

MEMORANDUM BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Sale of a plot of land in Vitale Street, Mgarr.

Mr. Paul Vassallo of 27, Vitale Street, Mgarr applied to the Public Works Department for a permit to reconstruct his property in Vitale Street, Mgarr shown coloured blue on plan Vol. 62I/1200. The Planning Area Permit was issued on the 6th February, 1963 and the street alignment declaration was released in May that year.

L-Arkiw Nazzjonali ta' Malta

2. The alignment imposed by the Public Works Department is that indicated by red lines on plan. Mr. Vassallo had therefore to extend his buildings onto the waste land in front of the old buildings shown coloured blue on plan which, he states, he had presumed to be his own property. Later it transpired that this land belonged to the Government and the Public Works Department on the 26th February, 1964 recommended the sale of this land to Mr. Vassallo.

3. This land measures 19.25 square canes and its freehold value is assessed at £128. 6. 8d.

4. This is not the first and only case where public land has been incorporated with private property prior to the approval of Government to the sale of the land. Although, as a rule the sale of the public land in cases where a relatively small plot lies next to private developed property, cannot be opposed, I consider that this practice should in future be discontinued and that developers should not be allowed to start building operations on public land prior to the approval of the alienation of that land.

5. Honourable Ministers are kindly requested to consider :

- a) whether that part of the building erected on Government Land should be pulled down taking into consideration that a contravention has been made by developing it without first seeking its purchase from Government; or
- b) whether there may be room for acceding to the request for the sale of the plot of land in question.

Land 216/64.

12th October, 1968.