

COS 16TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 16TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
MONDAY 12 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 am

OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN (Chief of the Defence Staff) invited the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to update them on the current situation in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

2. LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff Intelligence) said that there was further evidence that the Soviets were exploiting the crisis to improve their links with Argentina, and made the following general points:

a. A Cuban IL62 aircraft, en route to Buenos Aires, had overflown Brazil without diplomatic clearance and had been forced to land at Brazilia. On board was the Cuban Ambassador to Argentina and a quantity of electronic, photographic and surveillance equipment. There was an unconfirmed report that, although the Ambassador had been allowed to continue on his journey, the equipment had been impounded by the Brazilians.

b. A Soviet AGI was shadowing SS CANBERRA off Cape Finisterre.

c. Soviet ELINT satellites were probably achieving 20 minutes cover of the Task Force each day.

d. One Krivak Class destroyer was operating off the coast of Luanda. She did not appear to be moving South, and it was assessed unlikely that she would do so without tanker support.

e. Chile had implemented partial army mobilisation to improve readiness against a threat from both Argentina and Peru. A Chilean Naval force, consisting of a cruiser and 3 destroyers, was under orders to be South of the Straits of Magellan after 19 April 1982.

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3. Continuing, LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER reviewed Argentine force deployments:

a. At Sea. The majority of the Argentine navy remained in mainland ports. Of those at sea, one Type 42 frigate was believed to be standing off from Puerto Belgrano, and an A69 Type frigate, GRANVILLE, remained to the North of the Falklands with orders to prevent any unauthorised entry to Port Stanley. GRANVILLE's exact position was unclear and it was not known if she was in, or remaining on the edge of, the Maritime Exclusion Zone. Two Naval Auxiliaries were believed to be on passage between the Falkland Islands and the mainland, and it was thought two merchant ships remained in Port Stanley harbour. There was an unconfirmed report that the majority of naval units currently in Puerto Belgrano would be ready to sail by mid-week, but nothing to indicate that they would sail once ready for sea.

b. Ashore. In addition to the call up of reservists, the Argentine media had now reported the recruitment of volunteers. Troops in the Falkland Islands still numbered around 5,000, and the artillery unit already reported (1) was probably equipped with 105mm Howitzers. The only new deployment on the mainland was the move of 13 x Mirage aircraft to Comodoro Rivadavia.

4. In discussion, the following points were made:

a. As yet there was no further information on the Argentine oil tanker off Cape Verde which had been discussed (1) the previous day.

b. An unconfirmed amateur radio report had been received that the Argentines had mined the area around the Falkland Islands.

c. It was important that all those receiving CCTV briefings should be aware of the inherent inaccuracy of the ships' positional information displayed. Some intelligence information could be as much as three

Note:

1. COS 14th Meeting/82.

days old, and while all briefings should obviously be made using the most accurate information available, there was a need to broadcast CCTV warnings of the potential errors. It would also be helpful if any Argentine shipping movements which had occurred since the last briefing could be explained.

d. Information on the time it would take for the Argentines to withdraw from the Falkland Islands, should they decide so to do, was required for planning purposes.

5. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish to instruct the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to investigate further the outcome of the Cuban aircraft incident; to obtain details of the Argentine tanker off Cape Verde; to estimate the period of time it would probably take the Argentines to withdraw from the Falklands; and to report any information on Argentine mining around the Falkland Islands. Further, they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), in conjunction with the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence), to ensure that CCTV briefings made clear that ships' positions shown in displays were subject to inherent inaccuracies, and to give, where possible, the reasons for position changes since any previous briefing.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

6. There had been no change to the Force Tote Sitrep (2) already published.

Secretary's Note

SIR TERENCE LEWIN left the meeting after Item 2.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

7. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reviewed the major articles and editorials in the daily newspapers.

8. Continuing, MR McDONALD reported that draft press releases for use following any military engagement had been circulated to the Chiefs of Staff; the Secretary of State had commented that he would not wish to name any ships involved.

