

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE HON. PRIME MINISTER

Tigne Barracks and Hotel Development

A very active interest is being evinced by Holiday Inns of America, Inc., in the construction of a 300-room 600-bed medium-priced hotel in Malta, which by all accounts, is intended to serve as the "mother-house" for a chain of hotels which the organization intends to build and operate along the Mediterranean littoral.

2. Holiday Inns specialize in the operation and development of hotels all over Europe and Asia. They have entered into an agreement with Mr. Clement Chen, Jr., the well-known San Francisco architect to take charge of their Malta project, in association with Mr. R. de Giorgio. Dr. G G Gatt is their local legal adviser, and an application has been filed with the Malta Development Corporation. It is understood that capital for the project has been subscribed by members of the Maltese community of California, under the name of the Malta Pacific Investment Co., who have, in fact, made the application to the Corporation.

3. The original choice for a site was Lintorn Barracks, Floriana, but when applicants were advised that there was little prospect of this site being made available for the purpose they had in mind, they opted for part of the seaward part of the Tigne Barracks area, as shown on the attached site plan.

4. Given the present policy regarding the allocation of sites for hotel development, a decision has to be taken, in the first instance whether the Tigne Barracks site, at present still occupied by the British authorities, should when available, be allocated for hotel development. Prima facie, the site is admirable for such a purpose.

5. Secondly, it might be for consideration whether Holiday Inns should be given any particular option on the site, or else made to take their chance with whatever other bidders there may be for it. Holiday Inns wish to have their Malta hotel in operation by 1970, and given a construction time of nine months and a running in time of six, they would wish to start actual construction by March, 1969, and would have to know that the site is available to them before then, in order to prepare site and building plans.

6. The present position with regard to Tigne Barracks is that it is not due for surrender before September, 1970. The 2nd Regiment, Royal Malta Artillery, is housed there, and the

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scheduled surrender date probably coincides with the cessation of British responsibility for the R. M. A.

7. Should it be decided that the site should be allocated for hotel development, agreement would then have to be reached with the British authorities for the earlier surrender of the site. The problem here would be mainly that of providing an alternative barracks for the Royal Malta Artillery. With some all-round goodwill and cooperation, it is thought that Lintorn Barracks, Floriana, could provide the answer, even a temporary one until further barrack areas become available through the withdrawal of British regiments. Lintorn, in any event, would be required for the Malta Land Force, of which the R. M. A. will eventually form part.

8. Ministers are kindly requested to say whether (a) they agree that Tigne Barracks should be earmarked for hotel development, and if so (b) whether they agree that action be taken with the British authorities as proposed in paragraph 7.

10th October, 1968.

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