

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on TUESDAY 25 MAY 1982 at 9.00 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

The Rt Hon John Nott MP,
Secretary of State for Defence

Mr Peter Blaker MP,
Minister of State for the Armed Forces

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)

Air Commodore B Hughes,
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

RESTRICTED

COS 59th Meeting/82
25 May 1982

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1-6 (1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

N11

Note:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEECONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 59TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
TUESDAY 25 MAY 1982 AT 9.00 amOPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. SECURITY

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said there had been a serious breach of security in a recent newspaper article. The source of the breach was not yet known. He reminded all those present of the need to safeguard the highly classified material covered in their briefings.

ITEM 2. INTELLIGENCE

2. LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) reviewed the intelligence published in the latest summary (1). He said there were now indications that up to 10 AM39 Exocet missiles might have been delivered to the Argentine Navy the previous day via Brazil; HM Ambassador and the Air Attache in Brazil had been told to follow up this report urgently. There was also evidence that aircraft spares, Gabriel missiles and ammunition were being supplied to Argentina by South Africa; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were attempting to stop this supply, but were unlikely to succeed. He went on to say there was some evidence that Peruvian Mirage aircraft, 12 of which had been reported at Rio Grande, were being used on operations over the Falkland Islands. He assessed that there would be no weakening of the Argentine Air Force resolve, despite their losses, particularly of pilots. In conclusion, he gave a further assessment of Argentine naval intentions, and of Argentine ability to counter attack on land against our bridgehead in the Falkland Islands.

ITEM 3. OWN FORCES

3. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) summarised the deployment and intended operations of the Task Force.

Note:

1. INTSUM No 102, 250600Z May 1982.

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ITEM 4. PUBLIC RELATIONS

4. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage. He said that instructions had been sent the previous day to the Information Officers of the Task Force to exercise greater control over reports by correspondents with the Force, to avoid breaches of security.

5. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that no publicity should be given to the reported clash between 2 of our own ground patrols, in which some casualties had been sustained.

ITEM 5. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

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

ITEM 6. FUTURE GARRISON OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

7. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he had instructed the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy) to prepare a paper drawing together the two previous studies (3) (4) into the worst and best case possible garrisons, and to set out a comprehensive range of options against various threats, for possible submission to Ministers in due course. The Service Departments and the Defence Secretariat would be consulted in the preparation of this paper.

Annex:

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

Notes:

2. Annex A to COS 58th Meeting/82.
3. COS 48th Meeting/82. Item 5.
4. CDS 2038/1 dated 19 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(Po1)	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(Po1)	ACDS(Po1)		For COS 26 May
0092	59/82 Item 6	Future Garrison Studies	CDS	ACDS(Po1)		