

Memorandum to Cabinet by the Hon. Minister of Trade
Industry and Agriculture

Establishment of a Zoo in Malta

The establishment of a zoo in Malta was being given consideration by the then Minister responsible for Agriculture following a request in 1964 to set up a zoo in Malta by Messrs. Chipperfield Hampshire Farm Ltd. who run two zoological gardens in England.

The project was considered commendable by the then Minister of Agriculture. The then Commissioner of Land shared the same views. Unfortunately the matter was not pursued further.

Messrs. Chipperfield, Hampshire Farms Ltd. are still very much interested in setting up a zoo in Malta and Mr. Chipperfield himself, one of the directors, has been to Malta twice besides sending over his representatives, Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Vella to study the matter on the spot.

Mr. Chipperfield visited various sites and gardens and he has come to the conclusion that the best site from all aspects would be Hastings Gardens in Valletta. He would require to have fort St. Leonardo established as a quarantine station for all species of livestock under his jurisdiction.

Other conditions requested by Mr. Chipperfield are:

(a) The Government to finance the erection of all Permanent buildings including a restaurant, fences, roads pathways, provision of drains, toilets, water and electricity service.

(b) He would supply all livestock, technical and other staff and design and supervise the construction of and manage the zoological garden.

(c) He would pay the Government 5% of the admission for a lease of 30 years. At the end of that time the lease would be re-negotiated and if he were not carrying out the management, the livestock could be bought at cost by the Government.

(d) All livestock and supplies for the zoo to be allowed duty free importation into Malta.

As the idea of having a zoo in Malta is attractive from the educational and tourist points of view and also, as the conditions requested by Messrs. Chipperfield are not considered excessive, Hon. Ministers are asked to agree in principle to the establishment of a zoo in Malta subject to final approval by the Hon. Ministers concerned of the conditions to be negotiated between Messrs. Southampton Zoological Gardens and the Government.

6th September, 1967.

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