

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET BY THE  
HON. PRIME MINISTER

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Wignacourt Tower - St Paul's Bay

'Din l-Art Helwa' has asked that the Wignacourt Tower at St Paul's Bay be placed "in trust" with the Association which proposes to

- i) restore the Tower at its own expense and under the direction of the P.W.D. Engineer in charge of the Archaeological Section
- ii) continue to carry out all ordinary and extraordinary works, and
- iii) use the Tower for some form of Cultural purpose and not for commercial purposes.

The request raises a question of principle which needs consideration in the light of the following:-

- a) whether the concession, if granted, would tend to induce the Association to consider itself as a 'de facto' National Trust and consequently to expect to be granted other historic property under the same terms;
- b) whether it is considered proper for a private organisation to take over the function of maintenance and preservation of historic buildings from the responsible Ministry which is already provided with the necessary staff and funds.

Hon. Ministers may wish to consider whether the request of 'Din l-Art Helwa' should be acceded to and, if so, whether a grant on the standard encroachment terms would meet the purpose.

10th December, 1968.