

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry  
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,  
on FRIDAY 21 MAY 1982 at 11.40 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)

Colonel N M Pughe,  
Representing the  
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff  
(Operational Requirements)

Commodore R G Heaslip,  
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 B Hughes,  
Director Defence Operational  
Movements Staff

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

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  
Wing Commander A M Wills

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

- 1-7. (1) OPERATION CORPORATE
- 8. Recorded in the Secretary's Standard File

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

NIL

Note:

- 1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEECONFIDENTIAL ANNEX  
TO  
COS 55TH MEETING/82 HELD ON  
FRIDAY 21 MAY 1982 AT 11.40 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 gave an assessment of the defensive measures the Argentines were taking against air attack on their mainland air bases, and of the turn-round time of the submarine SAN LUIS. He concluded by indicating the current position of ships of the Amphibious Group at the Falkland Islands.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN summarised the deployment of the Task Force, and air operations in support of it.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

4. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said it was planned to make a statement on current operations at noon that day. It was hoped that a low key could be maintained for at least 24 hours, but when this became impracticable the Secretary of State would make a statement to the Press.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

5. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (2).

ITEM 5. HERCULES MINELAYING CAPABILITY

6. The Committee had before them a minute (3) by the Chief of the Air Staff pointing out that, following the successful completion of trials, it would be possible to

## Notes:

1. INTSUM No 94 210600Z MAY 82.
2. Annex A to COS 54th Meeting/82.
3. Attachment to COS(Misc) 228/742/1 dated 20 May 1982.

produce a Hercules aircraft minelaying capability given about two weeks notice.

7. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that although there was no immediate operational requirement for such a capability, it was a useful development which might have future application. They would wish to note its availability, but would not require further action yet. Of greater priority was the completion of the Hercules air-to-air refuelling capability programme, which had been set out in an earlier minute (4).

ITEM 6. AIR DEFENCE OF ASCENSION ISLAND

8. The Committee considered a paper (5) which the Air Force Department had prepared following a request (6) by the Task Force Commander that three air defence Phantom aircraft should be deployed to Ascension Island.

9. In discussion it was agreed that Ascension Island was vital to the maintenance of Operation CORPORATE, in particular to air operations. Although it was difficult to quantify the likely threat, sensible defensive measures should be taken. The provision of Phantom aircraft would give a night and all-weather capability which did not exist at present.

10. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to agree the recommendation of the paper.

ITEM 7. LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER ASTIZ

11. SIR TERENCE LEWIN informed the Committee that OD(SA) had agreed that morning that Lieutenant-Commander Astiz should be returned to the United Kingdom by sea. He instructed the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), in conjunction with the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics), to arrange for Lieutenant-Commander Astiz to take passage in BRITISH ESK as they had previously discussed (7).

Annex:

A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand (one page).

Notes:

4. CAS 91049 dated 12 May 1982.
5. Attachment to COS(Misc) 229/742/1 dated 20 May 1982.
6. CTF 317 AAA/I9F/KAA 181412Z MAY 82.
7. COS 54th Meeting/82, Item 6.

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 50/82 Item 5 54/82 Item 5	To be updated for COS 27 May
0091	54/82 Item 5	Contingency Studies	ACDS(Pol)	ACDS(Pol)		For COS 25 May