

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DPR/112/3/4

*DPP(N) is digitizing this into a piece of paper we could give to Editors.*

PS/PUS

Copy to:  
ACDS(S) DPR(A)  
CPR DPR(RAF)  
DCPR AUS (D Staff)  
CNSO

*f*

OPERATION CORPORATE - TRANSMISSION OF TV FILM, STILL PICTURES AND VERBAL REPORTS

1. This note is prepared to satisfy 2 needs:-

- a. to enable PUS to up-date Editors on the present state of the picture transmission art.
- b. to brief and reassure Secretary of State about the situation if PUS feels it appropriate.

2. Still Pictures. 2 methods are available, one open (MUIRHEAD FACSIMILE MACHINES) and one closed (Slow Scan TV naval communications circuits). I use the words "open" and "closed" to distinguish the terminals in that the MUIRHEAD system transmits the picture via MARISAT simultaneously to the RN Photographic Section in Old Admiralty Building and the British Telecom facility at Electra House, whereas the Slow Scan TV system only transmits the picture via SCOT to a terminal in the DIC. In the former case we control the issue of the picture and Electra House only release it to the Press Association for general press use with our approval. In the latter case control is not an issue and indeed no pictures from it have been used for press purposes since the system has only just been tried out. The results suggest that the pictures would not be acceptable for press use anyway - see examples attached.

3. Facilities for transmission of still pictures from the Task Force are installed at the time of writing as follows:-

MUIRHEAD

SLOW SCAN TV

SS CANBERRA  
RFA STROMNESS  
RFA OLNA  
HMS FEARLESS  
FRA SIR BEDIVERE

HMS HERMES  
HMS INVINCIBLE  
HMS FEARLESS  
(Note: only INVINCIBLE's facility is operational)

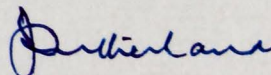


In press terms only the MUIRHEAD facility is significant and it means that any pictures from onshore in the Falkland Islands must be taken to one of the ships listed above to be transmitted.

4. TV Transmission. After a great deal of technical investigation, which incidentally started on 1 April with a request from ITN (with BBC) to take a transmitting station in the Task Force and some ingenious adaption of existing technology it has conclusively been established that the transmission of TV pictures, even black and white without sound, is impossible via normal military communications circuits (SCOT to SKYNET or DSCS or TSC502 to DSOS) particularly from the area of the Falkland Islands. Although experiments conducted by BBC/ITN engineers with our experts at RSRE Defford showed that transmission of a minimally acceptable picture was possible if a service transmitter adapted for the purpose was in the Skynet footprint the difficulties of achieving even a trial of this for operational purposes outweighed any gain. This has finally been accepted by both BBC and ITN (both producers and engineers) who are now investigating the possibility of buying or hiring a portable ground satellite transmitting station to be put ashore in the Falklands to operate via the commercial satellite INTELSAT. This is likely to be very expensive but is the only means by which real time pictures can be sent. If this proves too painful for them then, depending on the military and political situation in the area, it might be possible to reduce the length of time for the return of pictures from the existing 10 - 14 days to say 1 or 2 days by flying the material into a friendly country or even back to Ascension. There it can be transmitted now (and is) using the C&W facility direct to BBC and ITN. The ball is firmly with the TV fraternity to come up with their own solution.

5. Voice Transmissions. The MARISAT facility in the accompanying RFA's and SS CANBERRA is and has been all along, the favoured (by the press!) means for the TV and Radio correspondents to transmit their stories which are simply phoned direct to their offices. In fact we have arranged that all such transmissions now terminate at one point in London (BBC Radio) and we have set up a simultaneous reception of them in this building so that we can assist the media to clear the tapes quickly.

6. The use of the MARISAT, which is of course only available from ships, is becoming increasingly difficult for correspondents, who are now all ashore and have to make their way to ships to transmit. In these circumstances we have been examining the use of the land facility, TSC502, which uses the A0 DSCS, for the transmission of voice pieces and approval has been given for the strictly limited use of this facility under the control of CTG 317.1 and with no interference to operational traffic. This material will come into RAF OAKHANGER where it will be taped and sent to MOD for clearance and issue to the media.



I B SUTHERLAND  
Captain RN  
DPR(N)

9 June 82



D/DP/112/3/4  
of 9 June.

PHOTOS

INSIDE.



SLOW SCAN.





