

Distribution of Proceeds from the Sale of George Cross Stamps

At a meeting of this Cabinet held on the 23rd August, 1966 it was agreed that all or part of the proceeds from the sale of stamps commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the award of the George Cross to the Island should go to the dependants of civilian war casualties who were receiving a pension under the Personal Injuries Scheme. This decision was also made known to the House of Representatives in reply to a Parliamentary question. (Attachment A).

The amount available for distribution this time is £68, 273, which is nearly four times that collected at the last commemorative issue in 1959. It is therefore felt that the benefit should not be limited only to those receiving a pension under the Personal Injuries Scheme but could be also extended to all the dependants of the civilian war casualties and to those civilians who were maimed or life through enemy action in the 2nd World War. Of course, it would have to be ensured that only really deserving persons should benefit and in this respect, in consultation with the Postmaster General and the Accountant General, some sort of means test would have to be devised. Incidentally, such a procedure was followed in previous distributions, that is in the issues made in 1957 to 1959.

There now remains the question of the actual amount to be allowed for allocation. In 1957, 1958 and 1959 the amounts distributed were £24, 000, £17, 000 and £17, 000 respectively, such amounts being arrived at by taking total sales of the relative special issue and deducting therefrom normal sales that would have been expected to occur in the ordinary way plus expenses of production and other administration costs. The figure of £68, 000 mentioned at para. 2 above has been arrived at on the same basis i. e. total sales £97, 618 less expected normal sales (£19, 663) and administration and other charges (£9, 682).

The number of beneficiaries in 1957, 1958 and 1959 was in the region of 1, 000, 800 and 600 respectively and we may safely assume that the number of such beneficiaries will have appreciably dwindled down still further now. Against that light it is felt that the sum of £68, 000 would be rather a high figure to allow for distribution. It is suggested, therefore, admittedly quite arbitrarily, that fifty per cent of this amount i. e. £34, 000 should be allocated. This would be twice as much as was distributed in 1958 and 1959 and considering the expected lower number of beneficiaries, cannot but be looked upon as representing quite a fair allocation.

In view of these considerations Hon. Members are asked to endorse the above proposals.

10th November, 1967.

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# L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta

## Attachment A.

DOMANDA NRU. 1305

L-ONOR. F. GALEA: Isaqsi lill-Ministru tal-Finanzi, Dwana u Port.

Jaf l-Onor. Ministru li l-persuni li jagghu taht il-Personal Injuries Scheme 1941, ghandhom tant pensjoni baxxa li ma jistghux jghixu biha.

Jistax l-Onor. Ministru jordna xi Badge Day jew First Day Cover darba fis-sena u l-qliegħ imur a favur dawn l-imsejkna li huma neqs in minn mezzi ta' l-ghixien?

Kemm fadal hajjin minnhom sal-lum?

(9. 8. 66)

## R I S P O S T A

Min meta saret il-Personal Injuries Scheme fis-sena 1941, ir-rati tal-pensjoni zdiedu min zmien għal zmien skond kif deher mehtieg. Difatti l-ahhar zieda nghatat fl-14 ta' Gunju 1965.

Rigward it-tieni parti tal-Mistoqsija, il-Gvern għandu l-hsieb li johrog set ta' bolli tal-posta u li jalloka parti mill-qliegħ skond kif il-qagħda finanzjarja tippermetti, biex din tithallas lill-midrubin tal-gwerra pajzani li għandhom pensjoni taht il-Personal Injuries Scheme.

In-numru tal-pensjonanti taht l-Iskema huwa 320.