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COS 35TH MEETING/82

Copy No
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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 THURSDAY 29 APRIL 1982 at 11.00 am

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)

Lieutenant General Sir Maurice Johnston,
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
(Operational Requirements)

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 P C Bowser,
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 D H Gillmore,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRETARIAT

Brigadier J A C G Eyre
Captain J E S Raymond RN
Lieutenant Colonel J B R Peacock
Commander M Bickley

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

- 101. (2) DIRECTIVE TO MILITARY ADVISER TO THE UK DELEGATION
TO MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
- 102. (2) OPERATION CORPORATE - SPEAKING NOTE FOR UKMILREP
BRUSSELS
- 103. (2) JOINT LOGISTIC PLAN 820 (FINAL)

Note:

- 1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.
- 2. Issued on 29 April 1982.

101. DIRECTIVE TO MILITARY ADVISER TO THE RESTRICTED
UK DELEGATION TO MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a directive (1) prepared by the Defence Policy Staff and have agreed its channels of Communication and Reporting. The Chiefs of Staff have further agreed that the directive (2) to the Assistant Military Adviser should be cancelled. ACDS(Pol) has been informed and the directive (3) has been forwarded.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS 1038/198/3 dated 22 March 1982.
2. COS 6/78 dated 16 March 1978.
3. COS 1066/198/3 dated 28 April 1982.

102. OPERATION CORPORATE - SPEAKING RESTRICTED
NOTE FOR UKMILREP BRUSSELS

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a note (1) prepared by the Defence Policy Staff subject to telephone amendment. ACDS(Pol) has been informed and the note (1) has been forwarded (2).

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS 1065/742/1 dated 27 April 1982.
2. By facsimile.

103. JOINT LOGISTIC PLAN 820 (FINAL) RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved the Plan (1). VCDS(P&L) has been informed.

Note:

1. UKCICC 7820 dated 17 February 1982.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEECONFIDENTIAL ANNEXTO
COS 35TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
THURSDAY 29 APRIL 1982 AT 11.00 amOPERATION 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). In subsequent discussion the following points were made:
 - a. It was believed that the Argentines were negotiating with a South African firm for the provision of EXOCET missiles.
 - b. Civilian casualty evacuation within the Falkland Islands, which previously had been by Beaver aircraft, was now believed to be by Argentine military helicopters without Red Cross markings. There was provision in the published conditions for the Total Exclusion Zone for such flights to be permitted if the Argentines made a suitable application.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. The situation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).
4. OD(SA) had agreed that the slower elements of the Amphibious Task Force (5 LSLs and 1 tanker, escorted by 1 frigate) should sail from Ascension Island at noon that day.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. Mr McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage. In discussion it was agreed that any

Notes:

1. INTSUM No 50 290600Z April 1982.
2. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 35).

questions concerning our dealings with Chile should be dealt with in as low a key as possible; it would be militarily damaging and diplomatically embarrassing for any attention to be drawn to them.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

6. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (3). In discussion the following points were agreed:

a. There was still a requirement for a separate paper setting out the full range of military options for Operation CORPORATE. They would wish to invite the Assistant Under Secretary (Defence Staff) to bring forward for their consideration at their meeting the next day an updated version of his earlier paper (4).

b. They would wish to invite the Permanent Under Secretary to make arrangements for Argentine prisoners of war to be medically examined under the auspices of the International Red Cross before they left our custody.

c. They would wish to invite the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics) to examine and report back to them how to ensure that Argentine prisoners of war were prevented from acquiring intelligence about our movements during their transfer at Ascension Island.

7. Turning to decisions required, the Committee were informed that OD(SA) would be invited the next day to decide whether to put the announced Total Exclusion Zone into force; to authorise Rules of Engagement suffixes SIERRA and TANGO; to authorise the use of Vulcans; to sail the remainder of the Landing Force from Ascension Island; and to authorise the use of Special Forces on offensive operations. They would also consider land force levels (5), Rules of Engagement against the Argentine aircraft carrier (6), a paper to be prepared by the Air Force Department on the tasking of Canberra PR9s, and a paper to be prepared by the Navy Department on Rules of Engagement for SSNs.

Notes:

3. Annex A to COS 33rd Meeting/82.
4. COS(Misc) 90/742/1 dated 6 April 1982.
5. Considered under Item 5.
6. Considered under Item 6.

8. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Navy Department to circulate a paper (7) on Rules of Engagement for SSNs, and the Air Force Department to circulate a paper on tasking Canberra PR9s; both papers should be agreed by them out of committee that afternoon.

ITEM 5. FORCE LEVELS

9. The Committee had before them a paper (8) examining the possible need for additional land forces for Operation CORPORATE. They were informed that the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister were aware that this possibility was under consideration, and that the subject was due to be discussed by OD(SA) the next day.

10. Summing up a short discussion, Sir TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy) to amend the military options section of the paper in the light of their discussion, to be an annex to an OD(SA) paper which would be based on the first 5 paragraphs. They would wish the annex to be ready by 1230 that day for them to discuss it with the Secretary of State over lunch.

