

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on SUNDAY 23 MAY 1982 at 9.30 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)

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)

Colonel D J Milton,
Representing the 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 R T Jackling,
Representing the
Assistant Under Secretary
(Defence Staff)

Mr P R H Wright,
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

1-4 (1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

Nil

Note:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.

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CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 57TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
SUNDAY 23 MAY 1982 AT 09.30 am

OPERATION 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 went on to assess the current state and deployment of Argentine Forces, and their future intentions.
3. In discussion, concern was expressed about reports of continued arms sales to Argentina by Israel. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to maintain diplomatic pressure to prevent such sales; he would also raise the matter at OD(SA) the next day.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) summarised the deployment of the Task Force.
5. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he would give OD(SA) the next day the facts to counter any impression gained by the Prime Minister that the Rapier system might be ineffective.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

6. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage, and outlined the briefings planned for that day.
7. In discussion it was agreed that:
 - a. The system for notifying Next of Kin about casualties was working well.

Note:

1. INTSUM No 98 230600Z May 82.

Part I to COS 57th Meeting/82
23 May 1982

b. In future, press releases should not mention unexploded bombs; such information was of significant intelligence value to the Argentines.

c. Continued efforts should be made to conceal the identity of ships involved in particular actions.

d. They would invite the Permanent Under Secretary to take action on the request (2) by the Administrator of Ascension Island to restore telephone links, having first established whether this would be acceptable to the Task Force Commander.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

8. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (3).

Annex:

- A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand (1 page).

Notes:

2. Administrator Ascension A3A/I9F 221630Z May 82.
3. Annex A to COS 56th Meeting/82.

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