

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

Wastes Disposal and Water Supply Project

At the request of the Malta Government the United Nations Development Programme approved a Special Fund project in 1967 to prepare a master plan covering wastes disposal, water supply and to make recommendations on the legal, managerial and financial aspects connected therewith. The work has been carried out by a project manager, by a project team made up of sub-contractors nominated by the World Health Organisation, and by counterpart staff provided by the Government under the direction of a Maltese project co-manager. The report of the sub-contractors, which is expected to cover all the above aspects in one master plan, is due to be submitted to the World Health Organisation in February 1971 and is likely to be passed to Government in April 1971. This master plan will include definite recommendations to the Government on the following major aspects:

- (a) the extension and improvement of the existing sewerage system, the partial treatment of sewage prior to discharge into the sea and possible treatment for re-use in agriculture or for re-charging the aquifer;
- (b) the collection and disposal of refuse;
- (c) the general system of water supply by reference to further hydrological development and to more stringent water conservancy measures;
- (d) the organisation necessary to carry out this work.

2. The master plan will include a number of alternative recommendations on which the Government will require to take a decision; every combination of recommendations will require a high rate of investment. Irrespective of the decisions on the various alternatives submitted in the master plan it is already clear that the Government will have to do more in certain areas e.g. the avoidance of pollution of the sea through the discharge of untreated sewage and the implementation of stricter water conservancy measures.

3. Implementation of such of the recommendations contained in the master plan as may be accepted by the Government will require the preparation of detailed work plans, tender documents, etc. For this work it will be desirable to have further assistance from UNDP which could take the form of

a second phase of the existing project. Since, however, the Government is not now in a position to say with certainty what the sub-contractors' recommendations are going to be, and so is unable to decide on a possible course of action, a request for a phase II project cannot be submitted immediately. It is however most desirable that certain work which has already been started should not be stopped to await study of the sub-contractors' report. For this reason it is thought necessary that a request should be put up to UNDP for a bridging operation of about 12 months to enable these intermediate studies to be continued. This arrangement has the advantage that the Government would not be tied to immediate implementation of the recommendations of the sub-contractors.

4. It is proposed that assistance should be sought from the United Nations Development Programme/Special Fund for the continuation in post of the existing project manager and of one Hydrologist to carry out the following assignments:

Project Manager for 12 months

- (a) to give advice and to assist the departments concerned with the implementation of those urgent recommendations e.g. water conservancy measures, in the master plan which in any case would fall to be implemented independently of phase II;
- (b) to supervise the operation of the demonstration sewage treatment plant at Ghammieri, which is expected to start operating early in 1971, and to analyse findings;
- (c) to oversee the introduction of a new system of dustless collection of refuse in a selected test district of about 1,000 households;
- (d) to assist the Government in preparing a request for a phase II project, should Government decide to go ahead on this.

Hydrologist for six months

Studies already carried out reveal that the sinking of new bore holes in the northern part of Malta and further extension of the galleries may leave unchanged the present extraction figures of aquifer water but with a lowering of the salinity content by approximately 50 per cent. The services of a hydrologist would therefore be required to carry out those hydrological studies which it is necessary to undertake independently of implementation of the recommendations contained in the master plan.

5. The counterpart project team would in the main be retained to help the project manager with these assignments. Annex I gives details of the disposal of the existing project staff.

6. Hon. Ministers are asked to consider the position and to say whether a request for a bridging operation on the lines of Annex II should be submitted to UNDP.

WASTES DISPOSAL AND WATER SUPPLY PROJECT - MALTA

Plan of Operation	Dept.	Name	Disposal of counter-part Staff
<u>Professional Staff</u>			
Co-Manager	PWD	J. Degnetano	To remain
Water engineer	WWD	V. Galleja	To remain on water conservancy
Sanitary engineer	PWD	O. Caruana Montaldo	Released to P.W.D. - Drainage Section
Chemist	PWD	V. Anastasi	Laboratory work still required
Bacteriologist	PWD	V. Gauci	
<u>Other Staff - Technical</u>			
Engineer Assistant(water)	WWD	J. Mangion	Release to H.W.D.
" " "	WWD	N. Dalli	Remain with project for field work on water conservancy
Health Inspector	Health	T. Micallef	Refuse Disposal Centre
Clerk of works(sewage)	PWD	E. Galea	Erection and operation of sewage flow recorders(Project)
Engineer Assistant (maintenance and operation of sewage plants)	PWD	-	Upgrading of sewerage systems plans(Project)
Draughtsman	PWD	V. Sacco	
"	PWD	A. Zammit	
Jnr Draughtsman	PWD	-	To be retained for water conservancy field work
Jnr Foreman	PWD	A. Privitera	
Drawing Office and Survey Assistant	PWD	V. Cilia	To assist draughtsman on sewerage systems plans
" "	PWD	A. McEwen	
Laboratory Technician	PWD	G. Debono	Left project
" "	Educ.	C. Doublet	To remain, assisting Chemist & Bacteriologist
Laboratory Assistant	PWD	A. Mifsud	To remain
Surveyor	PWD	L. Montebello	Can be returned to PWD
Student	PWD	G. Vella	No students will be required
"	PWD	H. Mallia	
"	PWD	J. Bugeja	
"	PWD	V. Torpiano	
"	PWD	J. Berg	
"	PWD	E. Casingena	
"	PWD	J. Gambina	
"	PWD	A. Satariano	
"	PWD	M.J. Hunt	

