

Memorandum for Cabinet by the
Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture

Temporary Allocation of a Site for the Building of
Trawlers

Discussions have been going on for the last three months for the temporary allocation of a site, with access to the sea, to a Mr C. Keletchekis. Mr Keletchekis requires an area of about 130,000 sq. ft. for a period of from 18 to 30 months to build from 15 to 30 sea-going trawlers; the estimated employment is between 60 and 100 males. Mr Keletchekis does not want to use Drydocks facilities but is not averse to using Drydocks personnel.

2. Suitable sites with access to the sea do exist but none are as yet available for allocation as overall planning for such areas has yet to be defined.

3. Mr Keletchekis had initially expressed an interest in the Kalafrana site temporarily occupied by A.M.M.C.O. There is another application for the same site but in view of the present stage of negotiations with Nedport it would be inadvisable to lease this site once again even on a temporary basis.

4. The Commissioner of Land had been authorized to make verbal arrangements with the Defence Land Agent to allow Mr Keletchekis to occupy temporarily a site at Ras Bangir, in anticipation of the release of this area by the British Authorities. This arrangement, however, is being resisted by the Port Authorities.

5. The reasons adduced are that the allocation of this site would displace some of the present moorings, reduce manoeuvring space for tugs handling ships and that the building of a slipway would involve the filling up of some of the sea area. Moreover, following the transfer of responsibility for the harbour to the Government of Malta, it might be necessary to find alongside berths to avoid certain responsibilities for moorings. The area in question might possibly have to be used as a container, passenger or cargo berth.

6. The Port Authorities have suggested as an alternative site, the area to the east of Manoel Island Shipyard, the R.A.F. Slipway at Marsaxlokk or Kala Dwejra at Gozo. As regards the last mentioned site access for services from the landward side is difficult.

7. Dr V.E. Ragonesi, LL.D., on behalf of Mr Keletchekis, has now written to say that the R.A.F. slipway at Kalafrana South with its adjoining land is suitable for the project and has also stated that the required machinery, equipment, etc., has been ordered and will shortly arrive in Malta. The allocation of this site is not considered advisable as it forms part of the area earmarked for the Free Zone Project and before a final decision is taken on this major project it

is not advisable to dispose of any part of the area.

8. In order not to lose the project to Malta, a decision on the site to be allocated must not be delayed further, and Hon. Minister are invited to decide on this question.

14th April, 1969.

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