

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET BY THE  
HON. THE PRIME MINISTER

Exportation of Admiralty Floating Dock No. 35

In June 1965, a licence was issued to S.p.a. Cantieri Navali "Santa Maria" of Genova for the exportation of Admiralty Floating Dock No. 35, subject to the conditions, guaranteed by a surety of £125,000, that the dock would be scrapped and at no time put to use as a floating dock.

2. Hon. Ministers will recall that, following several representations, it was agreed in Cabinet on the 18th August, 1965, that Messrs S.p.a. Cantieri Navali "Santa Maria" be informed that the Government of Malta would be prepared to waive the existing bankers' guarantee within a year from the date when the Floating Dock was finally installed in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and was fully ready to operate.

3. Representations are now being made on behalf of S.p.a. Cantieri Navali "Santa Maria", requesting that:

- (a) the dock be operated either in Hong Kong or in Kaohsiung, Taiwan; and
- (b) the deposit be released upon satisfactory confirmation that both sections of the dock have reached Hong Kong.

4. With regard to the first request, the Company had, as far back as the 29th June, 1965, indicated that it was their intention to operate the dock either in Hong Kong or in Kaohsiung, and it is not considered that this option is of any consequence.

5. The second request is a substantial departure from the last Cabinet decision referred to above. This notwithstanding, it does not appear to be altogether unreasonable, as the expenditure incurred by the time the dock reaches Hong Kong should, for practical purposes, rule out the possibility of the dock being returned to the Mediterranean.

6. Hon. Ministers may wish to reconsider the matter in the light of the foregoing.

5th January, 1966.