

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET BY THE  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Subject: Conversion of the Army Camp at  
Ghadira into a Camping site.

The Halcyon Trust of Sussex U.K. submitted a memorandum asking permission for the setting up of a Navigation and Sea Training School at Ghadira Bay, Mellieha.

While the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism found no objection in principle to the setting up of such a school, both the Commissioner of Land and the Housing Secretary were of the opinion that, as more and more land was being fenced off for tourist and other development projects, the Army Camp site at Ghadira should be converted into a cheap holiday camp for the local population.

It was pointed out that this Camp, which comprises several buildings in excellent condition and a number of concrete platforms for the setting up of tents, is ideally situated at Malta's most popular beach where hundreds of Maltese families spend their holidays under canvas. Moreover, it is already provided with the necessary sanitary conveniences which can be easily enlarged at not too heavy an expense.

Such a properly organised camping site would fully justify Government action of prohibiting camping on the sand beaches at Ghadira Bay, thus avoiding those unsightly, inconvenient and unhealthy encampments which are increasing in number every year. Furthermore action will have been taken to avoid the possibility of the buildings on this site being gradually demolished by vandals and depreddators.

The Allocation/.....

The allocation of rooms and camping sites could be made by the Commissioner of Land following a system analogous to the allocation of Housing Units and campers would be made to pay a small per capita fee per day to the Land Department as this project would entail the full-time employment of the person at present acting as caretaker. The maintenance of this site could be taken over by the gang of plasterers and labourers in the Housing Department with an addition of at least two during the peak period.

It is being suggested by the Commissioner of Land and the Housing Secretary that a trial be given to the setting up of this Camping site by making a start on the North Western part of that site. This part comprises three large units which could easily be converted by the erection of divisional walls into a number of smaller units as well as a good number of concrete pads on which tents could be erected. The old parade ground could be parcelled into plots for the erection of tents. Campers will be allowed to make use of water service and of the sanitary facilities. Regulations will be drawn up to ensure a proper use of these facilities.

Hon. Ministers may wish to agree that the suggestion by the Commissioner of Land and by Housing Secretary be adopted.

15th April, 1969.

Land 622/68.

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