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COS 8TH MEETING/82

Copy No.....

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL 1982 at 2.00 pm

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)

Air Vice-Marshal J A Gilbert,
Assistant Chief of the Defence
Staff (Policy)

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

Air Vice-Marshal M J Armitage,
Director of Service Intelligence

Sir Frank Cooper,
Permanent Under Secretary

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 W S Bale
Commander M Bickley
Lieutenant Colonel J B R Peacock

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7 April 1982

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1-7. (1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

NIL

Notes:

1. Issued as a Confidential Annex.

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 8TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL 1982 AT 2.00 pmOPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN invited the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to update them on the current situation in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

2. LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) outlined the probable disposition of Argentine forces and significant merchant ships in and around the Falkland Islands and the Argentine mainland. He also reported the likely establishment of an Argentine Atlantic Theatre of Command with a 3-star commander. Turning to the situation in Chile, he said the outcome of the meeting between the President and his Commanders-in-Chief, mentioned in his intelligence report (1) the previous day, was not yet known but 2 Chilean destroyers each with a Marine infantry company on board were reported to be moving South.

3. AIR VICE-MARSHAL ARMITAGE (Director of Service Intelligence) then briefed the Committee on the airfield in the Falkland Islands and said that a detailed brief would be circulated for the Committee's information.

Note by the Secretary

The brief has been circulated (2).

4. MR WRIGHT (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) said that as far as refuelling of ships was concerned Portugal and Senegal were unlikely to refuse facilities but there was less assurance in respect of the Cape Verde Islands. He also said that Panama was unlikely to deny transit of the Panama Canal to RFA TIDEPOOL.

Note:

1. COS 7th Meeting/82.
2. Attachment to COS(Misc) 93/742/1 dated 7 April 1982.

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5. In discussion the following points were made:
- a. A small number of Argentine Super Etendard aircraft were believed to be equipped with the air-launched version of the Exocet anti-ship missile. More information was needed on the potential of these aircraft in operations against the Task Force.
 - b. France had undertaken to stop supplying military equipment to Argentina from 15 April.
 - c. The Argentines could in time improve the airfield at Port Stanley for operations by Mirage and Skyhawk air defence aircraft as well as by transport aircraft. Air defence operations would likely be in daytime only in good visibility; lack of fuel supplies could be a further limitation; and aircraft on the ground would be vulnerable to attack.
 - d. Fuel and other supplies to the Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands would be carried mainly by merchant ship or naval auxiliary. This sea line of communication could be interrupted by the imposition of an Exclusion Zone and appropriate Rules of Engagement for our forces.
 - e. A further assessment was required of the size of force that Argentina could sustain in the Falkland Islands, taking account of developments since the invasion and the problems of providing suitable accommodation.
 - f. Refuelling our naval auxiliaries and ships taken up from trade in friendly countries should not be publicised. However, refuelling at Gibraltar would inevitably become widely known.
6. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to provide an assessment of the capability of the Super Etendard and a further assessment of the size of Argentine force that could be sustained in the Falkland Islands. They would take note that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would put to Ministers the question of publicity for refuelling arrangements.

Note by the Secretary

The Super Etendard assessment has been issued (3).

Note:

3. DCDS(I) 26 dated 7 April 1982

ITEM 2. DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE ON
SOUTH AMERICA (OD(SA)) DEBRIEF

7. SIR TERENCE LEWIN briefed the Committee on the meeting of OD(SA) that morning. Particular points were:

a. Agreement was taken in principle on an Exclusion Zone of 200 miles radius to be centred on the Falkland Islands.

b. Ministers had agreed that the recapture of South Georgia was a military option, for which planning should be carried out.

c. The Prime Minister well understood the need to issue orders to HMS SPARTAN by late 8 April if the implementation of the Exclusion Zone was not to be delayed after Monday 12 April.

ITEM 3. INSTRUCTIONS TO OVERSEAS REPRESENTATIVES

8. AIR VICE-MARSHAL GILBERT (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy)) said that a statement was being prepared for our diplomatic and military representatives overseas to have as background for their dealings with colleagues. Head of British Defence Staff Washington would be visiting London the following day, in which case he would brief him personally.

9. In discussion the following points were made:

a. The Defence Secretariat and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were arranging for suitable advice to be provided to the UK Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council.

b. In formulating advice to overseas representatives care should be taken not to indicate our perception of Argentine strengths, and to give only the titles of our own units without giving details of strength, capability or plans.

c. The Secretary of State had agreed that in the forthcoming parliamentary debate on the Falkland Islands, it would be desirable for Ministers to avoid mentioning detailed assessments of strengths and capabilities.

ITEM 4. SIGNAL TO MILITARY COMMANDERS

10. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that the Secretary of State had approved the text of a signal which he intended to send to Military Commanders, setting out the aim of Operation CORPORATE.

Note by the Secretary

The signal has been sent (4).

ITEM 5. AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS APPRECIATION

11. SIR EDWIN BRAMALL said there now appeared to be a gap in their examination of options for operations against the Argentine forces. A detailed appreciation of the options for amphibious operations against the Falkland Islands was required, as soon as possible for their consideration.

12. Summing up a short discussion SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to go into this matter thoroughly at their meeting the next day.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC RELATIONS

13. SIR EDWIN BRAMALL asked the Permanent Under Secretary of State whether he was happy with the resources available in the Ministry of Defence for Public Relations. He was prepared to agree to a re-allocation of responsibilities for the Director of Public Relations (Army)'s staff if that would assist.

