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COS 41ST MEETING/82

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(78)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 41ST MEETING/82 HELD ON
TUESDAY 4 MAY 1982 AT 12 NOONpa
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2/45

ALQ 050/H	
RECEIVED IN REGISTRY - 6 MAY 1982	
DESK OFFICER	REGISTRY
INDEX	PA
	Action Taken

OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN 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 he would issue later that day a detailed assessment of the capability of the Venezuelan armed forces.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. The Task Force organisation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).
4. The operations of the previous 24 hours had been summarised in the television briefing preceding their meeting. It was noted that units of the Task Force had been ordered (3) not to attack Argentine ships or aircraft searching for survivors from the GENERAL BELGRANO.
5. In discussion it was pointed out that the sea line of communication to the Falkland Islands was very long and unprotected.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

6. The Committee were reminded of the need to keep our allies and other friendly nations informed about the true situation in the South Atlantic. They noted that foreign attaches accredited in London were to be given a further briefing on 6 May. The Secretary of State and the Chief of the Defence Staff also intended to brief their respective NATO colleagues during the NATO meeting that week.

Notes:

1. Intsum No 60 040600Z May
2. Force Tote Sitrep, Issue 39.
3. CTG 324.3 AAA/I9F/LGQ 040848Z May 1982.

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7. In discussion it was agreed that it was essential to devise effective controls over the security aspects of reports being sent from press correspondents with the Task Force, and it was noted that the Task Force Commander had already sent instructions (4) to the Task Group Commander to that effect. The Permanent Under Secretary said he was also looking at procedures within MOD, and he had arranged a further meeting with London editors later that week; he considered relations with the British press were generally good, and it was essential to retain their cooperation.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

8. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (5).

ITEM 5. DEFENCE OF ASCENSION ISLAND

9. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) said he had now received the signalled report (6) from the officers sent to assess the defence of Ascension Island. The Task Force Commander had been asked to forward his recommendations that day.

10. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to agree that a Wing Headquarters and one Flight of the RAF Regiment and an air defence early warning radar should be sent to Ascension Island as soon as possible. They would also wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to examine further any other requirements, including the need for a short range surface surveillance radar, and to report to them out of committee the next day.

ITEM 6. US ASSISTANCE

11. The Committee had before them a paper (7) identifying specific areas in which US military assistance in support of Operation CORPORATE might be sought. In discussion it was agreed that there was a need for a focal point both in London and in Washington to coordinate such assistance. Although care should be taken to ensure that the normal supply and procurement channels should continue to be used as far as possible, there would be occasions when special arrangements would need to be made for urgent operational loans and purchases.

Notes:

4. CTF 317 AAA/I9F/EUJ 031558Z May 1982.
5. Annex A to COS 40th Meeting/82.
6. CBFSU Ascension I9F 031800Z May 1982.
7. Attachment to COS(Misc) 189/742/1 dated 2 May 1982.

12. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary had already discussed US assistance in broad terms with the US Defence Secretary and the US Secretary of State. Further high level approaches would be made by himself and by the Secretary of State to their US colleagues at the NATO meetings that week, during which they would draw as necessary on the paper (7). Pending the outcome of these discussions, they would wish their staffs to continue to refine the areas of possible assistance. They would also wish to instruct the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Operational Requirements) to continue to coordinate MOD staff action to obtain items needed urgently.

Annex:

- A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand.

Note:

7. Attachment to COS(Misc) 189/742/1 dated 2 May 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	Revised paper for COS 6 May
0065	-	Maintenance of a British Garrison in the Falkland Islands	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)127/3/3 dated 19 Apr 82 33/82 Item 9	For COS 7 May
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 SUTTON - Prisoners	CDS	ACDS(P&L)	CDS 2038/1 dated 25 Apr 82	For COS o/c 4 May
0071	31/82 Item 6	US Assistance	CDS	ACDS(Pol)	38/82 Item 3 41/82 Item 6	

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
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 40/82 Item 5 41/82 Item 5	ACDS(Ops) to report to COS o/c by 5 May
0076	33/82 Item 9	Long Term Logistic Requirements	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		Included in 0065
0077	35/82 Item 4	Arrangements for POW at Ascension Island	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		For COS o/c 4 May
0081	38/82 Item 3	Supply of US Equipment	DCDS(OR)	DCDS(OR)		Included in 0071
0082	40/82 Item 6	Special Forces	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		For COS 5 May
0083	40/82 Item 6	Hercules air-to-air refuelling	AFD	AFD		For COS 5 May (with 0082)

RESTRICTED

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

PART II MINUTE Nos 101 - 102

For attachment to the MINUTES of the
41st Meeting/82 of the Chiefs of Staff
Committee:

ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

RE		
- 7 MAY 1982		

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Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

4 May 1982

COS RU2(17)

RESTRICTED

101. DEFENCE OF ASCENSION ISLANDRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a draft signal (1) to CTF 317 subject to telephone amendment. ACDS(Ops) has been informed and the signal (2) has been sent.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 186/742/1 dated 30 April 1982.
2. 19F 011258Z May.

102. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR GIBRALATARRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a draft signal (1) to CINC Gibraltar. ACDS(Ops) has been informed and the signal (2) has been sent.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 178/751 dated 29 April 1982.
2. IAE/IOE 301344Z Apr.