

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE HON. PRIME MINISTER

Improvements to the Independence Arena,
Floriana

On the 2nd of September, 1965, Hon. Ministers had agreed that permanency be given to the structures at the Independence Arena and that adequate drainage be provided for. A sum of £3,000 has been provided for this purpose in this year's estimates.

2. However, in the meantime both the Public Works Engineers and H.Q. Malta Land Force, who are jointly involved in the organization of the various parades which are held from time to time at the Arena, have submitted that the present seating and spectator arrangements there are not ideal since the ground slopes towards Lintorn Barracks with the result that the rows of seated V. I. Ps. see progressively less of the parade, whilst spectators in the public enclosures on the Mall side, for the most part, get only a rear view of the proceedings.

3. Therefore rather than consolidating the present structures, it is suggested that the layout of the Arena will be improved by transferring the saluting dais, the V. I. P. stand and other enclosures to the higher ground on the Mall side. The present sloping space would be converted into tiers of concrete steps, which would enable everybody to get a comfortable view of the spectacle. Furthermore, being closer to the Granaries, the present inconvenience for guests to have to walk a fair distance from their parked cars to their seating accommodation would be largely eliminated.

4. The Public Works Department estimate that it can construct seating for 1,300 in the V. I. P. enclosure, with ample standing room for the general public besides. The intention would be to convert the present seating site on the Lintorn Barracks side into an attractive flower patch. The Public Works Department state that this scheme will not require any funds over and above what has already been provided.

5. Hon. Ministers are kindly requested to consider whether the suggestions at paragraphs 3 and 4 above should be proceeded with.

9th August, 1967.