14. SIR FRANK COOPER (Permanent Under Secretary of State) said that the lack of a Chief of Public Relations (CPR) had placed a heavy load on the Deputy Chief (DCPR). A new CPR would take up his appointment next week and assume responsibilities for all matters except Operation CORPORATE which would remain with the DCPR. He thanked the Chief of the General Staff for his offer.

ITEM 7. TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS

15. SIR HENRY LEACH asked whether any change of policy concerning tactical nuclear weapons was likely.

16. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that this had been discussed at the OD(SA) meeting earlier that day. A Ministerial statement was expected shortly to the effect that, while there was no possibility that nuclear weapons would be used against Argentine territory or their forces in the Falkland Islands

Note:

4. IAJ/I9F/A2G 071615Z APR 82

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and Dependencies, naval forces would continue to be armed with their normal complement of nuclear depth bombs. This would deliberately leave the question of their possible use against Argentine submarines open.

Annexes:

- A. Operation CORPORATE - Forecast of Decisions or Actions Required.
- B. Operation CORPORATE - Record of Decisions or Action Completed.

OPERATION CORPORATE - FORECAST OF DECISIONS OR ACTIONS REQUIRED

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0002	2/82 Item 4 para 8a	Likely employment of SSNs	Ministers		COS to discuss
0003	2/82 Item 4 para 8b	Directive for Task Force Commander.	Ministers		ND have under review - can be signalled after Force sails. COS will need to discuss.
0004	2/82 Item 4 para 8b	Directive for Embarked Military Force Commander.	Ministers		ND have under review - can be signalled after Force sails. COS will need to discuss.
0006	2/82 Item 4 para 8d	Legal position of UK in dispute with Argentina.	Ministers	DUS(P) 235/82 dated 6 Apr 82. See also 0014.	FCO are investigating.
0007	2/82 Item 4 para 8e	Advice on evacuation of British Nationals (1000) from Argentina.	Ministers	TWC 5 April	FCO advise that this could be undertaken by routine civilian air services.

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0009	4/82 Item 3 para 11	Availability of Chilean airfields.	Ministers		FCO are investigating.
0012	4/82 Item 5	Clearance for staging facilities at Dakar, Freetown and Cape Verde.	FCO	8/82 Item 1	Facilities at Dakar approved.
0014	4/82 Item 7 para 16	Clarification of legal aspects of Article 51 of UN Charter.	FCO	See also 0006	FCO are investigating.
0015	5/82 Item I para 7	Sale of Hunter aircraft to Chile.	FCO		FCO have despatched signal
0022	5/82 Item 7	Delay Belize Withdrawal by 3 months.	VCDS(P&L)		Draft submission with CDS.
0023	6/82 Item 1	Military Appreciation	COS	7/82 Item 5	For clearance Out of Committee

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 (Concluded)

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0025	7/82 Item 1	Record of RM debrief	DCDS(I)		DCDS(I) producing with CGRM.
0027	7/82 Item 1	Use of Brazilian airfield by Nimrods.	Ministers		FCO investigating.
0028	7/82 Item 1	Use of Brazilian ports.	Ministers		FCO investigating.
0029	7/82 Item 7	Argentine Communications	ACDS(Ops)		Prepare a paper
0030	7/82 Item 8	Intelligence matters	DCDS(I)		Not to all, nor needed
0031	8/82 Item 1	Argentine long term force level	DCDS(I)		
0032	8/82 Item 1	Publicity for facilities	FCO Ministers		
0033	8/82 Item 2	South Georgia Option	COS)
0034	8/82 Item 5	Amphibious Operations Appreciation	COS) -) COS Agenda 9/82))

OPERATION CORPORATE - RECORD OF DECISIONS OR ACTION COMPLETED AND REMOVED FROM ANNEX A

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION	FURTHER REFERENCES	COMPLETION
0001	2/82 Item 4 para 8a	ROE for SSNs.	5/82 Item 5 6/82 Item 2 7/82 Item 5 8/82 Item 2	COS(Misc) 91/742/1 dated 7 Apr 82
0005	2/82 Item 4 para 8c	Instructions for RFA FORT AUSTIN		By ND
0008	3/82 Item 4 para 11	Use of facilities at Ascension Island		PUS reports no difficulty with blanket use of facilities at Ascension
0010	4/82 Item 5	Movement of HMS ENDURANCE either East or West		ENDURANCE withdrawn to Ascension
0011	4/82 Item 5	Movement of Spearhead Bn and an SAS Sqn		Spearhead Bn to deploy with 3 Cdo Bde. SAS decision out of committee
0013	4/82 Item 6 para 15	Positioning of RM SBS	7/82 Item 4	1 section to embark FORT AUSTIN 1 section to embark CONQUEROR
0016	5/82 Item I para 7	Falkland Islands airfield.	8/82 Item 1	COS(Misc) 93/742/1 dated 7 Apr 82

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 (Concluded)

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION	FURTHER REFERENCES	COMPLETION
0017	5/82 Item 1 para 7	Details of Argentina's ROLAND weapon systems	7/82 Item 1	DCDS(I) stated equipment not held
0018	5/82 Item 2 para 11	Swiss Government to be invited to represent interests of BAS civilians		FCO
0019	Spare			
0020	5/82 Item 6 para 19b	South Georgia		Included in Item 0023
0021	5/82 Item 5 para 17a	SSN Communications		S of S Briefed by ND
0024	6/82	FRG to delay FF delivery	7/82	Announced by FRG 7 Apr 82
0026	7/82 Item 1	Details of Argentine air threat.	8/82 Item 1	DCDS(I)26 dated 7 Apr 82