

MEMORANDUM TO THE CABINET
BY THE HON. PRIME MINISTER

APPLICATIONS BY OPERATORS OF HOTELS AND GUEST
HOUSES FOR LICENCES TO SELL SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

Two applications have recently been submitted to the Licensing Board for the issue of licences to sell spirituous liquors.

2. One application is by Godfrey Farrugia who is seeking a licence to sell spirituous liquors at Nos. 13/14 Valley Road, Marsalforn, Gozo. Three neighbours objected. The Board decided to defer the case for decision until after the licence to run a hotel at these premises for which applicant had also applied had been decided upon; the Board considered that applicant would stand a better chance of obtaining the licence to sell spirituous liquors, if and when the licence to operate a hotel were granted to him.

3. The other application is by Mrs Beatrice M. Drury who is requesting the issue of a licence to sell spirituous liquors at Nos. 172/173A Old College Street, Sliema. These premises are already licensed as a Guest House. In spite of the fact that, in this case, five neighbours objected, the Licensing Board recommended the issue of a licence. The Board considered that the objections raised by the neighbours-to the effect that the peace and serenity enjoyed by residents of the locality would be disturbed by the unruly behaviour of the patrons entering and leaving the bar of the Guest House and by the inevitable noise of the starting and revving-up of car engines - were hypothetical and presupposed the creation of inconvenience and rowdiness. In the circumstances, the Board considered that as the place was being run as a guest house and served the interests of tourism, the public interest should prevail over the interests of an insignificant minority of the community.

4. As a general consideration, the Commissioner of Police is of the opinion that, apart from a small number of the more select hotels, the number of non-residents who make use of the public bars in hotels is insignificant and that non-residents do not normally frequent such bars in the late hours of the night.

5. Hon. Ministers may wish to consider, as a matter of policy, whether licences to sell spirituous liquors be issued in premises licensed as guest houses, serving the interests of tourism, even if they are objected to by some of the neighbours and, if so, to agree that:

- (i) the application by Godfrey Farrugia should be considered favourably if and when the licence to operate a hotel is granted;
- (ii) the application by Mrs Beatrice M. Drury should be favourably considered now.

24th September, 1966.