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OPERATION CORPORATE - OPERATIONS AND
SUPPORT PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

1. The attached paper has been prepared by the Navy Department and has been cleared by the Defence Operations Executive.
2. Unless the Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee, hears to the contrary by telephone (Ext 6347) by 141200A April 1982 he will assume that your Principals have agreed the assumptions at paragraph 21.

Attachment:

Operation Corporate - Operational and
Support Planning Assumptions (13 pages).

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12 April 1982

COS S14(7)

DN Plans 6/31/3

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OPERATION CORPORATE - OPERATIONAL AND SUPPORT
PLANNING ASSUMPTIONSBACKGROUND

1. The current objective of Operation CORPORATE is to bring about the withdrawal of Argentinian forces from the Falkland Islands and the re-establishment of British administration there as quickly as possible and with minimal loss of life to British subjects. To this end it is planned to send a Brigade Group (4 Cdo/Inf Bn) landing force, with sufficient shipping (warship, support and merchant) and aircraft to project the force ashore and provide defence against the Argentinian Navy and Air Force. It has been assumed within the Navy Department that for initial planning purposes, forces would have to be sustained for 3 months, and that military action (with losses of men and equipment) should be assumed.
2. Having mounted the operation using readily available forces, it is now necessary to make a number of independent decisions about bringing forward more men and equipment to sustain operations and to replace casualties. At one end of the scale, if only limited further preparations are made, the options open to the Task Force Commander would be restricted to those achievable by his own forces or drawn from other readily available forces (eg a number of submarines, escorts and aircraft; HMS INTREPID; LSL SIR BEVIDERE: units of 5 Inf Bde; STUFF). At the other end of the scale, full mobilisation could be ordered with a view to making available all the nation's resources for the task at hand. It is the purpose of this paper to establish assumptions upon which a large number of independent decisions can be founded.

AIM

3. To establish planning assumptions on which decisions on reproduction of men and equipment for Operation CORPORATE can be based.

DECISION AREASSHIPS AND SUBMARINES

4. Submarines. It is considered that 3 months continuous operations (from sailing until return to home port) is the maximum for a single submarine with regards to manpower and materiel, and there could be battle casualties. Replacement SSNs will be required, and FOSM is already preparing 3 SSNs for the next wave, aiming to sustain 1 1/2 to 2 SSNs on station.

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5. Surface Ships. If operations last longer than those sustainable by the current ships in the Task Force, replacements will be required. Because of the long transit distances, and in order to keep ships available for other tasks, it will be necessary to maintain the longest time on task as possible, and early decisions to deploy replacements will be needed. These would come from the operational fleet, but may involve cancelling other tasks such as ARMILLA, West Indies Guardships and Nato commitments. CINCFLEET is preparing plans for relieving ships on station, but needs guidance on the duration of operations to be assumed.

6. Extra ships could be made available by delaying refits (this has already been done), accelerating ships in refit or DED and in the final stages of new construction, and bringing ships forward from the Disposal List (Sales) (Ships in the last 3 categories are listed at Annex A). Additionally, ships due for sale or disposal (eg BACCHANTE and NAIAD in 1982) could be retained in RN service.

AIRCRAFT

7. Extra ASW Sea Kings to replace attrition losses and to form an additional squadron for HMS ILLUSTRIOUS (should it be required) can be drawn from aircraft in service. Further amphibious helicopter lift capacity is also available from existing Wessex 5 Commando Squadrons. However to provide further Sea Harrier aircraft will require the early formation of a new squadron, bringing forward reserve aircraft and redeployment of aircrew, including the recall of pilots on loan service overseas. This new squadron which is forming at YEOVILTON will be required to meet attrition losses if the deployed force levels are to be maintained and to provide aircraft for ILLUSTRIOUS. The embarkation of RAF Harrier GR3 squadrons is also a possibility. There are sufficient Wasp and Lynx to provide flights for ships being brought forward.

WEAPONS

8. There is a number of new weapon projects which could add significantly to the capabilities of forces in Operation CORPORATE, and the delivery of weapons currently being procured could be accelerated (eg Sub Harpoon, Sidewinder AIM 9L, Sea Skua). There are also some minor equipment development projects which could make a contribution to the operation. A list of weapon projects for possible acceleration in procurement over the period April to September 1982 is at Annex B.

