

(THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT)

COS 62ND MEETING/82

Copy No. 00 of 78 copies

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 62ND MEETING/82 HELD ON  
FRIDAY 28 MAY 1982 AT 12 NOON

OPERATION CORPORATE

ITEM 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 assessed Argentine dispositions and intentions, and assessed the radius of action of Super Etendard aircraft both in relation to our Carrier Battle Group and the remainder of the Task Force. He also indicated the locations of those radars on the Falkland Islands which were vital to the success of Argentine air operations against the Task Force.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) outlined the deployment and planned operations of the Task Force. In subsequent discussion the following points were agreed:
  - a. The Navy Department should examine the feasibility of fitting chaff dispensers to ships taken up from trade.
  - b. The Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) should determine the present location of the 20 sets of anti-Exocet noise jammers which had been despatched to Ascension Island.

Note:

1. INTSUM No 108, 280600Z May 1982.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

4. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on Press coverage. In subsequent discussion the following points were agreed:

- a. The News Release Group should prepare an appropriate announcement about current land operations, bearing in mind the need not to prejudice the security of those operations by the premature release of plans and intentions.
- b. The loss of a Harrier GR3 the previous day should be announced as soon as possible.
- c. The Argentine air attack on our field hospital and on San Carlos Settlement should not be publicised until the full facts had been established and the politico-military implications of such an announcement had been properly assessed.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

5. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (2).

ITEM 5. MILITARY OPTIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

6. The Committee had before them two papers (3) (4) setting out military options for Operation CORPORATE and possible military contingencies which might affect our ability to carry out the Operation. In discussion it was agreed that:

a. Two further contingencies should be examined:

- (1) The continuation of hostilities by the Argentine armed forces after the successful repossession of the Falkland Islands.
- (2) The loss of some or all of the facilities at Ascension Island while the Operation continued.

## Note:

2. Annex A to COS 61st Meeting/82.
3. COS(Misc) 244/742/1 dated 26 May 1982.
4. COS(Misc) 240/742/1 dated 25 May 1982.

b. Of more immediacy were the studies into the composition of possible garrisons against various threats, which had already been set in hand (5). It was noted that OD(SA) that morning had set in hand joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Ministry of Defence studies into the long term, to which these garrison studies would contribute.

7. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN instructed the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy) to update the papers (3)(4) at regular intervals for their information out of Committee.

ITEM 6. REPLACEMENTS FOR SHIPS LOST DURING OPERATION CORPORATE

8. SIR TERENCE LEWIN informed the Committee that the Secretary of State had asked for his advice about a submission (6) forwarded by the Chief of the Naval Staff, seeking approval to order four Type 22 frigates to replace HM Ships SHEFFIELD, COVENTRY, ARDENT and ANTELOPE.

9. In discussion the following points were made:

a. On the assumption that our national defence capability should not be reduced by attrition incurred during Operation CORPORATE, and that the costs of replacement equipment would be met by funds additional to the Long Term Costings, the replacement of the four lost ships by Type 22 frigates appeared to be the correct military decision.

b. In the absence of financial guarantees, it was arguable whether decisions on replacement equipment should be taken piecemeal, or be collated for the Operation as a whole.

c. It was not yet certain that it would be necessary or desirable to replace equipment losses one for one. Analysis of the Operation and of the lessons to be learnt from it might indicate alternative ways of retaining the required defence capability.

Notes:

5. COS 59th Meeting/82, Item 6.
6. CNS 6000/41 (7331/5) dated 26 May 1982.

Part I to COS 62nd Meeting/82  
28 May 1982

d. Replacement of major items such as ships would have political, defence programme and budgetary implications which should be examined before any decision was reached.

10. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said it would be premature for them to make any decision yet. They would wish to consider the matter further at their meeting on Thursday 3 June 1982.

ITEM 7. JOINT WARFARE TRAINING

11. The Committee had before them a minute (7) by the Chief of the Defence Staff proposing a re-examination of the organisation for preserving and disseminating Joint Warfare doctrine following the disbandment of the Joint Warfare Wing at Latimer. They agreed that Operation CORPORATE was likely to provide many valuable lessons, and a review such as that proposed by the Chief of the Defence Staff would be useful. They agreed to nominate to him suitable officers to conduct such a study.

Annex:

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

Note:

7. CDS 1076/3 dated 25 May 1982.

ANNEX A TO  
 COS 62ND MEETING/82  
 28 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 54/82 Item 5 62/82 Item 5	For COS O/C
0091	54/82 Item 5	Contingency Studies	ACDS(Pol)	ACDS(Pol)	62/82 Item 5	For COS O/C
0092	59/82 Item 6	Future Garrison Studies	CDS	ACDS(Pol)		
0093	61/82 Item 6	Rules of Engagement	ACDS(Ops)	OD(SA)	OD(SA) 28 May	
0094	62/82 Item 6	Replacement for ships lost in Operation CORPORATE	ND	S of S		For COS I/C 3 June