

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on TUESDAY 27 APRIL 1982 at 10.30 am

PRESENT

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin,
Chief of the Defence Staff

Admiral Sir Henry Leach,
Chief of the Naval Staff

General Sir Edwin Bramall,
Chief of the General Staff

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham,
Chief of the Air Staff

ALSO PRESENT

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans,
Vice Chief of the Defence Staff
(Personnel and Logistics)

Lieutenant General Sir James Glover,
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
(Intelligence)

Lieutenant General Sir Maurice Johnston,
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
(Operational Requirements)

Commodore R G Heaslip,
Representing the Assistant Chief
of the Defence Staff (Policy)

Rear-Admiral D W Brown,
Assistant Chief of the Defence
Staff (Operations)

Air Vice-Marshal T B Stephenson,
Assistant Chief of the Defence
Staff (Signals)

Rear-Admiral J W T Walters,
Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff
(Personnel and Logistics)

Air Commodore A Beill,
Director Defence Operational
Movements Staff

Sir Frank Cooper,
Permanent Under Secretary

Mr I S McDonald,
Deputy Chief of Public Relations

Mr J M Stewart,
Assistant Under Secretary
(Defence Staff)

Mr P R H Wright,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRETARIAT

Brigadier J A C G Eyre
Captain J E S Raymond RN
Lieutenant Colonel J B R Peacock
Lieutenant Colonel W S Bale

C O N T E N T SPART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1 - 7 (1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

101. (2) GIBRALTAR - DEFENCE CAPABILITY
102. (2) MBFR OBJECTIVES
103. (2) 11TH UK-CANADA DEFENCE STAFF TALKS
104. (2) OPERATION CORPORATE - RULES OF ENGAGEMENT
AGAINST SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT
105. (2) RULES OF ENGAGEMENT - ENFORCEMENT OF
FALKLAND ISLANDS MARITIME AND AIR
EXCLUSION ZONE
106. (2) 16TH UK-USA DEFENCE STAFF TALKS
107. (2) WITHDRAWAL OF UK FORCES FROM NATO
EXERCISES

Notes:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.
2. Issued on 27 April 1982.

101. GIBRALTAR - DEFENCE CAPABILITYRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a note (1) prepared by the Defence Policy Staff subject to telephone amendment. ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

Note:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc)154/742/1 dated 23 April 1982.

102. MBFR OBJECTIVESRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a note (1) prepared by the Defence Policy Staff and have agreed its recommendations. ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

Note:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 68/198/3 dated 24 March 1982.

103. 11TH UK-CANADA DEFENCE STAFF TALKSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1). ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

Note:

1. COS 1043/110/2 dated 7 April 1982.

104. OPERATION CORPORATE - RULES OF
ENGAGEMENT AGAINST SURVEILLANCE
AIRCRAFTRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a draft submission (1) to the Secretary of State subject to written comment (2) and telephone comment. SCDS has been informed.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc)152/742/1 dated 22 April 1982.
2. CGS 41-4-1 dated 23 April 1982.

105. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT - ENFORCEMENT RESTRICTED
OF FALKLAND ISLANDS MARITIME AND AIR
EXCLUSION ZONE

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a draft submission (1) to the Secretary of State subject to telephone amendment. SCDS has been informed.

Note:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc)148/742/1 dated 22 April 1982.

106. 16TH UK-USA DEFENCE STAFF TALKS RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1). ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

Note:

1. COS 1044/110/9 dated 7 April 1982.

107. WITHDRAWAL OF UK FORCES FROM NATO RESTRICTED
EXERCISES

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a draft signal (1). ACDS(Ops) has been informed and the signals (2)(3) have been sent.