ITEM 6. THE ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT CARRIER

11. The Committee had before them a revised paper (9) considering the military threat posed by the Argentine aircraft carrier.

12. SIR HENRY LEACH said he had authorised the issue of the paper in the interests of speed. However he did not consider that it accurately reflected the views they had expressed (10) the previous day. He considered the paper should state clearly that in military terms option A was best, and option B acceptable; options C and D were fallback positions which militarily they could not recommend, notwithstanding the political and diplomatic attractions. He also considered the paper should contain a firm recommendation to that effect.

Notes:

7. Issued as Attachment to COS(Misc) 172/742/1 dated 29 April 1982.
8. COS(Misc) 171/742/1 dated 29 April 1982.
9. COS(Misc) 170/742/1 dated 28 April 1982.
10. COS 33rd Meeting/82, Item 5

13. In discussion the following points were agreed:
- a. The annex to the draft paper should be detached and used as background briefing material only.
 - b. A further option should be added between options A and B; to issue a warning that we would attack the aircraft carrier if any of our naval or air forces were engaged by any Argentine forces anywhere.
 - c. To satisfy both the military requirement to ensure the safety of our own units, and the need to take account of likely political factors, they should recommend to Ministers that a combination of option D and the further option they had identified should be implemented.
14. Summing up, Sir TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Navy Department, in conjunction with the Defence Secretariat, to amend the paper in the light of their discussion, and to recirculate it for their consideration at their meeting later that day.

ITEM 7. THE THREAT TO ASCENSION ISLAND

15. The Committee were informed that, subsequent to their discussion (11) the previous day, further information (12) had been received concerning the source of the threat assessment. They would also have seen the assessment (13) prepared by the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence). In discussion the following points were made:
- a. Notwithstanding the lack of firm intelligence, the possibility of an attack had to be recognised.
 - b. At the least they would probably wish to provide an early warning radar, and some troops for ground defence.
 - c. The Commander British Forces Support Unit (14) was responsible for the security of British personnel and equipment on the island. It was not necessary to send out a security adviser at that stage.

Notes:

11. COS 33rd Meeting/82, Item 7.
12. BDSW AAA/UAJ 281730Z April 1982.
13. DCDS(I) 26 dated 28 April 1982.
14. COS 8/82.

16. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to bring forward a paper for their consideration at their meeting the next day, as they had previously directed (11), taking account of the further points they had made in discussion that day.

ITEM 8. SOUTH GEORGIA

17. The Committee were informed that a study was in hand into the feasibility of extending an airstrip on South Georgia to make it suitable for operations by Hercules aircraft.

18. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to examine the matter that afternoon with his 2-star colleagues, and to report to them at their meeting the next day whether such an operation was necessary or feasible.

Annex:

A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand (2 pages).

Note:

11. COS 33rd Meeting/82, Item 7.

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	Op CORPORATE - Military Appreciation	ACDS(Pol)	AUS(D Staff)	7/82 Item 4 12/82 Item 6 35/82 Item 4	For COS 30 Apr
0065	-	Maintenance of a British Garrison in the Falkland Islands	VCDS(P&L)	ACDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)127/3/3 dated 19 Apr 82	To be included in 0076
0066	-	Long Term Measures to Sustain Op CORPORATE	CDS	DCDS(OR)	CDS 2038/1/1 dated 22 Apr 82 D/DORS/58/1 dated 26 Apr 82	
0067	-	Op SUTTON - Prisoners	CDS	ACDS(P&L)	CDS 2038/1 dated 25 Apr 82	For COS 30 Apr
0071	31/82 Item 6	US Assistance	CDS	ACDS(Pol)		For COS 3 May
0072	32/82 Item 4	Argentine Fishing Vessels	ACDS(Ops)	ND/FCO		ROE to be drafted
0073	32/82 Item 5	Threat from Argentine Carrier	ACDS(Ops)	ND	33/82 Item 5 35/82 Item 6	For COS O/C 29 Apr For OD(SA) 30 Apr

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0074	32/82 Item 6	Op SUTION - Follow Up Forces	CDS	ACDS(Pol)	33/82 Item 8 34/82 Item 1 35/82 Item 5	For OD(SA) 30 Apr
0075	33/82 Item 7	Defence of Ascension Island	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)	35/82 Item 7	a. ACDS(Ops) paper to COS 30 Apr. b. ACDS(Pol) Note to COS 3 May.
0076	33/82 Item 9	Long Term Logistic Requirements	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		
0077	35/82 Item 4	Arrangements for POW at Ascension Island	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		
0078	35/82 Item 4	ROEs for SSNs	ND	ND		For COS O/C 29 Apr For OD(SA) 30 Apr
0079	35/82 Item 4	Canberra PR	AFD	AFD		For COS O/C 29 Apr For OD(SA) 30 Apr
0080	35/82 Item 8	South Georgia airstrip	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		For COS 30 Apr