

Memorandum to Cabinet by the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism in connection with the acquisition of Mattia Preti's House in Zurrieq.

The house at No. 4 Flower Street, Zurrieq is being offered for sale by its owner Dr. Giovanni Mangion of No. 55 High Street, Zurrieq, and the Secretary of the Civic Committee of Zurrieq have been suggesting that Government should purchase this house.

The Public Works have reported that a price of £600 would be considered fair as against the £1,200 being asked by the owner. As the house is occupied by a married family without children the matter was also referred to the Housing Secretary who reported that if the Government tenements being built in Zurrieq were passed to him he could arrange for one of the above premises to be offered to this family provided it were acceptable with regard to size and rent.

I feel that at this stage of our touristic development we should not allow premises of historical importance which can be turned into small but interesting museums to change hands in private ownership and Ministers are therefore asked to agree that Mattia Preti house at No. 4 Flower Street, Zurrieq be acquired by the Government either through negotiations or as a last resort acquisition of the property on a public purpose.

25th January, 1967.