

COS(Misc) 102/742/1

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DEFENCE OF GIBRALTAR

1. Following the discussion of the Chiefs of Staff at their meeting (1) on 9 April 1982, ACDS(Pol) has prepared the attached draft paper on the Defence of Gibraltar.
2. The draft will be tabled for consideration by the Chiefs of Staff at their meeting on 11 April 1982.

Inf. Dept k.p. =

Attachment:

The Defence of Gibraltar (4 pages)

~~Mr. [unclear]~~

Note:

1. COS 12th Meeting/82, Item 7

DR

I have sent
to Mr. [unclear] passed to
Mod. 10/4

Distribution:

11/4

Mr. [unclear] 10/4

PSO/CDS
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~~Mr. [unclear]~~

of FCO are content with

these proposals I intend to
try to clear them out of committee
today.

Handwritten symbol

SECCOS.

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SECCOS

9 April 1982

6 MAY 1982

MB 6733 (or 6804)

COS S13(5)

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See also Mr. [unclear] Ryan's comment
wrote in report of his meeting yesterday
DR 11/4

THE DEFENCE OF GIBRALTAR

INTRODUCTION

1. Following on your decisions (1) and ACDS(Pol)'s further note(2) some of the immediate requests made (3) by HE the Governor of Gibraltar remain unanswered:

- a. A unit to replace the disbanded 291 Signals Unit RAF.
- b. Food/Medical Supplies.
- c. 8 Surv Tp RA (A mobile radar and crew).
- d. Four MILAN plus ammunition and a Training Simulator.
- e. Engineer Explosives.
- f. Up to 180 Rapier Missiles.
- g. Updating of JTP 52.

You should also be aware that the Governor has now tasked his Heads of Service with defining Gibraltar's needs for the medium term under a scenario consequent upon a possible change of government in Spain.

ACTION IN HAND

2. Food. Gibraltar's needs are being met in three shipments complete in Gibraltar by 23 April 1982.
3. Medical. Gibraltar's demands are being met as soon as possible by routine movement.

Notes:

1. COS 11th Meeting Item 2.
2. DPS 51/17 of 9 Apr 82.
3. Gibraltar 10012 of 8 Apr 82.

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COS S13(5)

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INDEX	PA	Action Taken

Engineer Explosives. Gibraltar's demands are being met as soon as possible by routine movement, although it may not be possible to provide everything requested. The Army Department are investigating further.

Replacement for 291 SU RAF

5. The Air Force Department can provide a small unit of 11 men in lieu of the recently disbanded 291 SU for deployment on 13 April 1982. The unit includes a small quantity of stores that have been deployed to and recovered from Gibraltar on previous occasions for exercises.

Remaining Measures requiring Decision

6. 8 Surv Tp RA. This is a Land Rover mounted radar set. Gibraltar already has two sets and only three others exist, one in Belize, one in Northern Ireland and one in the Hebrides. The Army Department would not wish to divert further radar resources to Gibraltar.

7. MILAN. The 1st Staffords have men trained in the use of MILAN. The Army Department could provide four MILAN posts with ammunition and a Training Simulator by routine movement which would give Gibraltar a significant improvement in its defence capability. However, MILAN has not previously been deployed to Gibraltar and would be a slightly more obvious enhancement than the other measures so far taken. For this reason the AD recommend not sending MILAN or its ammunition at present.

Rapier Ammunition. JTP 52 allows for provision of either Rapier or Blowpipe air defence. The Army Department is adding a Blowpipe troop to the existing Spearhead Battalion Group which, though not thereby specifically earmarked for Gibraltar, will be available at 72 hours notice from 1300Z on 13 April 1982. It is not therefore intended to provide Gibraltar with Rapier. Furthermore, for the present, it would be the Army Department's preferred option to move Rapier or Blowpipe ammunition with the unit should one be deployed to Gibraltar.

9. Updating of JTP 52. The JTP has been checked and units earmarked to meet the commitment. These units are still at normal notice which in the main is 7 days. However, the Army has a Spearhead Battalion Group at varying notice from 24 to 72 hours which could, in an emergency, be deployed to Gibraltar. The Army are adding to this Group a Blowpipe troop of eight launchers which could cover the possible emergency need for air defence in Gibraltar. It is, therefore, not considered necessary in the light of the present threat to reduce the notice of units of JTP 52. As requested by the Governor the Light Gun Battery and Engineer Troop have been moved from Stage II to Stage I of the plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that the COS should:
- a. Take note that Gibraltar's requirements for food, medical supplies and engineer explosives are being met as soon as possible by routine movement, although the explosives may not all be available.

b. Approve the despatch of the small unit in lieu of 291 SU RAF.

11. It is further recommended that in the absence of any change to the threat assessment the following items requested by the Governor should not be provided at present:

- a. 8 Surv Tp RA.
- b. MILAN or its ammunition and Training Simulator.
- c. Rapier (or Blowpipe) ammunition.

12. Finally, it is recommended that the notice of units earmarked for JTP 52 does not need to be reduced at present but that this decision should be kept under constant review.

9 April 1982