

COS 17TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on TUESDAY 13 April 1982 at 10.00 am

PRESENT

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

Admiral Sir Henry Leach,
Chief of the Naval Staff

General Sir Edwin Bramall,
Chief of the General Staff

Air Marshal Sir David Craig,
Representing the 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 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)

Brigadier R E L Jenkins,
Director Defence Operational
Movements Staff

Sir Frank Cooper,
Permanent Under Secretary

Mr I S McDonald,
Deputy Chief of Public Relations

Mr J M Stewart,
Assistant Under Secretary
(Defence Staff)

Mr P R H Wright,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRETARIAT

Captain J E S Raymond RN
Lieutenant Colonel W S Bale
Lieutenant Colonel J B R Peacock

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1-8.(1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

NIL

Note:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.

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COS 17TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 17TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
TUESDAY 13 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 am

OPERATION CORPORATE

ITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (Acting Chief of the Defence Staff) 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)) reported on the latest intelligence. In this report and the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

a. SS CANBERRA was no longer being shadowed by the Soviet AGI which had been reported (1) in the intelligence brief of 12 April. However an AGI had deployed from the Mediterranean which was unusual; it might be moving South.

b. The Argentine Naval Auxiliary in Port Stanley was probably being used as an accommodation ship.

c. While two merchant ships were believed to be in Port Stanley, there were no further indications of other ships being used to re-supply the Islands.

d. The majority of the Argentine Naval forces were still in harbour and there were indications that they would not attempt to enter the Maritime Exclusion Zone while diplomatic negotiations continued. The Type A69 frigate GRANVILLE, though still at sea, was believed to be outside the Zone.

e. The ORBAT of Argentine troops on the Falkland Islands was becoming clearer and it was believed to consist of an expanded Infantry Brigade, numbering approximately 7,000 men although this was derived mainly from identification of headquarters.

Note:

1. COS 16th Meeting/82, Item 1.

Part I to COS 17th Meeting/82
13 April 1982

This brigade included large, up to strength battalions (3 x Rifle Companies, 1 x Support Company, including anti-tank weapons and 120mm mortars) and an artillery battalion of 18 x 105mm guns. Further reports had been received that Argentine soldiers had been seen at outlying settlements in the Falkland Isles, although this did not necessarily indicate the presence of defended locations.

f. It was assessed that the Argentines could resupply a permanent force of up to 10,000 in the Falkland Islands. There was enough water on the island for this number, provided the Argentines could maintain and operate to its full capacity the electric water generating plant located outside the town of Stanley.

g. Unconfirmed reports had been received that 3 x Mirage III aircraft were at Port Stanley airfield.

h. Assuming that Argentine ships and aircraft were in their present geographical positions at the beginning of any withdrawal, it was assessed that they could complete a withdrawal from the Falkland Islands in 9 days.

i. It had been reported that mines had been laid on the ground between York Bay and Stanley.

j. The equipment aboard the IL62 aircraft which had been forced down (1) by the Brazilians, had not been impounded as had been thought previously.

k. There was no firm evidence of the whereabouts of the 28 Royal Marines/civilians taken off South Georgia by the Argentines.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. In addition to the Force Tote Sitrep (2) REAR ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) said that there were now 3 x Nimrods operating from the Ascension islands; and that the Carrier Battle Group should arrive off the Island late Friday 16 April, not Saturday 17 April as stated on the TV Brief.

Note:

1. COS 16th Meeting/82, Item 1.
2. Force Sitrep (Issue No 19).

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

4. The Committee were briefed on the latest developments in the public relations field.

ITEM 4. OPERATION PARAQUET

5. Following a short discussion SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to consider the Operation Order for PARAQUET (3) at their meeting later that day.

ITEM 5. AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS APPRECIATION

6. Following a short discussion SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to consider the Amphibious Operations Appreciation (4) at their meeting on Wednesday 14 April.

ITEM 6. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT (ROE)

7. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they had before them a paper (5) on the ROEs for use by surface ships and aircraft within the Maritime Exclusion Zone.

8. In discussion it was agreed that the title, Maritime Exclusion Zone, when abbreviated to MEZ could be misleading (ie Missile Engagement Zone) and that this could lead to misunderstanding.

9. Summing up, SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to invite the Defence Secretariat, in conjunction with the Service Departments, to arrange for the issue of an instruction to all involved in Operation CORPORATE to ensure the abbreviation MEZ was not used to describe the Exclusion Zone. Further they would wish to invite the Navy Department, in conjunction with the Air Force Department, to review the ROE paper in the light of their discussions and to instruct their Secretary to arrange for it to be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Defence that evening.

Secretary's Notes

- a. The submission (6) has been forwarded.
- b. SIR TERENCE LEWIN then joined the meeting.

Note:

3. Attachment to COS (Misc) 112/742/1 dated 13 April 1982.
4. DP 9/82 Final Draft 13 April 1982
5. COS(Misc) 111/742/1 dated 12 April 1982.
6. CDS 2038/1/1 dated 13 April 1982.

ITEM 7. MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS

10. SIR TERENCE LEWIN updated the Committee on the latest situation in the talks with US Secretary of State Haig.

ITEM 8. FUEL - ASCENSION ISLAND

11. Following a short discussion SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Air Force Department to investigate further the availability of aircraft fuel in the Ascension Islands, including US Strategic Reserve Stocks, and to keep this matter under review.