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DOE 8TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DEFENCE OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 5301, Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall, on
SUNDAY 16 MAY 1982 at 10.00 am

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m 17/5OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. DS(Int) reviewed the intelligence published in the latest summary (1). He went on to say the FCO followed up all reports of possible arms sales to Argentina, and that reports concerning EXOCET were being collated and examined by the Defence Intelligence Staff; he hoped to issue a note on possible sources, holdings and sales of EXOCET the next day. In conclusion, he said he had not yet received the detailed results of the photo-reconnaissance of Port Stanley airfield (2) which he had requested the previous day.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

2. D of D(Ops) summarised the deployment of the Task Force.

3. In discussion the following points were made:

a. The assertion (3) that there was a shortage of suitable accommodation for air crew on Ascension Island was incorrect. SCPL would resolve the issue.

b. The Task Force had been provided with a quantity of Precision Guided Munitions, together with guidance devices. It was hoped to obtain clearance within the coming week for Harrier aircraft to use these devices; clearance for Sea Harriers should also be considered. The employment of these munitions would be considered by the Special Operations Group, in conjunction with CINCFLEET.

Notes:

1. Intsum No 84, 160600Z May 82.
2. DOE 7th Meeting/82, Item 1.
3. CTF 317 19F/AAA/ZAA/A2Z 152207Z May 82.

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4. CPR reported on press coverage. He said that the embarked correspondants had obtained background material on the operation against Pebble Island the previous day, and some pictures; there were, however, still problems in transmitting these.

5. In discussion the following points were agreed:

a. Film of ships operating in conditions similar to those presently being experienced in the South Atlantic should be offered to BBC and ITV, to illustrate the difficulties facing the Task Force.

b. The proposed Panorama programme on 17 May 1982 could prejudice the security of the Task Force, if those involved in discussion during the programme speculated in too much detail on possible operations. They would wish to invite CPR to discuss the matter with the appropriate BBC authorities, and to report further to the Chiefs of Staff the next day.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

6. The Executive noted the summary of Actions in Hand (4).

ITEM 5. RAPIER REINFORCEMENTS

7. The Executive had before them a paper (5) examining a request for additional Rapier and Blindfire units for the Task Force.

8. Summing up their discussion, the Chairman said the Executive would wish to agree, on behalf of the Chiefs of Staff, that the requested reinforcements should be despatched, subject to Ministerial agreement. They would wish to invite the Defence Secretariat to prepare a draft submission, which should be forwarded to the Secretary of State that afternoon. They would also wish to instruct the Defence Operations Staff to inform CINCFLEET of the unloading problem the Task Force would face in respect of the heavy machinery vehicles associated with these reinforcements. Finally they would wish to agree that the Army Department should set in hand limited preparatory measures.

Annex:

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

Notes:

4. Annex A to DOE 7th Meeting/82.
5. COS(Misc) 216/742/1 dated 16 May 1982.

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16 May 1982

Distribution:

As for COS Minutes

Attendance:

DMO (Chairman)
ACNS(O) (representing DMO)
MO2
ACAS(Ops)
D of D Ops (representing ACDS(Ops))

DCDS(OR)
AD of DP(C) (representing ACDS(Pol))
DS Int
ACDS(S)
SCPL 11 (representing ACDS(P&L))
Hd DS 11 (representing AUS(D Staff))
CPR
D of D Ops(ROW)
DDOMS
FCO (Def Dept) (Mr Kemp)
COSSEC (A Sec 4) (Secretary)

Also Present:

PS/S of S
SCDS(B)
DS 5
DS 8

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(Po1)	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	To be updated for COS 20 May