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COS 50TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 50TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
FRIDAY 14 MAY 1982 AT 11.00 amOPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (Representing the Chief of the Defence Staff) invited the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to update them on current intelligence.
2. LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) reviewed the intelligence published in the latest summary (1). He went on to say that in view of conflicting reports he was unable to make an accurate assessment of the number of EXOCET missiles available to Argentina.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) summarised the deployment of the Task Force.
4. Summing up a short discussion SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to inform them that day which Rules of Engagement were currently implemented by the Task Force Commander.

Note by the Secretary

It has now been confirmed that the Task Force Commander on 13 May 1982 ordered the implementation of the whole package (2) approved by OD(SA).

ALQ 650/1

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Note:

1. Intsum No 80 140600Z May 82.
2. OD(SA)(82) 46 dated 11 May 1982.

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ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR WRIGHT (Representing the Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage.
6. In discussion the following points were agreed:
 - a. In order to counter press speculation, it should be stated that the damage to HMS GLASGOW had been caused by a bomb, rather than by a missile or torpedo. The name of the ship should not be released, and no further details should be given.
 - b. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office should be invited to instruct HM Ambassador in Santiago to deny the unfounded Chilean press reports that HMS HERMES was damaged and needed dockyard repair.
 - c. They would wish to invite the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in conjunction with the Defence Secretariat, to prepare guidance for Overseas Posts following the despatch of Gurkha troops as part of 5 Brigade.
 - d. The confinement of the Argentine navy to inshore waters, and the failure of the Argentines to repair Port Stanley airfield, gave considerable scope for positive publicity. They would wish to invite the Permanent Under Secretary to arrange for this information to be released.

Note by the Secretary

SIR TERENCE LEWIN then joined the meeting, and assumed the Chair.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

7. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (3).
8. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said there was now a need to ensure that the Argentine hospital ship BAHIA PARAISO did not abuse her privileged status; there were, however, legal and presentational problems

Note:

3. Annex A to COS 49th Meeting/82.

if any action became necessary. They would therefore wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), in conjunction with the Permanent Under Secretary and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to prepare for his approval instructions for the Task Force Commander to stop and search the ship if it entered the Total Exclusion Zone.

ITEM 5. MILITARY OPTIONS

9. The Committee had before them a paper (4) setting out the military options for Operation CORPORATE.

10. Summing up a short discussion SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would have seen his instructions (5) to the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy) to carry out further studies into a possible garrison in the Falkland Islands against less stark assumptions. He considered they would also wish to set in hand contingency studies for a variety of possible operational situations; he would issue instructions to the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy) after their meeting. In conclusion, he said they would wish to take note of the paper (4), agree that it should be further updated as necessary, and agree that it should be presented for their further consideration on Thursday 20 May 1982.

Annex:

A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand (1 page).

Notes:

4. COS(Misc) 212/742/1 dated 12 May 1982.
5. CDS 2038/1 dated 12 May 1982.

OPERATION CORPORATE - ACTIONS IN HAND

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0023	6/82 Item 1 (re-titled 40/82)	Military Options for Repossession of the Falkland Islands	ACDS(Pol)	DPS/DS 11	7/82 Item 4 12/82 Item 6 35/82 Item 4 40/82 Item 7 43/82 Item 5 50/82 Item 5	To be updated for COS 20 May



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