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COS(Misc) 247/742/1

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ADDITIONAL LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR OP CORPORATE

1. In accordance with the instructions (1) of the Defence Operations Executive, the attached Note has been produced by the Army Department.

2. Unless the Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee, hears to the contrary by telephone (Ext 6804) by 1700 on Tuesday 1 June 1982, it will be assumed that the Chiefs of Staff have taken note of the Note and agreed its recommendation.

Attachment:

Additional Logistic Support for Operation CORPORATE (1 page).

Note:

1. DOE 10th Meeting/82, Item 5.

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31 May 1982

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COS C4(24)

ADDITIONAL LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR OP CORPORATE  
(A Note by the Army Department)

1. CLFFI, supported by CINCFLEET, has requested (1) that a reduced field hospital be deployed to the Falkland Islands on the earliest available shipping to improve the medical support available ashore. Provision of the hospital will give a 50 bed holding capacity with full hospital facilities but will, in addition, assist in providing medical facilities for prisoners of war.
2. This requirement can be met by providing 48 individuals from 2 Field Hospital which in war is part of the UKMF(L). In peace this is based on the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot and provides part of the medical base support for the Field Army in UK. In addition it has a role in some JTPs. If these elements are deployed on OP CORPORATE, 2 Field Hospital cannot be committed elsewhere; however, the Cambridge Military Hospital will remain fully functional. It will, however, be possible to produce sufficient equipment and manpower from other UKLF resources to produce a 50 bed ward which, in conjunction with other available medical facilities, will allow the JTP commitments of 2 Field Hospital to be met.
3. You will also wish to be aware that 2 Field Hospital will include up to 14 female nurses and doctors who form part of their medical staff. This will be the first deployment of females to the Falklands.
4. Movement is likely to be on MV RANGITIRA, which is scheduled to depart on 15 June giving an earliest arrival in the Falklands of approximately 5 July. The Unit has no vehicles; freight will travel on MV ASTRONOMER sailing from UK on 7 June.
5. The proposal was considered on 31 May 1982 by the DOE, who commented that should the operational or PW situation change before 25 June, when MV RANGITIRA reaches Ascension, the requirement for the Unit could be cancelled or modified. The DOE set in hand arrangements for the despatch of the Field Hospital, and recommended the proposal for final approval by the Chiefs of Staff.
6. It is therefore recommended that the Chiefs of Staff take note of this Note and agree the deployment of a reduced field hospital unit to the Falkland Islands.

Note:

1. CTG 317.1 Signal IQF dated 280929Z May 82.