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COS 13TH 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 SATURDAY 10 APRIL 1982 at 10.00 am

PRESENT

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

Vice-Admiral Sir William Staveley,
Representing the
Chief of the Naval Staff

Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Morony,
Representing the
Chief of the General Staff

Air Vice-Marshal K W Hayr,
Representing the Chief of the Air Staff

ALSO PRESENT

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

Air Vice-Marshal M J Armitage,
Representing the
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
(Intelligence)

Air Commodore R C Allen,
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

Mr R M Hastie-Smith,
Representing the
Permanent Under Secretary

Mr I S McDonald,
Deputy Chief of Public Relations

Mr P J Weston,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRETARIAT

Brigadier J A C G Eyre
Lieutenant Colonel J B R Peacock
Lieutenant Colonel W S Bale

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C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1-3.(1) Operation CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

NIL

Note:

1. Recorded in a Confidential Annex.

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CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 13TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
SATURDAY 10 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 am

OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (Acting Chief of the Defence Staff) invited the Director of Service Intelligence to update them on the current situation in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.
2. AIR VICE-MARSHAL ARMITAGE (representing the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) said there had been little significant change in the overall disposition of Argentine forces in the last 24 hours. A revised JIC assessment might be available the next day, and a Defence Intelligence Staff assessment of possible Soviet military reactions to the situation would be forwarded to the Chiefs of Staff shortly.
3. In discussion the following points were made:
 - a. Balanced and objective assessments both of the development of Port Stanley airfield and of the numbers and types of aircraft likely to operate from it were vital for operational planning.
 - b. The Navy Department would confirm whether the Argentine Polar ships were naval auxiliaries.
 - c. Any requests for intelligence from US sources should be processed through the Defence Intelligence Staff.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) summarised the latest position, which was set out in full in the Force Tote Sitrep (1). In discussion the following points were made:
 - a. Secure voice and telegraph links to Ascension Island had been established.

Note:

1. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 16)

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b. Mk II Nimrods were being sent to Ascension Island to replace the Mk I aircraft.

5. Summing up SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said he had appointed the Air Officer Commanding 18 Group to be the Air Commander responsible to the Commander-in-Chief Fleet for all Royal Air Force air operations in support of Operation CORPORATE, with the exception of the Air Transport Force which would be tasked and controlled under normal arrangements.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

6. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on matters of Public Relations concern. He went on to say:

a. Any security issues arising in despatches from news reporters with the Task Force should be dealt with under the 'D' Notice system; the Defence Press Office could not carry out such a task.

b. He would discuss with the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) procedures for passing information quickly to the Defence Press Office.

Annex:

A. Forecast of Decision or Action Required.

OPERATION CORPORATE - FORECAST OF DECISIONS OR ACTIONS REQUIRED

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0009	4/82 Item 3 para 11	Availability of Chilean airfields.	AFD	Ministers		FCO are investigating
0015	5/82 Item 1 para 7	Sale of Hunter aircraft to Chile	AFD	FCO		FCO have despatched signal
0022	5/82 Item 7	Delay Belize Withdrawal by 3 months	AD	Ministers		Submission forwarded 9 Apr 82
0023	6/82 Item 1	Op CORPORATE - Military	COS	DS 11	7/82 Item 5 12/82 Item 6	To be revised
0028	7/82 Item 1	Use of Brazilian ports	ND	Ministers		FCO investigating
0031	8/82 Item 1	Argentine long term force level	COS	DCDS(I)		
0032	8/82 Item 1	Publicity for bunkering facilities	FCO	FCO Ministers		
0033	8/82 Item 5	Amphibious Operations	ACDS(Pol)	ACDS(Pol)	11/82 Item 1	For COS 13 Apr 82

ANNEX A TO
 PART I TO COS 13TH MEETING/82
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 (Concluded)

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0034	10/82 Item 1	Nuclear matters	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)	12/82 Item 8	For COS 11 Apr 82
0035	11/82 Item 1	Op PARAQUET	ACDS(Ops)	CINCFLEET	12/82 Item 4	For COS 13 Apr 82
0036	11/82 Item 1	Directive to CINCFLEET	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		For COS 11 Apr 82
0037	12/82 Item 5	Argentine Appreciation	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		For COS 13 Apr 82