MANPOWER

9. Front Line Troops. Present plans are for a landing force consisting of 3 RM Cdos and 1 Para Bn, with a Bde HQ and full supporting elements. After 3 months afloat, there would inevitably be a progressive deterioration in the battle readiness of the Landing Force. 5 Inf Bde is held in reserve in UK, but at present the availability of passenger shipping is causing concern, and may take up to 15 days to acquire. Freight shipping is available. Battle Casualty Replacements can be made available to 3 Cdo Bde from dual appointed regulars and possibly RM reserves.

10. Naval Personnel. Naval officers and ratings would be required to man some of the reinforcements ships, aircraft and weapons at a time when manpower is already stretched to the limit under normal conditions. The extent of the measures required to provide manpower will depend upon the number and types of ships brought forward from the list at Annex A.

11. Shore training activities will have to be kept under continuous review both in the light of developing manpower requirements and as training priorities change. It is presently planned to safeguard new entry and basic professional training, if necessary by re-deploying training manpower. However as manning requirements unfold, the need for specialist training and PJTs associated with particular ships and equipments being brought forward will dictate that new priorities are established. Areas already identified include aircrew and communications.

12. Approval has already been given (1) for Limited Redeployment which enables normal Harmony and drafting rules to be waived and permits CND to re-draft ratings from shore billets. To obtain the manpower suggested in paragraphs 8 and 9, further measures (listed at Annex C) would be required.

LOGISTICS

13. Action is already in hand to arrange logistic support for operations of between 2 and 6 months duration; in particular, fuel is being purchased in order to restore stocks in UK to their previous level (30 days). If the Landing Force has to be sustained ashore for more than 30 days, fuel, rations and high consumption priority items will need to be provided. Action may be required to accelerate or re-open industrial production lines, particularly for ammunition.

Note:

1. MOD(UK) Navy AAA/19F/WAW 061850Z APR 82.

DOCKYARDS AND REPAIRS

14. While the dockyards are currently underloaded as a number of potential customers have been diverted to Operation CORPORATE, there will be in due course be heavy overloading either to repair damage or to cope with the surge of ships returning for periodic maintenance. In the meantime, Chatham, Portsmouth and Gibraltar are implementing their rundown plans; their full capacity could be required, and Gibraltar is the closest repair base which could be used within current political constraints. *Trinidad?*

OPERATING PATTERNS

15. The present outline plan of a single Task Force deployment with a British Forces Support Unit in Ascension, is barely acceptable for operations lasting 3 months. If operations are extended, a different operating pattern, involving roulement of land, sea and air forces, will be required; better equipped and closer forward operating bases (Chile; South Africa?) would become important.

FACTORS AFFECTING THE ASSUMPTIONS

16. Weather/Time and Space. The onset of winter in the southern South Atlantic is likely to degrade the serviceability and efficiency of both men and equipment, which will lead to a requirement to carry out roulement more frequently than would be expected in kinder climates. This factor brings into relief the other important environmental factors: the long and difficult LOC. The conclusions drawn from these factors are that forces need to be earmarked and prepared for reinforcement, and that decisions to deploy them must be taken early because of the long transit distances. This is particularly important for replacement of battle losses, the timing of which cannot be predicted.

17. Political. Although there are numerous and powerful pressures, both internal and external, to resolve the Falkland Islands dispute without any further use of force, there is little indication that this will be possible. For planning purposes, therefore, it must be assumed that some form of military action will take place. It is further assumed that, despite overall local superiority of the RN Task Force, up to 25% attrition of ships and aircraft could be suffered. The attrition of the landing forces will depend upon Argentinian numbers and dispositions, and is very difficult to predict.

18. Military. Military assumptions about the duration of operations follow from political considerations. It is assessed, albeit very tentatively at this early stage, that the land battle should be completed within 30 days.

At present a limited war scale of ammunition is held for this period, but there can be no guarantees that actual consumption will correspond to the theoretical scale. There will also be considerable practical difficulties in providing Battle Casualty Replacements. The risk that forces have to be withdrawn after 3 months, if no solution has been found, cannot be accepted. It is proposed therefore that a planning assumption of 6 months duration of operations in the area is selected: the figure is somewhat arbitrary but includes in its timescale a large number of the measures mentioned in paragraphs 4 to 15.

19. Military Occupation. The level of forces required to garrison the Falkland Islands following a successful re-occupation would depend upon the attrition to the Argentinian armed forces, particularly their air force and navy. An assumption of 6 months' duration of operations provides some cover for a garrison (depending upon when re-occupation could be completed), and assumptions thereafter would have to be framed to fit the longer term requirements.

20. NATO Commitments. While it is accepted that the level of units, weapons and logistic support available in the NATO area must reduce, efforts need to be made to sustain them as far as possible. This is primarily in order to avoid presenting a vulnerable gap in NATO which could be exploited by a potential aggressor, but it is also important politically for UK to continue to demonstrate our military commitment. Actions need to be taken, therefore, to restore forces to declared levels as soon as possible.

ASSUMPTIONS

21. The main assumptions which are deduced from the factors discussed above are:

a. Operational and support planning should be based on 6 months duration of operations in the area, assuming 25% battle attrition of naval, and maritime air forces.

b. The duration of the land battle should be not more than 30 days, but logistics will be required for an occupation force of up to 6 months.

c. Strengths of units, weapons and logistic support within the NATO area should be restored to declared levels as soon as possible. } How?

SENSITIVITY OF ASSUMPTIONS

22. If the duration of operations or attrition rate is less than that assumed, reprovisioning of men and material will be sufficient for the task. On the other hand, when examining the results of the somewhat arbitrary assumptions stated in paragraphs 21a and 21b, a general statement should be made on the implications of the need to sustain maritime operations for longer than 6 months, or for more than 30 days at limited war rates in the case of the Landing Force.

CONCLUSIONS

23. It is concluded that the assumptions in paragraph 21 should be used as the basis for reprovision of men and equipment for Operation CORPORATE, but that the broad implications of a longer duration of operations should be stated.

RECOMMENDATION

24. It is recommended that the Chiefs of Staff agree the assumptions in paragraph 21.

12 April 1982

Annexes:

- A. Ships and Submarines which could be brought forward for Operation CORPORATE (3 pages).
- B. List of Weapon Items for possible acceleration in Procurement (3 pages).
- C. Further Measures to Provide Manpower (1 page).

SHIPS AND SUBMARINES WHICH COULD BE BROUGHT FORWARD FOR
 OPERATION CORPORATE REINFORCEMENTS

1. Ships in Operational Time (including DED) available to CINCFLEET for early deployment:

- LPD 1 (INTREPID) *Gulf of Oman?*
- DDG 5 (of which 1 is on GOO Patrol and 1 West Indies Guardship).
- FF 26 (of which 1 is on GOO Patrol).
- SSN 5
- SSK 10
- RFA 6 (including REGENT and ENGADINE; of the remaining 4 tankers, 2 are committed to GOO and West Indies Guardship).

2. Ships and Submarines in Refit. (Those marked * could be candidates for earlier Completion Dates). Figures in brackets are CINCFLEET proposals for advancement.

<u>DD/FF</u>		<u>CD</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>CD</u>
FIPE	(P)	Apr 83	SWIFTSURE	(D) Nov 82
NEWCASTLE	(P)	Dec 82* (Aug 82)	SOVEREIGN	(D) Mar 84
CHARYBDIS	(D)	Jul 82* (Jun 82)	CHURCHILL	(C) Nov 82
SIRIUS	(D)	Jul 82 (Jun 82)	<u>SSK</u>	
JUPITER	(D)	Jul 83	SEALION	Feb 82
SCYLLA	(D)	Jun 84	OPPORTUNE	Aug 83
CLEOPATRA	(D)	Mar 83	OBERON	Jun 82*(Mar 82)
MINERVA	(D)	Jul 83	WALRUS	Nov 82
PHOEBE	(C)	Apr 82	ODIN	Jan 84*(Jun 82- cancel refit)
HERMIONE	(C)	Jul 83	ORPHEUS	Jun 82*
JUNO	(R)	Apr 84		
			<u>RFA</u>	
			BLACK ROVER	(R) Jun 82*(May 82)
			OLWEN	(G) May 82*
			FORT GRANGE	May 82*

3. New Construction

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Acceptance Date</u> (ie trials not carried out).
ILLUSTRIOUS	Sep 82 (already under investigation)
LIVERPOOL	May 82
NOTTINGHAM	Nov 82
MANCHESTER	Nov 82
BRAZEN	Sep 82
BOXER	Dec 83

4. Ships on Disposal List (Sales) or (Scrap). No stocks or reserves are allocated to these ships.

- a. FALMOUTH - could be ready after 5 weeks provided extra WE ratings provided. Ships company mainly from SBS personnel.
- b. BERWICK - Major boiler defect. Recommended as spares for FALMOUTH.
- c. TARTAR and ZULU. 6 weeks from date ships' companies join. De-equipping has been stopped.
- d. GURKHA. 10 weeks from date ship's company joins.
- e. ESKIMO. Poor state and stores removed. 3-4 months to bring forward.
- f. LONDONDERRY. (Scrap List). Destoring has not yet commenced, but the ship is very lightly armed.

5. Aircraft. Disposition of Front Line and training assets ashore.

- a. Fixed Wing: 6 Shar within one week. 7th Shar within 14 days. All non-radar fitted. 3 radars with commercial firms (Ferranti/Dunsfold). 2 Addnl Indian Navy radars could be made available from Ferranti.

b. Rotary Wing. (Read in 7 columns):

<u>Sqn</u>	<u>Role</u>	<u>SKA</u>	<u>SKD</u>	<u>SKJ</u>	<u>WX 5</u>	<u>Lynx</u>
706	ASW		13	2		
814	ASW		1 (Ex 826)	7		
819	ASW		7			
824	ASW		2 (GIB)	2 (Ex 814)		
707	CDO				10	
845	CDO				13	
771	SAR				8	
772	SAR				6	
782						8
815(HQ)						5

c. Aircraft in Reserve (Fleetlands).

- 10 SK 2/5 in conversion
- 1 SK2 Cat 4
- 2 Wx 5 LTS
- 3 Wx 5 spares recovery
- 7 Lynx MOD programmes

ANNEX B TO
DN PLANS 6/31/3
DATED 12 APRIL 1982

WEAPON ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE ACCELERATION IN PROCUREMENT

1. The following are lists of possible short-term weapon improvements. Further work would be required to establish the feasibility of a number of items.

2. Underwater Warfare.

a. Submarine Items.

- (1) RN Sub Harpoon - accelerate deliveries from US (currently 10 per month). WARSPITE fit - could be completed by mid-June.
- (2) SSN clip-on Towed Arrays ('wet end' of Sonar Type 2024) - this is a CFS item.
- (3) Weapon modules - interface units for weapons/fire control (SSN). 2 x 24 Mod 0 modules and 4 x Mk 8 modules.
- (4) Mod kits to fuze Tigerfish (Mk 24 Mod 1) - MSDS to hasten supply. (They know about it from FOSM).
- (5) Wideband Analyser for Towed Array-fitted SSNs (thought to be commercially available now).
- (6) 'DIABLO' - SSN CEP (contact evaluation plot) replacement (thought to be commercially available).
- (7) Fin-fitted upward-looking Echo Sounder Type 780 - for under-ice operations.
- (8) Peripheral Computer to TDHS - to enhance RN Sub Harpoon and TA performance.

b. Surface Ship Items NIL

3. Above Surface Warfare.

- a. Double the range of EXOCET (with OTHT facility) - would need ships alongside for 5 weeks (Available today).
- b. GWS 25/Seawolf improvements - software improvements to give better capability versus sea skimming missiles - has been trialled. (New computer program tapes would need to be sent to ships).
- c. Fit replacement small calibre gun (RARDEN) - 2 systems are available (could be fitted with EO and forward-looking IR if required).

- d. Radar Type 992 - possibly fit MTI to all ships fitted (?).
 - e. Radar Type 994 - possibly fit MTI to all ships fitted (?).
 - f. Fit thermal imager sights (IR 18) (commercially available).
4. C3 NIL
5. Lynx
- a. Seaspray Improvements - obtain 'Track while scan' available at FERRANTI now - accelerate development and production of ECCM improvements.
 - b. Sea Skua - accelerate production of missiles and associated installation and test equipment - accelerate investigation and rectification of ECM limitations.
 - c. Orange Crop - accelerate improvements.
 - d. MAD (NSR 6156) - purchase additional equipments available from manufacturers stocks.
 - e. GPMG (NSR 3095) - accelerate introduction - trial installation of machine gun being conducted now and clearance anticipated by 13 April.
 - f. Improve passenger carrying capacity by adopting Dutch passenger seat modifications.
6. Sea King
- a. MAD - as for Lynx at 5d above.
 - b. Orange Crop - accelerate production.
 - c. CHAFF HOTEL - purchase off the shelf.
 - d. Stabilised Binoculars - purchase off the shelf.
 - e. Secure Speech - would require 'robbing' from US sources.
 - f. LAPADS - accelerate production of Receiver Units, Control Units and Signal Processing Units.

ANNEX B TO
DN PLANS 6/31/3
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(Concluded)

7. Sea Harrier. BLUE FOX RADAR/NAVHARS/AIRCRAFT/ROLE EQUIPMENT (ancilliary equipment to suport Weapon Systems) - accelerate production and/or divert Indian equipment.
8. Nimrod Mk 2. Two Nimrod Mk 2 aircraft will be available in the UK to opeate the STINGRAY torpedo by about 20 April.