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COS 66TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
 TO
COS 66TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
THURSDAY 3 JUNE 1982 AT 11.30 am

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 INDEX

OPERATION CORPORATE

ITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (Representing the 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 assessed Argentine efforts to acquire weapons on the international market and the latest deployment of Argentine forces. He undertook to report further, at their meeting the next day, whether any new information on the TPS 43 radar at Port Stanley had become available through visual reconnaissance from our own forces now overlooking the area; and to update his assessment of the sea mining threat around the Islands.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) outlined the deployment and operations of the Task Force.
4. In discussion the following points were made:
 - a. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office should be kept fully informed about details of the ammunition accident allegedly involving Argentine prisoners at Goose Green, which had possible implications concerning the Geneva Convention.
 - b. Although the provision of spares for the Task Force was so far being satisfactorily maintained, and assistance from Industry remained excellent, some items were now in limited supply. The Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics)

Note:

1. INTSUM No 120, 030600Z June 1982.

was taking steps to ensure the return of unserviceable items from the operational area in any available ships and aircraft so that they could be repaired and re-issued.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage.

6. In discussion the following points were made:

a. It was a matter of growing concern that information about operations, and about incidents such as the ammunition explosion at Goos- Green, was not being passed promptly to the Ministry of Defence on command channels. Instead, the news increasingly was being released directly by reporters with the Task Force. This left the Defence Operations Staff unable to brief the Chiefs of Staff properly, and the Defence Public Relations Staff unable to exercise an effective and balanced control. The Permanent Under Secretary intended to raise the matter with the Chief of the Defence Staff.

b. The announcement the previous day that 2 Sea Harriers had been lost at sea after a raid on the Falkland Islands highlighted the dilemma such incidents presented to Public Relations Staffs. In principle, it was desirable not to announce such losses when no casualties had resulted, in order to avoid giving the Argentines gratuitous intelligence. On the other hand, our credibility with the press and the public depended on the timely release of accurate and factual information. A further factor to be considered was the effect that the release or withholding of information would have on members of the Task Force and on their operations. Each incident would have to continue to be treated on its merits.

c. The Chief of Public Relations was examining the arrangements which might be made for foreign press correspondents in view of the growing demand for facilities to be provided for them in the South Atlantic; a paper on the subject would be prepared for their consideration. Whatever official arrangements were made, it was almost inevitable that many foreign journalists would arrive in the Falkland Islands under private arrangements, but the problem could be minimised if adequate formal facilities were granted.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

7. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (2).

Annex:

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

Note:

2. Annex A to COS 65th Meeting/82.

ANNEX A TO
 CCS 66TH MEETING/82
 3 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)
0023	6/82 Item 1 (re-titled 40/82)	Military Options for Repossession of the Falkland Islands	ACDS (Pol)	DPS/DS 11	7/82 Item 4 12/82 Item 6 35/82 Item 4 40/82 Item 7 43/82 Item 5 50/82 Item 5 54/82 Item 5 62/82 Item 5	For COS O/C
0091	54/82 Item 5	Contingency Studies	ACDS (Pol)	ACDS (Pol)	62/82 Item 5	For COS O/C
0092	59/82 Item 6	Future Garrison Studies	CDS	ACDS (Pol)		
0093	61/82 Item 6	Rules of Engagement	ACDS (Ops)	OD(SA)	OD(SA) 28 May	
0094	62/82 Item 6	Replacement for ships lost in Operation CORPORATE	ND	S of S		For COS 3 June