

“Everyone knows there is a housing shortage in Malta, but the severity in causes may not be so well known. Malta was heavily and extensively bombed, and the normal building programme ceased during the war period. Although house-building and repairing is now going ahead, there is a world shortage

of equipment and of such materials as steel, timber and cement which is impeding progress. Furthermore, the population of Malta has grown during the war years due to a complete stoppage of emigration, which is proceeding very slowly now. This shortage makes it most difficult for any person now to find accommodation for his family; and even if he is so fortunate as to prove successful in his search, as some of the early comers were, it is almost certain that the standard will be much below that to which his family is accustomed and also very expensive. . . I earnestly counsel you to consider deeply before you arrange to bring out your family unless you are in the fortunate position of having secured accommodation that is both suitable in kind and requires no more rent that you should reasonably afford."