

(THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT)

DOE 6TH MEETING/82

Copy No 011 of 79 copies

76

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DEFENCE OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 5301, Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall, on
MONDAY 3 MAY 1982 at 10.00 am.

3 - MAY 1982

 11 12 1
2
3
4
5
OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. DS Int reviewed the intelligence published in the latest summary (1).

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

2. The Task Force Organisation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).
3. The operations of the previous 24 hours had been summarised in the television briefing preceding the meeting.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

4. DCPR reported on press coverage.
5. In discussion the following points were agreed:
 - a. Although US sensitivities about our use of Ascension Island were greatly reduced, operational reasons still required that minimum publicity should be given. Any questions should therefore continue to be answered defensively.
 - b. In answer to questions about Argentine prisoners, it could be said they had now left South Georgia; their destination should not be disclosed.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

6. The Executive noted the summary of actions in hand (3).

Notes:

1. INTSUM No 58 030600Z MAY 82.
2. Force Tote Sitrep, Issue 39.
3. Annex A to COS 40th Meeting/82.

Page 1 of 3 pages

ALQ 050/1		
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

ITEM 5. DEFENCE OF ASCENSION ISLAND

7. ACDS(Ops) informed the Executive that he had received a preliminary report (4) from the two officers sent (5) to Ascension Island to determine its defensive needs. He expected a more detailed report that day after the reconnaissance party had been able to discuss their proposals with the Senior Royal Air Force Officer on the Island. He would then discuss the proposals with the Task Force Commander and with the MOD Departments concerned. He considered there was also a need to exercise greater control over the numbers of British personnel going to, and remaining at, Ascension Island, in view of the limited facilities there.

8. Summing up a short discussion, the Chairman said the immediate defensive requirements on Ascension Island were met under the arrangements already accepted (5) by the Chiefs of Staff. He noted that ACDS(Ops) had already been instructed (6) to report on the subject to the Chiefs of Staff the next day. He also noted that the RAF reinforcements which might be needed had now been placed at 24 hours notice to move.

ITEM 6. REQUISITIONING OF SHIPPING

9. The Executive were informed that, contrary to the impression given in the paper (7) on which OD(SA) had based their discussion (8), action needed to be taken that day to set in hand the requisitioning of the Queen Elizabeth 2.

10. Summing up a short discussion the Chairman said they would agree there was a military requirement to start the requisitioning process at once. In view of the decision by OD(SA) to defer action until 4 May, they would need Ministerial agreement to bring forward the announcement. He invited PS/S of S to obtain the necessary Ministerial approval, and in conjunction with DCPR to prepare an appropriate draft press statement.

11. Concluding, the Chairman said any announcement concerning the Queen Elizabeth 2 would need to be correlated to an announcement concerning 5 Brigade. He invited DCPR to liaise closely with the FCO on this, so that the FCO could arrange for the Nepalese Government to be informed about the proposed use of Gurkha troops.

Notes:

4. CBFSU 19F 021800Z May 1982.
5. COS 37th Meeting/82, Item 5.
6. COS 40th Meeting/82, Item 5.
7. OD(SA)(82)40.
8. COS 1072/742/1 dated 2 May 1982.

DOE 6th Meeting/82
3 May 1982

Distribution:

As for COS Minutes

Attendance:

VCDS(P&L) (Chairman)
ACNS(O) (represented by ACNS(OP))
DMO (represented by DASD)
ACAS(Ops) (represented by D of Ops(AS)(RAF))
ACDS(Ops)

ACDS(Pol) (represented by D of DP(A))
DS Int
ACDS(S)
ACDS(P&L) (represented by CSO(L))
AUS (D Staff) (represented by Hd DS 11)
DCPR
D of D Ops(ROW)
Director DOMS
FCO (Defence Dept) (Mr Weston)
DSECCOS (Secretary)

Also Present:

PS/S of S
MA/CDS
GS01/CGRM
DS5
DS9