

Memorandum by the Minister of Justice
-----Former Navy Club at Crucifix Hill, Floriana

In 1911, the British Foreign Sailors Society were granted on encroachment a plot of land at Crucifix Hill, Floriana, for the erection of a Rest Home for Sailors - the King Edward VII Sailors Rest Home - at an annual recognition fee of £1. This building later became the Navy Club.

In 1959, following discussion between the Government, the Admiralty and the Society it was agreed that the Admiralty would return to the Government the Picket House at Kingsgate and would transfer its Patrol Headquarters from there to the Navy Club upon the termination of the Society's Encroachment. The Admiralty were also to pay compensation to the Society.

Correspondence was exchanged as to the form of tenure and the conditions under which the Admiralty were to occupy the Navy club but, although it seems to have been agreed that the tenure was to have been a 50 year emphyteusis no final agreement had been reached on certain important conditions. This notwithstanding the Patrol Headquarters were transferred to the Navy Club on August, 1st 1959 and the Picket House was returned to the Government on 19th April, 1960.

The present position is therefore, that the admiralty have, since August 1st, 1959, occupied the Navy Club without paying any compensation therefor and will presumably, go on doing so unless the position is regularized. It is estimated that the Government will continue to lose some £300 a year unless this is done.

Certain conditions which were being negotiated by the previous Administration do not appear to be acceptable; on the other hand it would not be prudent to start fresh negotiations unless Government agrees to proceed with the grant of legal title to the Admiralty.

Ministers are/...

Ministers are requested to consider whether the premises formerly housing the Navy Club at Crucifix Hill, Floriana, should be given on emphyteusis to the Admiralty for a period (in no case exceeding 50 years), at a ground rent and under conditions to be eventually negotiated with the Admiralty.

18th July, 1963.