

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET BY THE  
HON. THE PRIME MINISTER

Replacement of wooden boards, in Valletta,  
bearing street names, by ceramic plaques

In 1962 the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing suggested that the names of streets in Valletta be set out on ceramic tablets. It was then estimated that the cost of providing and fixing these ceramic plaques would amount to £850

2. The Street Names Committee submitted a comprehensive list on the subject of the renaming of streets in Valletta. After consultation with the Departments concerned, the list has been brought up to date, and, together with the covering Notice, is at Red 52 in file Sec. 1333/60. Before proceeding with approval for publication of the revision, it is felt that the question of whether ceramic plaques should or should not be fixed in Valletta needs to be studied.

3. The Hon. Minister of Industrial Development and Tourism feels that it is very desirable that ceramic plaques be fixed in the whole of the capital city of Malta. However, by so doing, it is probable that a dangerous precedent will be created, as it would then be difficult to resist other such requests. It may be stated, however, that the system of providing street names on ceramic plaques has already been followed in several places, e.g., Sliema, and particularly in new streets, and that this has a saving element inasmuch as such plaques do not require maintenance. It appears in principle that this saving element should be attractive.

4. Hon. Ministers are invited to consider

- (i) whether the principle of having ceramic plaques fixed in the streets of a town having its street names revised should be introduced;
- (ii) or whether such plaques should in principle be provided only for the urban centres which are more important from the several points of view (including the touristie, and subject always to availability of funds), and should be restricted to new streets and to streets where the old street names on wooden boards or otherwise have been disfigured.

In either case, it is also for consideration whether an entire city or town should be allowed to have ceramic plaques, or whether it would be more appropriate to have such plaques fixed only in the more prominent streets.

16th November, 1965.