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NOE 10TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DEFENCE OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 5301, Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall, on
MONDAY 31 MAY 1982 at 9.30 am

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| ALD 50/1 | | |
| RECEIVED IN REGISTRY | | |
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| DESC OFFICERS | | |
| INDEX | PA | Action taken |
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OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. DS Int reviewed the intelligence published in the latest summary (1). He also said that it appeared that there had been some redeployment of Argentine forces from the Port Stanley Garrison to Goose Green before the assault by 2 Para. There was therefore a possibility that the number of Argentines remaining at Port Stanley was lower than had previously been assessed. However, he would compile a detailed brief which would be presented to the Chiefs of Staff at their meeting the following day.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

2. D of D(Ops) outlined the deployment and planned operations of the Task Force.

3. In discussion it was agreed that the term "mass grave", which had been used in a BBC television report concerning the burial of personnel from 2 Para, had been unfortunate. This report, coupled with the reported comments of our personnel in the Falkland Islands, could raise again the issue of the burial overseas of British Servicemen killed in operational theatres. In view of this there was likely to be a need to make public the policy issues involved.

4. Summing up their discussion, the Chairman invited ACDS(P&L), in conjunction with the Defence Secretariat and CPR, to report on the policy for the burial of those killed in Operation CORPORATE and, further, to consider how best to present this policy to the public.

Note:

1. INTSUM No 114, 310600Z May 1982.

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5. CPR reported on press coverage. He suspected that questioning by press reporters could that day become more hostile concerning the arrangements for Argentine prisoners pending their repatriation and the lack of details concerning Argentine dead.

6. Summing up a short discussion, the Chairman invited ACDS(Ops) to obtain a sitrep from CLFFI on Argentine casualties and prisoners, to enable their names to be forwarded through the ICRC to the protecting power.

ITEM 4. BAHIA PARAISO

7. The DOE was informed (2) that HMS PLYMOUTH had been detached to investigate a report that the hospital ship BAHIA PARAISO was to enter the Bay of Harbours, on the South side of East Falkland, at 1700Z that day. Although there was the possibility that she was proceeding there to pick up Argentine casualties and survivors from Goose Green, there was also the suspicion that she might land troops and supplies, or act as a decoy to draw our ships into an area where they could be attacked.

8. In discussion, it was agreed that the current Rules of Engagement were sufficient to allow PLYMOUTH to carry out her task by stopping and searching the BAHIA PARAISO. However, a potentially serious diplomatic incident might be prevented if the Argentines could be requested to divert BAHIA PARAISO to rendezvous with UGANDA north of East Falkland to transfer Argentine wounded.

9. Summing up their discussion, the Chairman invited the Defence Secretariat, in conjunction with the FCO, to send a signal to Argentina via Brasilia requesting diversion of the BAHIA PARAISO. Details of this request should not be publicly released until it had been confirmed that the message had been passed to Argentina.

ITEM 5. FIELD HOSPITAL

10. The DOE had before them a Note (3) by the Army Department requesting that a field hospital, providing a 50 bed holding capacity, be deployed to the Falkland Islands in the earliest available shipping. The unit was currently at 7 days notice to move and would be

Notes:

2. CTF 317 I9F/302225Z MAY 1982.
3. OP C/ARMY OPS/101 dated 31 May 1982.

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held at Ascension Island so that it would arrive in the Falkland Islands post operations. The inclusion of some female doctors and nurses should present no problems.

11. Summing up their discussion, the Chairman said that they would wish to recommend the despatch of the field hospital, and invited DMO to draft a paper accordingly for the consideration of the Chiefs of Staff.

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Those attending the meeting:

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| DMO | Chairman |
| ACNS(OP) | (Representing ACNS(O)) |
| MO2 | (Representing DMO) |
| ACAS(Ops) | |
| D of D(Ops) | (Representing ACDS(Ops)) |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| COS CGRM | |
| D of DORS | (Representing DCDS(OR)) |
| AD of DP(C) | (Representing ACDS(Pol)) |
| DS Int | |
| AD of S(Ops) | (Representing ACDS(S)) |
| CSO(P) | (Representing ACDS(P&L)) |
| AUS(D Staff) | |
| DS 11 (Representative) | (Representing DS 11) |
| CPR | |
| D Ops(ROW) | |
| DDOMS | |
| FCO(Def Dept) | (Mr Weston) |
| D/SECCOS | |

Also present:

DS 5 (Representative)
 SCDS(B)