

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET BY THE
HON. PRIME MINISTER

Removal of the Notice Boards on the beaches
warning the public to "beware of strange objects"

1. The Malta Government Tourist Board has suggested to the Commissioner of Police that the removal of the Notice Boards on the Island's beaches warning the public to 'beware of strange objects' is desirable from the tourism viewpoint. The Board contends that the incidence of accidents is now very remote and the notices in question, in the condition they are, constitute an eyesore.
2. The Board has raised the matter following representations to it by persons interested in the tourist trade.
3. The Commissioner of Police had on the 1st February last suggested that Notices be erected on those beaches where they did not as yet exist. When the necessity for such notices was queried by this Office, the Commissioner of Police agreed not to insist that such additional notices be erected.
4. The Commissioner of Police considers that the suggestion of the Malta Government Tourist Board be decided by the Government.
5. It is quite true that the discovery of bombs and other missiles on our beaches is a rare occasion but it is only last year that some anti-personnel mines appeared at Baħar-iċ-Ċagħaq. The message which these notices are meant to convey is well impressed in the minds of the present generation as they have been standing there for the past twenty years, but the question is whether heed is taken of that message when a 'strange object' is actually found. The odds are that the person in his right senses will not tamper with such object and the fool will always do so no matter how many notices we put up.
6. Hon. Ministers are asked whether they agree that "warning" Notice Boards on the Island's beaches be removed.

8th May, 1963.