

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry  
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,  
on THURSDAY 27 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

Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Morony,  
Representing the  
Chief of the General Staff

Air Marshal Sir David Craig,  
Representing the  
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)

Commodore T D A Thompson,  
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 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

1-6. (1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

101. (2) NATO - WITHDRAWAL OF UK FORCES FROM  
EXERCISE NORTHERN WEDDING 82

102. (2) NATO - WITHDRAWAL OF UK FORCES FROM  
EXERCISE BOLD GUARD 82

Notes:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.
2. Issued on 27 May 1982.



101. NATO - WITHDRAWAL OF UK FORCES FROM EXERCISE NORTHERN WEDDING 82

RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a draft signal (1) to CINCHAN. ACDS(Ops) has been informed and the signal (2) has been sent.

Notes:

- 1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 236/742/1 dated 22 May 1982.
- 2. A2A/BEA 261735Z May.

102. NATO - WITHDRAWAL OF UK FORCES FROM EXERCISE BOLD GUARD 82

RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a draft signal (1) to CINCNORTH. ACDS(Ops) has been informed and the signal (2) has been sent.

Notes:

- 1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 237/742/1 dated 22 May 1982.
- 2. BWA/BWN 261736Z May.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX  
 TO  
COS 61ST MEETING/82 HELD ON  
THURSDAY 27 MAY 1982 AT 11.00 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 assessed Argentine naval dispositions and intentions, and Argentine military positions, morale and logistic problems on the Falkland Islands. He said that there was evidence that the Argentine Air Force was now using KC-130 tankers to refuel their aircraft on missions against the Falkland Islands. He went on to say that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had already been asked to take up with Soviet authorities the presence of a Soviet oiler in the Total Exclusion Zone; however, he assessed this was a routine passage, and was not significant. In conclusion, he said that the broken down merchant ship near Ascension Island which he had mentioned at their meeting the previous day (2) was Maltese registered; it was assessed to be of no risk.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

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

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

4. Mr McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on Press coverage.

## Notes:

1. INTSUM No 106, 270600A May 1982.
2. COS 60th Meeting/82, Item 1.



5. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the News Release Group to prepare a Press brief about the ATLANTIC CONVEYOR, to point out that it appeared to have been hit by only one of the two Exocet missiles, that it was afloat and upright in normal draught, and that the ship would be examined to determine whether it and any of its cargo could be salvaged despite its extensive damage aft.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

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

ITEM 5. ATLANTIC CONVEYOR

7. The Committee had before them a paper (4) prepared by the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel & Logistics) examining the logistic implications of the loss of the equipment and stores in the ATLANTIC CONVEYOR. They had also seen a signal (5) from the Task Force Commander assessing his priority requirements for replacement equipment.

8. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to take note of the paper, and to note that the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel & Logistics) was taking action where possible to make good the losses, keeping them informed of progress.

ITEM 6. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

9. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN instructed the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to prepare by 2.30 pm that afternoon a draft OD(SA) paper, seeking authority to attack Argentine naval and auxiliary shipping within the present 12 mile Argentine coastal limit. The draft paper would be considered by OD(SA) senior officials that afternoon, prior to submission to OD(SA) the next day.

Annex:

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

Notes:

3. Annex A to COS 60th Meeting/82.
4. VCDS(P&L) 127/3/2 dated 26 May 1982.
5. CTF 317 I9F 261615Z May 82.



ANNEX A TO  
 COS 61ST MEETING/82  
 27 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	For COS 28 May
0091	54/82 Item 5	Contingency Studies	ACDS(Pol)	ACDS(Pol)		For COS 28 May
0092	59/82 Item 6	Future Garrison Studies	CDS	ACDS(Pol)		
0093	61/82 Item 6	Rules of Engagement	ACDS(Ops)	OD(SA) Senior Officials 27 May		