

MEMORANDUM BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS

Exchange of Government land at Floriana with a larger  
plot of land at Santa Venera, the property of the  
Archbishop's Curia.

1. His Grace the Archbishop requested the exchange of the Government owned site in Granaries Street, Floriana, adjacent to the Government Flats, recently handed over to the Government by the Military Authorities, offering instead a larger plot of land at Santa Venera.

2. The land at Floriana is required by His Grace for the erection of a Printing Press. It was previously earmarked as being suitable for the construction thereon of a block of eight flats. The site offered by His Grace at Santa Venera is adjacent to the site at present being developed as a small Government Housing Estate.

3. The Government project for the Floriana site was held up because of the existence on that site of an old Powder Magazine, the dismantling of which was opposed to by the Museum Authorities. The land being requested by His Grace the Archbishop is exclusive of the said Powder Magazine.

4. An alternative site for a Housing Estate at Floriana will be the area used as a car bay and garage by the Military Police, lying on the other side of the Government block of flats, which area could be released by the Services.

5. The advantages deriving from the proposal are:-

- a) it will obviate the necessity of dismantling the Powder Magazine on the Floriana site;
- b) it will provide an alternative site at Santa Venera which is somewhat larger and has the added advantage of being contiguous to the site already being developed as a Government Housing Estate;
- c) it would allow the Public Works Department to proceed immediately with the planning on the new site and to take early action for the building thereon of housing units.

6. For reasons of expediency, foremost, being that of entering immediately into occupation, it has been suggested that the land at Santa Venera be

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acquired from the Archbishop's Curia by Governor-General's declaration, the land at Floriana being transferred to the Curia on a quid pro quo basis, the Archbishop's Curia to meet all payments connected with compensation to tenants of the land being exchanged.

7. Hon. Ministers may wish to agree that the exchange, as suggested, be proceeded with immediately.

13th February, 1969.

H.D. 122/66/2

Land 1099/68

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