Notes:

1. Attachments to COS(Misc)147/742/1 dated 22 April 1982.
2. A2C/A2G/BEA 261105Z Apr.
3. A2C/A2G/BEA 261110Z Apr.

COS 32ND MEETING/82

Copy No ¹¹¹ 4. of 79 copiesMINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEECONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 32ND MEETING/82 HELD ON
TUESDAY 27 APRIL 1982 AT 10.30 amOPERATION 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). In subsequent discussion the following points were made:
 - a. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office intended to summon the Israeli Ambassador to make a formal protest about the supply of arms and equipment by Israel to Argentina.
 - b. US Secretary of State Haig had already been asked to warn the Argentines informally that their submarines would be considered hostile by our forces and therefore not to approach them. He could be reminded that the Argentines should try to avoid contact while diplomatic negotiations were still under way, but it would be impractical and dangerous to cancel the SSN Rules of Engagement.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. The situation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2). The Committee were informed that OD(SA) had agreed that morning to authorise Rule of Engagement 5 for all our SSNs involved in Operation CORPORATE.
4. In discussion the following points were agreed:
 - a. They would instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to inform the Task Force Commander of the British Antarctic

Notes:

1. INTSUM No 46, 270600Z April 1982.
2. Force Tote Sitrep Issue 33.

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Survey (BAS) agreement to all BAS personnel being concentrated at Grytviken and then being evacuated from South Georgia, under arrangements to be made by the Task Force.

b. In the light of legal advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office that a state of hostilities existed between UK and Argentina, all prisoners should be classified under the Geneva Convention as Prisoners of War, contrary to their agreement at their previous meeting (3).

c. They would wish to invite the Assistant Under Secretary (Defence Staff) to prepare a brief for the Secretary of State about the incident (4) involving an Argentine Prisoner of War the previous night. While the incident should be played in as low a key as possible, the Geneva Convention obliged us to provide the names of all Prisoners of War and also to report any such incident to the Protecting Power as soon as possible. There were also questions of the type of work which Prisoners of War could be ordered to undertake, which should also be covered in the brief.

d. They would wish to invite the Defence Secretariat to circulate the legal advice received from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the position of the repatriated Royal Marines in relation to their future participation in the Operation.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage. In discussion the need to maintain a satisfactory balance in statements by members of the Armed Forces was stressed. While an embargo on such statements might be superficially attractive it was unlikely to be effective and could be counter-productive.

6. In discussion the following points were agreed:

a. They would wish to invite the Defence Secretariat to prepare a brief for Ministers on the latest situation regarding Chile, since it was likely that some details would soon become known to the Press.

Notes:

3. COS 31st Meeting/82, Item 5.
4. CTG 317.9 signal AAA/19J/WSC dated 262345Z APR 82.

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b. They would wish to invite the Deputy Chief of Public Relations to coordinate with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the release of sufficient facts about the task and equipment of the submarine Santa Fe, in order to counter suggestions that she had been on a peaceful resupply mission.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

7. The Committee noted the summary of Actions in Hand (4) and the Forecast of Decisions Required (5).

8. In discussion the following points were made:

a. It would be essential, before the Carrier Battle Group arrived in the Exclusion Zone, to resolve the intelligence, legal and presentational problems involved in declaring as naval auxiliaries any vessels identified as conducting surveillance operations. A warning period of at least 24 hours would be required after suitable Rules of Engagement had been agreed.

b. OD(SA) would decide the next day whether to announce the creation of a Total Exclusion Zone, and whether to order the Amphibious Force to sail from Ascension Island.

c. If a serious threat to Ascension Island were to develop, an Exclusion Zone around it could only be enforced by an unacceptable diversion of resources from the main Task Force.

ITEM 5. THE ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT CARRIER

9. The Committee had before them a Note (6), examining the threat posed by the Argentine aircraft carrier.

10. Sir HENRY LEACH said the carrier posed the greatest threat to our Amphibious Force before that force came under the air cover which the Carrier Battle Group could provide. The 500 nautical miles operating range of Super Etendards would, once they were embarked, make

Notes:

4. Annex A to COS 31st Mtg/82.
5. D/Ops 7/10/2 262100Z APR 82.
6. COS(Misc) 163/742/1 dated 26 April 1982.

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it very difficult to determine when the threat would materialise; it was therefore essential to neutralise that threat from the outset. The safety of our own ships required the ability for immediate pre-emptive action once attack was threatened; this would not be possible if such action was subject to the inevitable delays in decision making in London and in the subsequent transmission of orders to the SSNs. A decision would be needed by Monday 3 May on the action to be taken against the carrier, and whether the Argentines should be made aware of it.