Plan of Operation	Dept.	Name	Disposal of counterpart Staff
<u>Other Staff - Administrative and Clerical</u>			
Administrative Officer	MFCP	J. Rizzo	} Required to devise management information systems
Higher Executive Officer	PWD	P. Attard	
Higher Clerical Officer	PWD	C. Gambina	To transfer - accounts to be kept by PWD
Higher Clerical Officer	PWD	E. Paris	Retired - no replacement
Clerical Officer	PWD	C. Borg	To assist Administrative officer
Clerical Officer	PWD	E. Cauchi	Can be released
Shorthand Typist (Secretary)	PWD	M. Gauci	To remain as Project Manager's Secretary
Clerk Typist	PWD	M. Apap	To retain
Clerk Typist	PWD	M. Arzopardi	} May be released
Clerk Typist	Public Lotte	R. Zammit	
<u>Services</u>			
Telephone Attendant	PWD	A. Navarro	Must be retained
Office Attendant	PWD	J. Muscat	Doing Laboratory cleaning work
Office Attendant	PWD	A. Camilleri	Only messenger available
Charwoman	PWD	J. Cachia	Retained
Driver	PWD	C. Abela	
Driver	PWD	J. Zahra	3 cars will be enough
Drivers	PWD	4 in No.	

REQUEST LETTER

The Plan of Operations of the Wastes Disposal and Water Supply Project (MAT 5) provided for a programme of work covering wastes disposal, water supply, as well as legal, managerial and financial aspects connected therewith. The report of the Sub-Contractors of the World Health Organization, which is the executing agency for the project, is expected to provide a master plan covering all these aspects. The report is due to be submitted to the World Health Organization in February 1971 and is likely to be passed to the Government sometime in April 1971.

From the studies already carried out it is clear that it will be necessary to undertake further studies in connection with hydrology. It is anticipated that this will be one of the important recommendations contained in the report. It will also be necessary for the Government to be assisted with the implementation of such of the recommendations contained in the master plan as may be accepted.

An assessment of these recommendations will have to be made so that the Government can decide which of the alternatives offered should be adopted. It is in fact envisaged that, following the study of the master plan the Government would submit a request for a Phase II of the project to cover preparation of detailed work plans, designs and tender documents; training of local staff for the various engineering, management and administrative tasks to be undertaken during the implementation stage of the project; and, later, in the running of the schemes when these are established. Assistance for the preparation of a request for a Phase II of the project will be required and this can best be given by the present Project Manager.

A request for phase II cannot possibly be submitted by the Government before the summer of 1971 if proper consideration is to be given to the proposals contained in the master plan. The study of the recommendations would, however, be assisted if the present project manager were to remain in Malta for a further period of 12 months to give his advice and to assist the departments concerned with the implementation of those urgent recommendations which, in any case, would fall to be implemented independently of Phase II.

To-day, the average salinity of the lower aquifer is 800 p.p.m. of chloride. It is planned to reduce the extraction by 50% to lower the salinity to 400 p.p.m. chloride. The studies already carried out reveal that the sinking of new bore holes in the northern part of Malta and further extensions of the galleries may leave unchanged the present extraction figures of aquifer water at about 12 mill. cu. m. per year with a salinity of not more than 400 p.p.m. of chloride.

The assistance required during the next 12 months is, therefore, as follows:

Retention of the present project manager for a period of 12 months to carry out the assignment set out above and the provision of the services of a hydrologist for a period of 6 months to carry out hydrological studies.

If the request is approved, the Government will continue to make available the staff shown in the attached annex.