

Memorandum by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture,  
Power and Communications regarding the cost  
of imported fodder in Gozo

1. Representations have been received regarding the high cost of fodder in Gozo due to extra transportation charges between Malta and Gozo.

2. The items of fodder which Gozitan producers have to obtain from Malta to provide an adequate food ration for milk producing herds are barley, cake and beans. These are usually conveyed from Marsa and the Grand Harbour to Mgarr, Gozo, at £1 per ton or 1s. 7.2d per qantar. The cost of fodder for Gozo herdsmen is therefore dearer than the prices prevailing in Malta due to this additional charge.

3. Calculating the fodder requirements on the cows' milk actually produced, i.e. 771,000 gallons at .2 gallons per cow, the quantity of fodder required would have to be such as to feed 1,056 cows in milk. There is also a recorded number of 293 heifers. The 1,349 heads need 29,543 qnatar of imported fodder as maintenance ration and a further 19,272 qnatar to supply 2 gallons of milk daily. This would be equivalent to 48,815 qnatar yearly which are carried to Gozo at a cost of £3,905.

4. To produce 771,000 gallons of cows' milk, Gozitan suppliers are therefore incurring an additional expenditure of £3,905 in fodder transportation costs - equivalent to 1.2d per gallon. In addition, 644,585 gallons of goats' milk are also produced in Gozo. If a bonus of 1d per gallon were to be paid on all cows' and goats' milk produced in the Sister Island the additional expenditure involved would amount to £5,898 per annum.

5. For the reasons explained above, this bonus is considered to be justified. Moreover, it is a fact that milk supplied by Gozitan producers is usually of a better compositional quality than that produced in Malta.

6. During 1964/65 the M.M.U. would be making a profit of £43,000 on milk, i.e. the turnover from sales of milk and by-products is expected to exceed the cost of milk purchased by that figure. Despite the departure of a considerable number of servicemen and their families, as well as the decrease in population through emigration,