IN U.S. MILITARY



POOR PHOTOGRAPH FOR INFO BY P.A. PHOTOGRAPHER MURKIN CLANCE.  
CURRENTLY APPLY CAMOUFLAGE CREAM BEFORE SETTING OUT ON PITTS



44

9/31/F

LOOSE MINUTE

D/DPR/112/3/4

PS/PUS

Copy to:  
ACNS(O)  
CPR  
DCPR  
AUS (D Staff)  
DPR(A)  
DPR(RAF)

MEETING WITH EDITORS

1. You asked for some background for your meeting this evening on the return of the QE II and submarines.
2. QE II. Now that Secretary of State has agreed that Commander-in-Chief Fleet may give a press conference onboard the arrangements have fallen into place quite neatly. A member of Fleet PR staff will board QE II at noon tomorrow accompanied by BBC and ITN engineers to set up their facility in advance so that there can be a certain amount of live coverage. Commander-in-Chief Fleet will go onboard at about 0730 on Friday morning so that he can complete his welcoming and involvement with the press and fly ashore before the ships arrival in Southampton.
3. The representatives of the press, who will number about 40 will be taken onboard from Portland by helicopter and will remain onboard until the ship arrives in Southampton. Onboard the Fleet PR staff will arrange and ensure not only a properly controlled press conference for Commander-in-Chief Fleet and the Chief of Staff but interviews with survivors.
4. After the arrival in Southampton and family reunions, the facility will continue with photographs and interviews with the reunited families on the dockside.
5. Cunard PR staff and Southampton authorities have all been consulted and are content with these arrangements and in particular have confirmed that there is no suitable place for a major press conference in the dock area.
6. Submarines. HMS SPLENDID returns on Saturday 12 June to Plymouth. After discussion in the Naval Staff it has been decided that although FOSM will be there to meet her there will be no press conference or interviews and facilities will be limited to mute filming. At the same time however with VCNS' backing, I am suggesting, to the News Release Group that we might with advantage give a press briefing up here (whether open in the press centre or unattributable to defence correspondents remains to be decided)

continued ....



E43

on the activities of submarines. This would need to be discussed with FOSM and Commander-in-Chief Fleet's agreement sought. Granted this a suitably authoritative officer could be made available from FOSM's staff at Northwood to give a good briefing within the existing security limitations.

9 June 82

*I B Sutherland*

I B SUTHERLAND  
Captain RN  
DPR(N)

1. "The INVINCIBLE lives" and their whereabouts.
2. Arrangements for the Press after the visit of the Palau Islands.
3. Tapes.
4. TV transmission.
5. Future events eg return of US submarines etc.

2. Under any other business I would like to raise the question of pooling arrangements for correspondents copy and the policy of replacing existing correspondents with fresh successors.

7. I attach or separate pieces of paper short notes about each of these.

*J*

Neville Taylor  
CPT

5 June 1982

475 (D Stack)  
 DPM  
 DPR(N)  
 DPM(A)  
 DPR(MAF)



LOOSE MINUTE

D/DPR/14/26

PUS      Copies to: below

PUS/82/685

E43

EDITORS MEETING - 9 JUNE 1982

1. You asked if you could have brief notes for this evening's meeting on the following topics:

1. "The INVINCIBLE five" and their whereabouts.
2. Arrangements for the Press after re-possession of the Falkland Islands.
3. Tapes.
4. TV transmission.
5. Future events, eg return of QE2; submarines etc.

2. Under any other business I would like to raise the question of pooling arrangements for correspondents copy and the policy of replacing existing correspondents with fresh successors.

3. I attach on separate pieces of paper short notes about each of these.

9 June 1982

*NT*  
Neville Taylor  
CPR

Copies to: AUS (D Staff)  
DCPR

4. Because of enormous costs we do not believe that MOD can start large charges involved. We are having to discuss all of this with the Press because the facility will have to be shared with foreign journalists who have so far had no direct representation either in the Falklands or in access to briefings in MOD. Current thinking is that we would arrange facilities for perhaps 50 journalists in all, of whom about 20 would be available for UK organisations. It has to be borne in mind that there are 28 UK journalists, cameramen and photographers already in the Falklands.

5. So far we have not been able to identify an easy way of being able to transmit television film - editors will already be familiar with the problems there - but we are assuming that urgency will be less important in the post occupation phase anyway.

