

Memorandum to Cabinet by the Hon. Minister of Education
Culture and Tourism on the functions of the National
Sports Board

The Hon. Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism submits for consideration by Cabinet the request by the National Sports Board for official authority to administer sports grounds.

When the National Sports Board was set up in May 1962 the functions of the Board were purely of an advisory nature but with the grant two years later of a yearly subsidy of £3000 the functions obviously became of an executive nature inasmuch as subject to Ministerial approval the Board allocated funds to the various National Sports Organisations and to their District Committees for the advancement of sports.

The National Sports Board has worked very hard during the few years of its existence and at the present moment they are engaged in the development of the Pilot Scheme, etc., for Malta and the gentlemen composing this Board who act in a purely honorary capacity feel very hurt and humiliated that Government will not officially give them the right to administer and control certain sports grounds whereas other organisations like M.P.F.A. are doing so.

Some time back the Hon. Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism had recognised that the request of the National Sports Board was consistent with present day facts and would have recommended the request were it not for the fact that at the time he was considering setting up by legislation a Body on the lines of the Comitato Olimpionico Nazionale Italiano in Italy which will eventually substitute the National Sports Board.

It was not found possible to carry on with the major scheme of creating the above-mentioned Body on the C.O.N.I. lines as this would normally be dependent on such a Body having at least a major stadium under its control and therefore having a measure of financial independence. Some steps have been taken however and it is hoped that the National Sports Board will be in a position to present to Government a scheme for the development of the Marsa Sports Ground as per plan prepared for them by an Architect of the C.O.N.I. Even assuming that the Government will look favourably on such a plan and that it will agree to provide funds for the building of such a Sports Centre it will not doubt be a very long time before this is completed.

The Hon. Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism therefore SUBMITS that leaving apart the question of the eventual building of a Sports Centre and the organisation of the National Sports Board on the C.O.N.I. lines, and DEARING IN MIND that other bodies and sports clubs are given land on encroachment (M.P.F.A., Aquatic Clubs, etc.) RECALLING the past performance of this Board, RECOMMENDS that the Hon. Ministers agree that the terms of reference of the National Sports Board which is set up by Government should also include the administration of certain sports grounds and sports facilities.

24th September, 1968.