

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
 of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
 on WEDNESDAY 26 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

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 J M Stewart,
 Assistant Under Secretary
 (Defence Staff)

Mr I S McDonald,
 Deputy Chief of Public Relations

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 S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1-4.(1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

101. (2) DIRECTIVE TO THE SENIOR BRITISH OFFICER BERMUDA

102. (2) OPERATION CORPORATE

Notes:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.
2. Issued on 26 May 1982.

101. DIRECTIVE TO THE SENIOR BRITISH OFFICER
BERMUDARESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a directive (1) prepared by ACDS(Pol). SCDS(A) and ACDS(Pol) have been informed.

Note:

1. COS 1087/715 dated 19 May 1982.

102. OPERATION CORPORATERESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a note (1) prepared by VCDS(P&L) subject to written comment (2) (3). VCDS(P&L) has been informed.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 233/742/1 dated 21 May 1982.
2. CNS 3771/5 dated 24 May 1982.
3. VCAS 91138 dated 25 May 1982.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEECONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 60TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 1982 AT 9.00 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 assessed Argentine naval dispositions and intentions, and Argentine air force losses and remaining capability. He said it was now known that there was a daily civilian Hercules flight from Peru to Buenos Aires carrying military spares and equipment from Israeli sources.
3. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN instructed the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to arrange for the Guardship to establish the identity and purpose of the merchant ship which had apparently broken down 80nm off Ascension Island. He also instructed the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to determine and report to them the next day the rate of Lloyds insurance premium being applied to merchant shipping in the South Atlantic. Finally he instructed the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to brief them on Friday 28 May on the problems of acquiring early warning of Argentine air attacks on the Task Force.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) outlined the deployment and operations of the Task Force.
5. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he would discuss with the Task Force Commander whether there were over-riding security objections to the Secretary

Note:

1. INTSUM No 102, 250600Z May 1982.

of State announcing the number of additional warships which had now joined the Task Force. To enable him to brief the Secretary of State, he would also clarify with the Task Force Commander the general area in which the Carrier Battle Group operated, in relation to the radius of action of its Harrier aircraft and its vulnerability to attack by land based Argentine aircraft.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

6. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage.

7. SIR HENRY LEACH said he was concerned at the general impression which had been created in the past few days by the release of bad news by the Ministry of Defence. He did not wish to suppress bad news, but believed it should be placed in context of the operation as a whole. The aim of the operation had been to secure a bridgehead; this had been achieved without loss of life to the Landing Force. He considered the time was now right to make a statement putting the operation as a whole, and the losses incurred, in perspective before the next phase of land operations began.

8. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish HMS COVENTRY to be named as soon as possible as the ship which had sunk the previous day. They would also wish to invite the News Release Group urgently to prepare an in-depth briefing for accredited defence correspondents on the overall success of the naval operations to date. Finally he instructed the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to prepare as soon as possible an unclassified list of Argentine losses, both of men and equipment, for the News Release Group to issue at an appropriate moment.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

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

Annex:

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

Note:

2. Annex A to COS 59th Meeting/82.

ANNEX A TO
COS 60TH MEETING/82
26 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 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 27 May
0092	59/82 Item 6	Future Garrison Studies	CDS	ACDS(Pol)		