

MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET BY THEHON. MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY & AGRICULTUREReplacement of existing high wall -San Anton Gardens

It is proposed that the existing stone facade of San Anton Gardens between the Governor's private entrance and Melita Hotel be demolished and replaced by a rustic wall (bil-gidra) about 4 ft. 6 ins. high on which iron railings about 6 ft. will be fixed. A tentative sketch design is enclosed.

You will note that the existing central pilasters on which the figures of two lions stand will be retained and similar pilasters will be constructed at the extreme ends of the wall.

Before taking work in hand, the views of the Antiquities Committee were sought but the proposal was turned down on the grounds that this innovation would detract from the character of the gardens.

Hon. Ministers are no doubt aware that the existing characteristic of this wall are the pilasters referred to above which it is intended to retain. Moreover the carrying out of the proposed work will in no way detract the walled appearance of this garden as the inner wall, situated some 60 yards behind the one proposed to be demolished will be retained.

With the development that has taken place in the surroundings, especially the Corinthia Palace Hotel, the proposed alterations will only contribute to embellish the area both aesthetically and otherwise. It will also serve to draw the attraction of the many tourists frequenting this area to these beautiful gardens. Hon. Ministers are therefore asked to approve that:-

- a) the existing outer wall be totally demolished up to the buildings on either side.
- b) the central pilasters on which the figures of two lions stand to remain.
- c) that a rustic wall about 4ft. 6ins. high be erected on which railings about 6ft. high will be fixed.
- d) that pilasters similar to the existing ones be erected at the two extreme ends of the new wall.

6th September, 1968.