11. In discussion the following points were made:
 - a. SIR EDWIN BRAMALL said he would not wish to be associated with a military decision to sink the carrier without warning before she had committed a hostile act or approached our Task Force.
 - b. MR WRIGHT (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) said there could be legal problems in declaring presumed hostile intent at ranges as great as 500 miles.
 - c. If a Zone as envisaged in the Note (6) were introduced, the carrier would in effect have a sanctuary from which she could present a permanent threat.

12. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), in conjunction with the Defence Secretariat, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Task Force Commander, to prepare for their consideration at their meeting the next day a draft OD(SA) paper setting out the nature, range and timing of the threat posed by the aircraft carrier; the options available to the Task Force Commander to protect the Amphibious Force; the means of reducing the threat either by authorising pre-emptive attacks or by declaring special zones; the advantages and disadvantages of giving a warning of our intentions; and action to be taken in respect of survivors of any attack.

Note:

6. COS(Misc) 163/742/1 dated 26 April 1982.

ITEM 6. OPERATION SUTTON - FOLLOW UP FORCES

13. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to discuss the possible requirement for follow up forces additional to those already allotted to Operation SUTTON.

14. SIR EDWIN BRAMALL said that no case had yet been made for the provision of extra forces, either to break out of any bridgehead or subsequently to repossess the islands. He foresaw that the Landing Force might need relief eventually when any long term garrison was considered, but this was a different matter. If follow up forces were required, they were trained and would be ready to move subject to the availability of shipping. If the Queen Elizabeth 2 were to be used, the passage from UK to the Falkland Islands would take approximately 15 days, and he understood that the first suitable sailing date would be 3/5 May. The present notice of the troops was adequate.

15. In discussion the following points were made:

a. As had been brought out in their earlier discussion (7), it would be difficult to determine the force requirements for any operations after the initial landing before that landing had been made and up to date tactical intelligence was available. Until then they would only be able to form a preliminary view on the need for any additional troops.

b. There might be supply problems if the force level were to be increased significantly.

16. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said it was too early to bring forward the concept for follow-up operations which they had asked (7) the Task Force Commander to develop, and on which any assessment of additional troops would have to be based. They would, however, wish to keep the matter under regular review.

Note:

7. COS 25th Meeting/82 Item 5.

ITEM 7. ANTI-RADIATION MISSILES

17. The Committee agreed to invite the Air Force Department to prepare a paper on Anti-Radiation Missiles for their consideration at their meeting the next day.

Note by the Secretary

This item was subsequently withdrawn (8).

Annex:

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

Note:

8. CAS 90957 dated 27 April 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)
0061	23/82 Item 7	Battle Casualty Replacements	ACDS(P&L)	ACDS(P&L)	MOD(UK) I9F 242205Z Apr 82	For comment by CTF.
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 VCDS(P&L)	By 28 Apr
0066	-	Long Term Measures to Sustain Op CORPORATE	CDS	DCDS(CR)	CDS 2038/1/1 dated 22 Apr 82 D/DORS/58/1 dated 23 Apr 82	
0067	-	Op SUTTON - Prisoners	CDS	ACDS(P&L)	CDS 2038/1 dated 25 Apr 82	
0068	31/82 Item 5b	Op PARAQUET - Prisoners	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)	CTF AAA/19F/19J 262021Z Apr 82	
0069	31/82 Item 5c	BAS personnel on South Georgia	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)	32/82 Item 2	
0070	31/82 Item 5d	South Georgia Garrison	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)	CTF AAA/19F/19J 262021Z Apr 82	

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0071	31/82 Item 6	US Assistance	CDS	ACDS(Pol)		
0072	32/82 Item 4	Argentine Fishing Vessels	ACDS(Ops)	ND/FCO		
0073	32/82 Item 5	Threat from Argentine Carrier	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		Draft OD(SA) paper to COS 28 Apr
0074	32/82 Item 6	Op SUTTON - Follow Up Forces	CDS	COS		a. To be reviewed daily b. Awaits concept of Ops from CTF for ops after initial landing (25/82 Item 5)