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COS 75TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

15 JUN 1982

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 75TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
TUESDAY 15 JUNE 1982 AT 3.30 pmOPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) gave an assessment of the reasons for the Argentine collapse in the battle for Port Stanley, but said he considered it likely that General Menendez would probably feel he had been able to surrender with honour. He reported on the military options open to Argentina to continue hostilities from the mainland, and assessed the likely effectiveness and implications of possible UK countermeasures. He also reported on the developing inter-Service rivalry within Argentina, and its possible political consequences.
2. In discussion the following points were made:
 - a. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office had asked the Swiss Government to seek Argentine agreement to a total cessation of hostilities. Decisions on the repatriation of Prisoners of War and the lifting of economic and other sanctions would depend on Argentina's answer. It would be to our advantage to publish the text of the message.
 - b. Careful consideration would need to be given to future policy on inhibiting arms supplies by other countries to Argentina and South American countries prepared to act as intermediaries, particularly to the policy we would wish our allies to adopt.
3. In discussion it was agreed that the Joint Intelligence Committee should accord a higher priority to obtaining HUMINT from Argentina.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that at his direction (1) the Task Force Commander was now planning to repossess South Thule. He also said that the Task Force Commander had

Note:

1. CDS 2038/1 dated 15 June 1982.

placed the Rules of Engagement in abeyance while ceasefire negotiations were underway, with the exception of those for SSNs operating within the Total Exclusion Zone; all forces retained the right to defend themselves if attacked.

5. In discussion it was agreed that:

a. It would be essential to open an air route to the Falkland Islands via Uruguay or Chile as soon as possible, for both Service and civilian purposes. It was noted that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were already taking action.

b. The restoration of Port Stanley airfield to operational status was a very high priority. The Air Force Department were preparing a presentation to be given at their meeting on 22 June 1982.

ITEM 3. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

6. The Committee noted the summary (2) of action in hand. They agreed that the papers on Military Options for the Repossession of the Falkland Islands (Serial 0023) and Contingency Studies (Serial 0091) should now be placed in abeyance; any further action would be subsumed in the Military Appreciation (Serial 0099) and the paper on Future Force Levels (Serial 0092). They noted that Command and Control arrangements (Serial 0096) could not be decided until the force levels had been determined and the Task Force Commander's recommendations obtained.

ITEM 4. PUBLIC RELATIONS

7. MR BLAKER (Minister of State for the Armed Forces) said he considered it was essential to provide facilities for additional press correspondents, including members of the foreign press, to visit the Falkland Islands as soon as possible. He had that morning held a meeting to discuss possible arrangements, and they would have seen a discussion paper he had circulated before their meeting. He considered both time and cost prohibited the charter of a vessel as a floating base as they had previously discussed (3), and that the options were either to use one of the ships presently with the Task Force as accommodation for these journalists, who would fly to Port Stanley; or to transport the journalists in shipping returning empty from South American ports after repatriating Prisoners of War; or to use a dedicated ship operating

Notes:

2. Annex A to COS 74th Meeting/82.
3. COS 69th Meeting/82, Item 5.

out of one of the local ports. He invited them to agree that it was important to provide such facilities, and that this should be done quickly; that a Task Force ship could be used; and that if necessary RAF aircraft could be used to provide a shuttle service from the mainland.

8. In discussion the following points were made:

a. The best publicity for the UK would be obtained by allowing journalists early access, while evidence of the Argentine occupation and the fighting was still available and while the Task Force's morale was still at its peak. At the same time, the involvement of some Servicemen in the subsequent restoration of facilities and rehabilitation of the inhabitants could also provide good publicity.

b. On the other hand, it was inevitable that some unpalatable news items would be reported. In any case, this could not be avoided as there was a considerable number of journalists already there.

c. It was important that Latin American journalists, who seldom did so, should visit the Falkland Islands and obtain the views of the Islanders at first hand.

d. In the immediate future, the Task Force would be fully occupied in administering and repatriating Prisoners of War and making arrangements for their own longer term administration. They would not be well placed to handle large numbers of journalists.

e. It was inevitable that some journalists would make their own arrangements to visit the Islands, irrespective of any facilities we might afford. Nevertheless the problem could be reduced if we made adequate facilities available.

f. It would be desirable for journalists to make their own administrative arrangements as far as possible, and preferably make flying visits to the Islands not involving an overnight stay.

g. Conducting officers would be needed, preferably who had taken part in the battle and who could describe military operations on the scene of the action from personal experience.

9. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to agree that, following our repossession of the Falkland Islands, facilities would have to be offered to additional correspondents, in particular those representing the foreign press. It would be to our advantage to provide at least the minimum facilities for them, even to the extent of allocating a ship as accommodation in Port Stanley harbour; the details of this should be arranged by the Chief of Public Relations directly with the Task Force Commander. He would himself inform the Task Force Commander of the priority which they attached to the provision of these facilities. They would wish to note that the Permanent Under Secretary would discuss with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office after the meeting whether and in what terms an early statement of the plans should be made to the press.

ITEM 5. REPLACEMENT OF STORES AND EQUIPMENT

10. The Committee noted that the Deputy Under Secretary (Policy and Programmes) and the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Operational Requirements) had prepared a draft OD(SA) paper (4) and draft submission to the Secretary of State on the replacement of equipment and materiel lost or expended in the South Atlantic.

11. In discussion the following points were made:

a. The total cost of the Operation was unlikely to be known before the early autumn.

b. In the meantime it was important to get Ministerial acceptance of the basic principle that the cost of replacing losses and expenditure on Operation CORPORATE, and the extra costs of providing whatever garrison would be required, should be met from funds additional to those approved previously by the Cabinet for the Defence Budget; and that the Operation should not result in a diminution of our ability to meet our overall defence commitments.

c. It would be desirable for Ministers to make an early announcement about the replacement of some of the major losses incurred so far.

Note:

4. DUS(P) 369/82 dated 11 June 1982.

d. The Secretary of State would need to make his first approaches to his Ministerial colleagues later that week.

12. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they should forward their views on the draft paper (4) to him and the Permanent Under Secretary the next day, and agree that in the interests of time they would not now wish to discuss the matter at their meeting on 17 June 1982.

ITEM 6. ANALYSIS OF THE CAMPAIGN

13. The Committee noted that various proposals had been made for a team of scientific analysts to visit the Falkland Islands. They agreed that priority should still be given to such a visit, to ensure that the correct lessons were learnt. They also agreed that a tri-Service team would be needed within the Ministry of Defence to collate the results of such activity.

14. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he would coordinate further action.

ITEM 7. CONGRATULATORY SIGNAL

15. The Committee agreed the text of a congratulatory signal to the Task Force Commander.

Note by the Secretary:

The signal (5) has been sent.

Annex:

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

Notes:

4. DUS(P) 369/82 dated 11 June 1982.
5. MODUK A2A/I9F 151730Z June 1982.

ANNEX A TO
 COS 75TH MEETING/82
 15 JUNE 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)
0092	59/82 Item 6	Future Force Levels (formerly Future Garrison Studies)	CDS	ACDS(Pol)	71/82 Item 2	For COS 22 Jun
0093	61/82 Item 6	Rules of Engagement	ACDS(Ops)	OD(SA)	OD(SA) 28 May	Periodic Review by OD(SA)
0095	67/82 Item 1	Replacement of Stores and Equipment	DCDS(OR)/ DUS(P)	COS for comment	75/82 Item 5	DUS(P) 369/82 dated 11 Jun 82
0096	68/82 Item 7	Garrison Command and Control Arrangements	CDS	ACDS(Pol)	71/82 Item 2	Dependent on 0092 and 0099
0097	69/82 Item 5	Provision of Press facilities	PUS	CBR/AUS (D Staff)	74/82 Item 3 75/82 Item 4	
0098	69/82 Item 6	South Sandwich Islands	CDS	CINCPLEET	73/82 Item 6	CDS 2038/1 dated 15 Jun 82
0099	71/82 Item 2	Military Appreciation - Operations after Repossession	CDS	ACDS(Pol)		For COS 24 Jun
0100	72/82 Item 5	Prisoners of War	AD	AD		Subsumed in draft OD(SA) paper
0101	75/82 Item 2	Port Stanley Airfield	AFD	AFD		Presentation to COS 22 Jun 82

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

PART II MINUTE No 101

For attachment to the MINUTES of the
75th Meeting/82 of the Chiefs of Staff
Committee:

ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

15 June 1982

COS RU2(17)

RESTRICTED

101. OPERATION CORPORATERESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1). ACDS(Ops) has been informed.

Notes:

1. COS 1105/742/1 dated 14 June 1982.