

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on THURSDAY 6 MAY 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 Defence Staff

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mr Peter Blaker MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces

Lieutenant General Sir James Glover,
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
(Intelligence)

Colonel N M Pughe,
Representing the 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)

Air Commodore A Beill,
Director Defence Operational
Movements Staff

Sir Frank Cooper,
Permanent Under Secretary

Air Commodore R A Miller,
Representing the 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
Lieutenant Colonel W S Bale

C O N T E N T SPART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

- 1-9 (1) OPERATION CORPORATE
10-11 (2) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

101. (3) DEFENCE OF ASCENSION ISLAND
102. (3) GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG
103. (3) CONTROL AND REPATRIATION OF ARGENTINE PRISONERS OF
WAR FOLLOWING OPERATIONS ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
104. (3) REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND FOREIGN
CIVILIANS DETAINED IN SOUTH GEORGIA
105. (3) SPECIAL PROJECT GROUP - PAPER NO 6

Notes:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.
2. Recorded in the Secretary's Standard File
3. Issued on 6 May 1982.

101. DEFENCE OF ASCENSION ISLANDRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a note (1) prepared by ACDS(Ops). ACDS(Ops) has been informed.

Note:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 199/742/1 dated 5 May 1982.

102. GOVERNOR OF HONG KONGRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed the draft signal (1) to the Governor of Hong Kong subject to written amendment (2). MA/CDS has been informed.

Notes:

1. CDS 2051/1 dated 2 May 1982.
2. CGS 45-5 dated 4 May 1982.

103. CONTROL AND REPATRIATION OF ARGENTINE PRISONERS OF WAR FOLLOWING OPERATIONS ON THE FALKLAND ISLANDSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a note (1) prepared by VCDS(P&L) and agreed its recommendations subject to written amendment (2) (3). MA/ACDS(P&L) has been informed.

Notes:

1. Attachment to Cos(Misc) 191/742/1 dated 2 May 1982.
2. CGS 41-4-1 dated 4 May 1982.
3. CNS 7331/5 dated 4 May 1982.

104. REPATRIATION OF PRISONERS OF
WAR AND FOREIGN CIVILIANS DETAINED
IN SOUTH GEORGIA

RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a note prepared by VCDS(P&L) (1) and agreed its recommendation subject to written amendment/comment (2) (3). MA/VCDS(P&L) has been informed.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 190/742/1 dated 2 May 1982.
2. CNS 7331/5 dated 4 May 1982.
3. PUS SW/82/641/9/31/F dated 4 May 1982.

105. SPECIAL PROJECT GROUP - PAPER NO 6

RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a paper (1) prepared by the Special Projects Group subject to written amendment (2). The Special Projects Group has been informed.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 192/742/1 dated 3 May 1982.
2. CGS 41-4-1 dated 4 May 1982.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEECONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 43RD MEETING/82 HELD ON
THURSDAY 6 MAY 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). He said a meeting had been arranged with representatives of Aerospatiale that afternoon to obtain details of the overseas sales of EXOCET, particularly with regard to Peru and South Africa. He also said there was no intelligence of any resupply of the Falkland Islands by air or sea having taken place since the Total Exclusion Zone had been enforced.
3. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he wished the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to give him, that afternoon, details of the shipping remaining in Port Stanley harbour, and its carrying capacity, as this would be relevant in any future discussions on the withdrawal of Argentine troops from the Islands.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. The Task Force Organisation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).
5. The operations of the previous 24 hours had been summarised in the television briefing preceding their meeting.
6. SIR HENRY LEACH said he would make available daily to the Chiefs of Staff a chart showing the approximate positions of our SSNs in relation to the assessed positions of Argentine ships.

Notes:

1. INTSUM No 64, 060600Z MAY 82.
2. Force Tote Sitrep, Issue 41.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

7. AIR COMMODORE MILLER (representing the Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage. He said that arrangements had already been made for any interviews with survivors from HMS SHEFFIELD to be selective, and to be subjected to MOD scrutiny before release.

8. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to agree that he should discuss with the Chief of the Naval Staff and the Permanent Under Secretary the best way of countering the speculation that the attack on HMS SHEFFIELD had exposed a fatal flaw in our naval defences.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED.

