

Memorandum for Cabinet by the Minister
of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Disposal of the Boom Defence Depot Yard at Marsa

It is anticipated that during the first part of next year the Boom Defence Depot Yard at Shipwrights' Wharf, Marsa will be surrendered to Government by the British Authorities. The area being surrendered is approximately 10 tumoli.

In view of its siting in the heart of the harbour area, its development is being considered by two different Ministries, who "prima facie" may have equal claims to it.

The Ministry of Finance, Customs and Port requires the site for the development of Shore facilities in connection with the re-alignment of Coal Wharf, and it considers that all the area surrendered should be utilised for this purpose.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture considers that this land should be allocated for industrial development by private industrialists. In this connection, this Ministry is strongly recommending the grant of a portion of this land, measuring about 1½ tumoli to Marsovin, who require the land for the setting up of a completely new bottling plant and complementary storage space. The land required by Marsovin is adjacent to the already existing Winery and it is being suggested that the Boom Defence Yard is the only land that is available for Marsovin's expansion programme.

It is pointed out that the Malta Development Corporation has already signified its willingness to provide Marsovin with a loan of £100,000 to enable it to embark on this expansion.

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The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture has also in mind an industry which will process meat, and which will require a cattle shed or the waterfront for unloading economically the live animals. The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture further points out that a site on the waterfront may also be required for other industrial projects which will be using materials requiring to be discharged straight from the vessel into storage by means of silos.

Apart from the claims put forward by these two Ministries, the Education Department had also requested the site which is situated at the back of the Paola Technical Institute, for incorporation with the Nautical Section of the Institute. The Director of Education considers that in order to provide the necessary facilities in sea training, an expansion of the present facilities is necessary, and for this purpose he requires berthing facilities near the Institute. At present the motor boat "Vigilant" which is used for the purpose of giving practical training to students is berthed at Pieta'.

A firm of trawler owners, who are interested in operating one or more trawlers from Malta have made enquiries to the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries about this possibility.

In this connection, the Chief Fisheries Adviser is pointing out this land as it "would suit thier purpose admirably".

Hon. Ministers are invited to consider these claims and decide on the future use of the Boom Defence Yard when it is surrendered to the Government.

27th November, 1968.

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