Note:

2. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 18).

9. It was agreed that the numbers of Argentine ships at sea and their present position, whether at sea or in harbour, should not be specific, as detailed releases could invite supplementary questions and might betray intelligence sources.

ITEM 4. DECISIONS REQUIRED

10. The Committee reviewed the forecast of decisions which had been identified (3). SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (representing the Chief of the Defence Staff) said that they would wish to invite the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy) to produce an outline of the Amphibious Operation Appreciation before the OD(SA) rehearsal scheduled for later that day.

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION TO OD(SA)

11. The Committee agreed that there would be a rehearsal of the presentation to OD(SA) later that day, and that the presentation should be given by the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence), and the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) utilising information provided by the single Services.

Secretary's Note

The presentation has been placed in abeyance.

ITEM 6. GIBRALTAR

12. SIR EDWIN BRAMALL said that he had reconsidered his Department's advice on the deployment of MILAN to Gibraltar and he believed that both the weapons and the simulator should now be sent. This deployment could be achieved as a routine measure and could be covert.

13. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said that they would wish to invite the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy), in conjunction with the Assistant Under Secretary (Defence Staff), to review this matter.

Note:

3. Annex to COS 15th Meeting/82.

Annex:

Forecast of Decisions or Actions Required (3 pages).

OPERATION CORPORATE - FORECAST OF DECISIONS OR ACTIONS REQUIRED

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0009	4/82 Item 3 para 11	Availability of Chilean airfields	AFD	Ministers		FCO are investigating
0015	5/82 Item 1 para 7	Sale of Hunter aircraft to Chile	AFD	FCO		FCO have despatched signal
0022	5/82 Item 7	Delay Belize Withdrawal by 3 months	AD	Ministers		Submission forwarded 9 Apr 82
0023	6/82 Item 1	Op CORPORATE - Military Appreciation	COS	DS 11	7/82 Item 5 12/82 Item 6	To be revised - Any further Service Department comments to COSSEC by 131200A Apr
0028	7/82 Item 1	Use of Brazilian ports	ND	Ministers		FCO investigating
0031	8/82 Item 1	Argentine long term force level	COS	DCDS(I)		
0032	8/82 Item 1	Publicity for bunkering facilities	FCO	FCO Ministers		

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0033	8/82 Item 5	Amphibious Operations	ACDS(Pol)	ACDS(Pol)	11/82 Item 1 16/82 Item 4	For COS 13 Apr 82 Outline to ACDS(Ops) 12 Apr 82
0035	11/82 Item 1	Op PARAQUET	ACDS(Ops)	CINCFLEET	12/82 Item 4	For COS 13 Apr 82
0037	12/82 Item 5	Argentine Appreciation	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		For COS 13 Apr 82
0038A	14/82 Item 1	Details of Argentine tanker	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)	16/82 Item 1	
0039	14/82 Item 1	Confirmation of Argentine Naval dispositions	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		
0040	14/82 Item 1	Argentine CAP capability over Falklands	AFD	AFD		
0041	14/82 Item 3	Skeleton press releases for use if engagement occurs	DCPR	COS/Ministers		DCPR has circulated to S of S/COS
0042	14/82 Item 3	No press to land at Ascension	DCPR	ND		To inform TF Commander
0043	14/82 Item	Battle Casualties	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0044	16/82, Item 1	Estimate of time required by Argentines to withdrawal from Falklands	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		For COS
0045	16/82, Item 1	Update of any information of Argentine mining of the Falklands	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		For COS
0046	16/82, Item 1	Need for clear warning during IV briefings of inherent inaccuracies in Argentine positional information displayed and why such information has changed since previous Briefing	ACDS(Ops)	DCDS(I)/ ACDS(Ops)		
0047	16/82, Item 1	Confirmation of whereabouts of equipment removed from Cuban aircraft	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		
0048	16/82, Item 6	MILAN deployment to Gibraltar	ACDS(Pol)	ACDS(Pol)		