9. The Committee noted the summary of Actions in Hand (3).

ITEM 5. MILITARY OPTIONS

10. The Committee had before them a paper (4) setting out the military options for Operation CORPORATE. In discussion it was agreed that the paper now met their requirements, although it needed some factual amendment. It would be useful to keep it regularly updated in case it was required in future discussions with Ministers. However, if action to take up any particular option included in the list was contemplated, a very much more thorough and detailed examination of that option would be needed.

11. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct their staffs to forward detailed amendments to the paper to the Defence Policy Staff, and to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy) to revise the paper weekly and present it for their consideration each Thursday.

ITEM 6. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

12. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said he was concerned that they had still not been informed of the concept of operations on which the Task Force Commander was basing his operational plans. He had no wish to interfere with the detailed planning and execution of daily operations, but he considered that the Chiefs of Staff could not advise Ministers unless they knew the overall concept.

Notes:

3. Annex A to COS 42nd Meeting/82.
4. Attachment to COS 42nd Meeting/82.

He considered the concept should include such aspects as the general method of enforcing the Total Exclusion Zone taking into account the range of land-based Super Etendard aircraft, the operational radius of action of Sea Harrier aircraft and the means by which we could gain early warning of enemy activities; the overall requirements for Special Forces Operations; and the requirements for harassing operations. Finally, he pointed out that they had not yet been given the concept for follow-up operations to an initial landing, which they had invited (5) the Task Force Commander to prepare.

13. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he was meeting the Task Force Commander that evening, and would discuss with him his concept of operations; he would report to them the next day. He said Ministers would probably require during the following week a briefing on landing operations, which would need to include an assessment of the options and timing factors for Operation SUTTON, as they had previously agreed (5); in his discussion with the Task Force Commander he would determine whether the latter had yet obtained sufficient tactical intelligence upon which to make that assessment.

ITEM 7. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

14. SIR HENRY LEACH informed the Committee that his staff were preparing a revised set of Rules of Engagement for Operation CORPORATE, drawing together the various packages of rules which had previously been agreed. He proposed to circulate this revision (6) for their agreement out of committee that day, prior to its submission to the Secretary of State. He also said that the Task Force Commander intended to recommend Rules of Engagement for use by surface ships not included in the Carrier Battle Group against Argentine civilian aircraft carrying out surveillance operations.

15. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would note the Chief of the Naval Staff's intentions. He advised that the new proposals should be scrutinised by OD(SA) Senior Officials before being submitted to the Secretary of State.

16. He also said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to confirm with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office their agreement to the revised geographic limits to SSN Rules of Engagement put forward at OD(SA) that morning, before ordering the Task Force Commander to implement them.

Notes:

5. COS 25th Meeting/82, Item 5.
6. Issued as COS(Misc)203/742/1 dated 6 May 1982.

ITEM 8. ACTIVE SERVICE

17. The Committee were informed that the Defence Secretariat had asked (7) the Secretary of State to consent to the declaration of Active Service for all personnel on Operation CORPORATE. The purpose of this declaration would be to make Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Merchant Service personnel subject to the Naval Discipline Act.

ITEM 9. HONOURS AND AWARDS

18. The Committee were informed that measures were in hand (8) to establish the procedure for authorising the grant of honours and awards for personnel on Operation CORPORATE.

Annex:

- A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand.

Notes:

7. D/DS15(L)/632/7/4 dated 5 May 1982.
8. CDS 2038/1 dated 6 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	To be updated for COS 13 May
0065	-	Maintenance of a British Garrison in the Falkland Islands	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)127/3/3 dated 19 Apr 82 33/82 Item 9	For COS 7 May
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	For COS o/c by 7 May
0076	33/82 Item 9	Long Term Logistic Requirements	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		Included in 0065
0084	43/82 Item 6	Concept of Operations - Op CORPORATE	CDS	CINCFLEET		
0085	43/82 Item 6	Concept of Operations - Op SUTTON	CDS	CINCFLEET		

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0086	43/82 Item 7	ROE Package	ND	COS		For COS o/c
0087	43/82 Item 8	Active Service arrangements for RFA/ MS personnel	ND	SofS		
0088	43/82 Item 9	Honours and Awards	CDS	DS Sec		
0089	43/82 Item 11	Special Forces Plans	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		