

Memorandum by Minister of Justice
Illegal occupation of Government Rural
and Urban Property.

A number of cases where Government property is being occupied illegally by persons without any title to the tenancy have recently come to light.

2. It is difficult to assess to what extent the practice has "caught on", but recent trends show that there is an appreciable number of cases which have not come to the notice of Government.

3. As a practical solution to the problem, it is suggested that a press notice be issued stating that Government would be prepared to consider sympathetically cases when there had been a change in tenancy without Government permission. The suggestion however could only be profitably proceeded with if it can be assured that such illegal occupation would not thereafter recur.

4. This can only come about through adequate supervision based on a system of regular inspections as, otherwise, the same position as obtains to-day will repeat itself in a year or two.

5. The staff necessary for a comprehensive system of estate management is not available at the Land Department and it might be possible that such staff can be obtained on loan from the War Damage Commission without impairing the smooth execution of work necessary for the closing down of the War Damage Commission or from any other department.

6. Until then, it is considered that the present practice of treating each case as it arises on its own merit must necessarily be the only course that can be taken in dealing with the problem.

Hon. Ministers may wish to agree.

28th July, 1964.

L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta