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COS 51ST MEETING/82

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ALQ 050/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 51ST MEETING/82 HELD ON  
MONDAY 17 MAY 1982 AT 11.30 am

17 MAY 1982

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 also reviewed the latest operational intentions of the Argentine armed forces. In subsequent discussion he said he would reassess the likelihood of the GENERAL BELGRANO having been fitted with Exocet, and the probability of an Argentine Boeing 707 having made contact with the FEARLESS Group on 15 May.
3. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said he was concerned at the failure of the Task Force to provide the Ministry of Defence with the full results of analysis of photographic reconnaissance missions. In particular, no information had been provided on the serviceability of Argentine aircraft still reported by the Defence Intelligence Staff as being at Port Stanley airfield. This information was as vital to the Ministry of Defence as it was to the Task Force.
4. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he would take up with the Task Force Commander the provision of information to the Ministry of Defence.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

5. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) summarised the deployment of the Task Force. He said the Secretary of State had

## Note:

1. INTSUM No 86 170600Z May 1982.

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agreed (2) the Defence Operations Executive's recommendation (3) to provide extra Rapier fire units for the Task Force.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

6. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage.

7. In discussion the point was made that the BBC Panorama programme due to be shown that evening now seemed likely (4) to present less of a risk to the security of the Task Force than had at first been feared (5).

8. In further discussion, the proposal (6) by the Amphibious Group Commander to brief his embarked correspondents, and then to redeploy them and impose press silence, was agreed. The point was made that it would be desirable to have further reports from the CANBERRA, pre-recorded if necessary, to maintain the appearance of normality.

9. Summing up their discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he would discuss with the Permanent Under Secretary the establishment within the Ministry of Defence of an operations cell to handle public relations matters; the cell should include representatives of the Defence Secretariat and the Defence Intelligence Staff.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

10. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (7).

Annex:

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

Notes:

2. MO 5/21 dated 16 May 1982.
3. DOE 8th Meeting/82, Item 5.
4. CPR Loose Minute dated 16 May 1982.
5. DOE 8th Meeting/82, Item 3.
6. CTG 317.0 I9F/EUA 170110Z MAY 82.
7. Annex A to DOE 8th Meeting/82.

ANNEX A TO  
COS 51ST MEETING/82  
17 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 43/82 Item 5 50/82 Item 5	To be updated for COS 20 May