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COS 39TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 39TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
SATURDAY 1 MAY 1982 AT 10.00 am

OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (Acting 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 said they were not certain of the strength of Argentine units in the Falkland Islands but he assessed their total strength in the Islands to be about 10,000 men.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

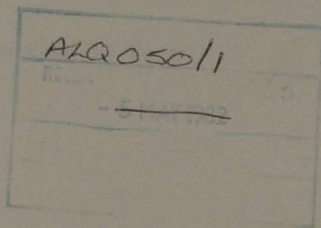
3. The situation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).
4. The Committee were informed that Port Stanley had been attacked by a Vulcan aircraft that morning; results of the attack were not yet known.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on Press coverage.
6. The Committee discussed the facilities to be offered to the Press that day. It was agreed that:
 - a. The Concourse Hall should be open to reporters from mid-day.

Notes:

1. INTSUM No 54 010600Z May 1982.
2. Force Tote Sitrep Issue 37.



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- b. There should be no statement giving operational details that day, and any queries should be answered in as low a key as possible.
- c. The involvement of Vulcan aircraft should not be admitted, although it could be said that such aircraft, based in UK, had an air-to-air refuelling capability and were available for operations world-wide.
- d. If it could be established that our forces had suffered no casualties, this could be stated in answering questions.
7. Summing up, SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to instruct their Secretary to arrange for the Secretary of State and the Chief of the Defence Staff to be informed of their decisions.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

8. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (3). They were informed that the two officers tasked to report on the defence of Ascension Island had been delayed at Gibraltar, and that therefore the report at Item 0075 might not be ready for them the next day; and that the paper on Military Options (Item 0023) would now be tabled at their meeting the next day.

9. The Committee were also informed that the Canberra PR Option (Item 0079) now had little military advantage, as the Sea Harriers had a photo-reconnaissance capability. The Air Force Department were considering proposals to return the Canberras and their supporting elements to the UK.

ITEM 5. SPECIAL FORCES

10. The Committee agreed to instruct the Special Operations Group to refer to them any questions affecting the availability and priority of tasking of additional Special Forces for Operation CORPORATE.

Annex:

- A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand (2 pages).

Note:

3. Annex A to COS 37th Meeting/82.

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	Op CORPORATE - Military Options	ACDS(Pol)	AUS(D Staff)	7/82 Item 4 12/82 Item 6 35/82 Item 4	For COS 2 May
0065	-	Maintenance of a British Garrison in the Falkland Islands	VCDS(P&L)	ACDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)127/3/3 dated 19 Apr 82	To be included in 0076
0066	-	Long Term Measures to Sustain Op CORPORATE	CDS	DCDS(OR)	CDS 2038/1/1 dated 22 Apr 82 D/DORS/58/1 dated 26 Apr 82	
0067	-	Op SUTION - Prisoners	CDS	ACDS(P&L)	CDS 2038/1 dated 25 Apr 82	
0071	31/82 Item 6	US Assistance	CDS	ACDS(Pol)	38/82 Item 3	For COS 3 May
0075	33/82 Item 7	Defence of Ascension Island	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)	35/82 Item 7 37/82 Item 4 39/82 Item 4	ACDS(Ops) to report to COS 2 May

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0076	33/82 Item 9	Long Term Logistic Requirements	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		For COS O/C 3 May
0077	35/82 Item 4	Arrangements for POW at Ascension Island	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		
0079	35/82 Item 4	Canberra PR	AFD	AFD	39/82 Item 4	
0081	38/82 Item 3	Supply of US Equipment	DCDS(OR)	DCDS(OR)		Included in 0071