained the necessary assistance from the Nuffield Trust to enable it to obtain this bowling alley. He also feels that the Club should ask the Nuffield Trust that funds to be made available should also cover the customs duty involved.

Charitable / .....

Philanthropic bodies such as the Nuffield Trust should be encouraged to grant similar donations of which unfortunately we have all too few in Malta. The suggestion contained in the next preceding paragraph is not at all conducive to such philanthropic activities and Hon. Ministers are invited to agree that it is in the Island's interest to create a favourable climate for the promotion of similar donations.

The value of the bowling alley is not yet known but the approval of Honourable Ministers is invited in principle for an exemption from duty in terms of section 14 (1) of the Import Duties Act, 1964.

Whenever in the recent past the Nuffield Trust did make a donation to the Services in Malta the Government has authorised duty free release by special exemption.

15th June, 1965.