6. We need to know from editors how they would wish to advise us on the selection of, say, 20 places for UK Press, radio and television (additional to the 28 already in the Falklands).

7. We also wish to get their reaction to the possibility of being charged between £10,000 and £15,000 per head for transport and accommodation to spend 3 or 4 days covering the Falklands post occupation.



AGENDA ITEM 2

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESS AFTER RE-POSSESSION OF FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. In conjunction with FCO we are looking at the organisation of facility visits to the Falklands after major hostilities have finished. There are considerable logistic problems. We have had to rule out the possibility of flying journalists in to the Falklands. This is partly because we do not think that a runway capable of taking a large aircraft will be available for several weeks after re-possession of Port Stanley. More importantly there is no accommodation available in the Falklands for large numbers of journalists. Neither is there much food and there is a shortage of water. Planning for facilities has therefore had to be on the basis of a ship big enough to accommodate 100 journalists (possibly more) as a self-sufficient floating Press centre, able to sustain itself and its passengers for up to a week at a time in or around Port Stanley.
2. We are identifying a merchant ship which would be chartered by the Department of Trade on our behalf. It would be fitted (if it is not already equipped) with a MARISAT terminal to enable transmission of speech, hard-copy and black and white pictures.
3. The costs will be enormous. Charter of the vessel alone will probably amount to £1M. If we have to install MARISAT equipment we could run up an additional cost of £50,000. In addition there will be costs of flying journalists from London to embarkation point (probably Brazil or Uruguay). The question of timing is a snag too. We would probably have to station the ship for a week (possibly more) without being able to put any Press on board merely to ensure that it was in the right place at the right time.
4. Because of the enormous costs we do not believe that HMG can stand the charges involved. We are having to discuss all of this with FCO because the facility will have to be shared with foreign journalists who have so far had no direct representation either in the Falklands or in access to briefings in MOD. Current thinking is that we would arrange facilities for perhaps 80 journalists in all, of whom about 20 would be available for UK organisations. It has to be borne in mind that there are 28 UK journalists, cameramen and photographers already in the Falklands.
5. So far we have not been able to identify an easy way of being able to transmit television film - editors will already be familiar with the problems there - but we are assuming that urgency will be less important in the post occupation phase anyway.
6. We need to know from editors how they would wish to advise us on the selection of, say, 20 places for UK Press, radio and television (additional to the 28 already in the Falklands).
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8. It is for discussion whether perhaps a small group of representative editors could meet with us in a "sub-committee" to discuss the arrangement of these facilities at greater length.

END

Copy to:  
PS/PSS

TAPES AND COPY

1. You asked for briefing notes for tonight's editors meeting on the subject of tapes and tape handling.
2. As you know all tapes are recorded at Bush House, and then played over to our BBC recorders in the tape clearing office. This office is manned 24 hours a day by two staff on a shift basis. (\*)
3. Immediately a tape has been received one of these two staff contacts the duty military staff officer, who makes an initial assessment when he has heard the tape. If it appears that there is nothing on it of operational sensitivity he will then clear it often on the telephone direct to BBC, BBC Radio, BBC World Service, ITN and IKN, who each receive copies of the tapes from Bush House.
4. If the duty military staff officer feels that there is anything which ought to be excluded from a tape he contacts the duty DPR, and then representatives from the news release group as appropriate. The sensitive material is then outlined to all the media, with an explanation as to why we would rather that such and such an item was either not used or delayed.
5. The peak time for incoming tapes is between 2000 hours and 2200 hours, when every correspondent appears to try to get his material into the late night news bulletins. I suspect that this is because that is afternoon in the Falkland Islands, when correspondents are most likely to have been able to get to the ships fitted with Marisat. Other peak times are 1300 to 1400 (first light) and a lesser peak around 1700 hours.
6. There have been hold-ups when either the duty staff officer or the duty DPR have not been immediately available to listen to tapes in the tape clearing office, but usually one or the other is available. I have a suggestion for speeding up this process, but do not think that it is appropriate to include it in this brief.

*D. J. Ramsbotham*  
D / RAMSBOTHAM  
Brigadier  
DPR(A)

9 Jun 82

(\*) All copy is delivered to the tape clearing office, and the clearance procedure is then as for the tapes.



25 17 7  
10 JUL 1982  
MIN. OF DEFENCE

[Put with papers for Editors]

E47

CPR

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PS/PUS

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