

COS 12TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

19

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 12TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
FRIDAY 9 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 amOPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (Acting Chief of the Defence Staff) invited the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff(Intelligence) to update them on the current situation in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.
2. LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff(Intelligence)) reported on the latest intelligence. In this report and the subsequent discussion the following main points were made:
 - a. Soviet forces were maintaining effective surveillance over the movements of the Task Force. It had been assessed that they would pass the intelligence gained to the Argentines, who would therefore know our progress.
 - b. Our intelligence on Argentine ship locations was reasonably accurate and timely. It was assessed that by the time the Exclusion Zone came into force the only Argentine naval ships remaining in the zone would be one frigate off Port Stanley and one auxiliary in the port. Ministers would require the best possible intelligence of actual ship locations on Sunday evening 11 April.
 - c. It was assessed that about 5,000 Argentine troops were now in the Falkland Islands. Details of the Argentine order of battle were beginning to be clarified.
 - d. There was positive intelligence that the Argentines intended to extend the Port Stanley airfield runway to 2,000m; work had probably started, but the delayed arrival of heavy plant meant that concreting would not have been completed. It was assessed that the airfield was already capable of accepting most types of Argentine aircraft including Mirages and Super Etendards; however practical difficulties such as lack of parking space,

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handling capacity and fuel supplies would restrict its use, and it was essential that assessments took proper account of such factors.

e. It was noted that the Secretary of State had expressed concern at the propaganda advantage the Argentines would gain if it became known that they had extended the runway and were operating advanced aircraft from the airfield; measures to counter the impact of such propaganda were under consideration.

3. Summing up SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to instruct the Defence Intelligence Staff and the Air Force Department to produce daily a combined assessment of the Port Stanley airfield situation, taking full account of practical constraints.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) summarised the latest position, which was set out in full in the Force Tote Sitrep (1). In discussion it was said that RFA TIDEPOOL was planned to refuel and unload stores in the US Navy base in Panama, which would require diplomatic clearance; this might be refused, which could then jeopardise not only that ship but also an LSL the following week being allowed to transit the canal.

Note by the Secretary.

Alternative berthing arrangements for RFA TIDEPOOL have now been made.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on matters of Public Relations concern. The main points were:

a. Cable and Wireless could assist in beaming from the Ascension Island to the UK opportunity television pictures from reporters with the Task Force. He would follow this up with the Air Force Department.

b. He was giving the first of his daily unattributable briefings for British Defence Correspondents at noon that day.

Note:

1. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 14).

ITEM 4. OPERATION PARAQUET - PLANNING DIRECTIVE

6. The Committee discussed a draft Planning Directive (2). The point was made that the question of an Exclusion Zone for that operation would need to be considered by Ministers at a later date.

7. Summing up SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to agree the Directive as amended in the light of their discussion, and to instruct their Secretary to arrange for its issue.

Note by the Secretary.

Issued as COS(Misc) 99/742/1 dated 9 April 1982.

ITEM 5. AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS APPRECIATION

8. The Committee discussed a draft Directive (3) for an Appreciation into Amphibious Operations. In discussion the following points were made:

a. The present Exclusion Zone applied to ships only. The question of extending it to aircraft was a difficult matter which would require legal advice and would present practical problems. Nevertheless the assumption concerning a sea/air Exclusion Zone should remain in the Directive.

b. The Appreciation should take account of operations by Special Forces.

9. Summing up SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to agree the Directive as amended in the light of their discussion, and to instruct their Secretary to issue it. They would also wish to instruct the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to prepare an Appreciation from the Argentine point of view to be presented to them when they considered this Appreciation.

Note by the Secretary.

Directive issued as COS(Misc) 100/742/1 dated 9 April 1982.

ITEM 6. MILITARY APPRECIATION

10. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM referred the Committee to the Military Appreciation Paper (4) which had been circulated for their agreement out of committee. He said he considered

Notes:

2. COS(Misc) 98/742/1 dated 8 April 1982.
3. COS(Misc) 96/742/1 dated 8 April 1982.
4. COS(Misc) 90/742/1 dated 6 April 1982.

an overall appreciation setting out the current range of options was essential in the present situation, and that it needed to be continually updated. Some of the original options had already been taken up, and the appreciation now needed revising. He proposed that they should invite the Defence Secretariat, in conjunction with the Defence Policy Staff, to revise the appreciation and then present it again for their approval; and subsequently to update it whenever necessary in the light of events.

11. The Committee agreed with the remarks of the Acting Chief of the Defence Staff.

ITEM 7. GIBRALTAR

12. AIR VICE MARSHAL GILBERT (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff(Policy)) said he had now received a paper from the Governor of Gibraltar setting out a wide range of short term requirements in addition to those measures they had already agreed (5). He had arranged for some non-contentious items to be shipped on HMS AMBUSCADE which was due to sail for Gibraltar that day. He proposed to examine the remaining requirements with the appropriate staffs and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and make recommendations for their consideration at their meeting on Sunday 11 April 1982.

13. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to agree the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff(Policy)'s proposal.

ITEM 8. NUCLEAR MATTERS

14. The Committee were informed that it might be necessary to take certain unobtrusive preparatory measures over the weekend if the possible transfer of nuclear depth bombs (6) was not to delay the Task Force. It was noted that any action before Ministers next discussed the issue on Monday 12 April 1982 would require Ministerial approval.

15. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to invite the Navy Department, in consultation with the Air Force Department to determine the latest time at which any transfer could start, identify any preliminary actions which had to be taken now to meet that deadline, and report to the Committee at their meeting on Sunday 11 April.

Annex:

A. Forecast of Decision or Action Required.

Note:

5. COS 11th Meeting/82, Item 2.
6. COS 10th Meeting/82, Item 1.

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EXEMPTION No. 271(a)(d) OPERATION CORPORATE - FORECAST OF DECISIONS OR ACTIONS REQUIRED

SECRET

ANNEX A TO
PART I TO COS 12TH MEETING/82
9 APRIL 1982

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0015	5/82 Item 1 para 7	Sale of Hunter aircraft to Chile	AFD	FCO		FCO have despatched signal
0022	5/82 Item 7	Delay Belize Withdrawal by 3 months	AD	Ministers		Submission forwarded 9 Apr 82
0023	6/82 Item 1	Op CORPORATE - Military Appreciation	COS	DS 11	7/82 Item 5 12/82 Item 6	To be revised
0030	7/82 Item 8	Intelligence matters	COS	DCDS(I)		Not to all, nor needed