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JIC(82) 9th Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in  
Room 215, Cabinet Office on  
THURSDAY 4 MARCH 1982 at 11.00 am

PRESENT

Mr P B H Wright  
Foreign and Commonwealth  
Office (In the Chair)

Mr C J Carey  
Treasury  
(Items 1 and 2)

Mr R P Flower  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Vice Admiral Sir Roy Halliday  
Ministry of Defence

Mr J L Jones  
Security Service

'C'

Sir Brian Tovey  
Government Communications Headquarters

Sir Antony Duff  
Cabinet Office

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Air Vice Marshal M J Armitage  
Ministry of Defence

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Mr C O Spencer  
Canadian High Commission  
(Items 1 and 2)

Dr D G Blight  
Australian High Commission  
(Items 1 and 2)

New Zealand High Commission  
(Items 1 and 2)

Mr R J O'Neill  
Assessments Staff

Mr P G Wallis  
Assessments Staff

Brigadier A B D Gurdon  
Assessments Staff

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Captain N L Browne  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1-3)

Mr A J Colquhoun  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 2 and 3)

Mr P S Falloon-Goodhew  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1 and 2)

Mrs J P Hamilton-Eddy  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1 and 2)

Mr A Heath  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1-3)

Miss A W Lewis  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1 and 2)

Wing Commander D I Scott  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1-4)

Mr D M Sutherland  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1 and 2)

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Mr T W Savage  
Commander A H R York  
Mr P J Bulstrode  
Mrs J C McGowan (Items 1-3)  
Mr D J Kiernan (Items 1-4)

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1. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

THE CHAIRMAN said the Committee would wish to join him in welcoming Mr C J Carey, the new chairman of the Economic Assessments Sub-Committee, who was attending the Committee for the first time.

The Committee -  
Took note, with approval.

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2. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS

The Committee had before them the following current assessments -

- a. Part II of the Weekly Survey of Intelligence (JIC(82)(WSI) 9 (Draft)) which consisted of items entitled "Uganda", "Soviet Naval Aircraft Deployments to Libya", "Declining Crude Oil Prices: Implications for OPEC", and "Poland".
- b. A Note entitled "Poland: External Financing Problems" (JIC(82)(N) 14 (DRAFT));
- c. A Note entitled "Recent Developments in Soviet Strategic Systems" (JIC(82)(N) 10 (DRAFT)); and
- d. An Immediate Assessment on Poland issued on 25 February (JIC(82)(IA) 2).

After a detailed discussion of each of the above items

The Committee -

1. Approved Part II of JIC(82)(WSI) 9 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form.
2. Agreed that the Assessments Staff should consider preparing an item on Soviet <sup>NAVAL AIRCRAFT</sup> ~~air~~ and ~~naval~~ <sup>airline air</sup> deployments worldwide to complement the item entitled "Soviet Naval Aircraft Deployments to Libya".

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3. Agreed that subject to suitable amendment the item entitled "Declining Crude Oil Prices: Implications for OPEC" should be downgraded to CONFIDENTIAL, and instructed the Assessments Staff to keep this subject under review and consider whether a further item (relating to OPEC oil as a political weapon) might be useful.
4. Approved JIC(82)(N) ~~14~~ (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form.
5. Agreed that the Assessments Staff should if possible prepare a sanitised version of JIC(82)(N) 10 to permit wider circulation than the present classification would allow.
6. Agreed that the text of the items entitled "Declining Crude Oil Prices: Implications for OPEC", "Poland" and "Poland: External Financing Problems" should be released to NATO.
7. Approved JIC(82)(N) 10 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form with the revised title "Recent Developments in Soviet Strategic and Related Systems".
8. Took Note of JIC(82)(IA) 2 on Poland.

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3. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS: ITEMS BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT

The Committee had before them Part III of the Weekly Survey of Intelligence (JIC(82)(WSI) 9 (DRAFT) which consisted of items entitled "Kenya", circulated under a UK EYES A caveat, and "Iran and the Gulf" circulated under a UK/US EYES ONLY caveat.

After a detailed discussion of each of the above items

The Committee -

Approved Part III of JIC(82)(WSI) 9 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form.

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4. NATO'S NORTHERN FLANK

The Committee had before them JIC(82) 5, a draft report on the above subject.

During a detailed discussion it was noted that the report had been commissioned at the request of the Chiefs of Staff who were concerned about apparent weaknesses in the defence posture of countries on NATO's Northern Flank and about the implications for the Alliance. With regard to these concerns it was for consideration whether the final, over-riding conclusion of the paper should be given greater emphasis by being included in the summary at the beginning of the Report.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee would now wish to approve the report, as amended in discussion, incorporating a summary of the conclusions into the main summary at the beginning of the report, and instruct the Secretary to issue it to the agreed distribution.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up
2. Instructed the Secretary to issue the amended report to the agreed distribution.

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5. PROPOSAL TO RE-ESTABLISH THE ADP SUB-COMMITTEE

MR SAVAGE said that the Committee at its meeting on 5 December 1981 (JIC(81) 47th Meeting, Minute 7 refers) had instructed him to make recommendations, including draft terms of reference and suggested representation, for the re-establishment of the Sub-Committee on Automatic Data Processing (ADP) to co-ordinate advances in handling processed intelligence. In his discussions with agencies and Departments there had been general agreement that, although a measure

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of consultation already existed, the revival of the Sub-Committee would be welcome provided that it did not concern itself with ADP systems outside the electronic handling, dissemination, storage and retrieval of processed intelligence within the United Kingdom community. It should not seek to act as a body with power to approve, control or restrict action on ADP matters by individual Agencies and Departments. There would be a need for rather narrow and clearly defined terms of reference; a need that was underlined by the fact that an increasing number of official and ad hoc bodies had been or would be involved in looking at inter-communication between Departments, Information Technology (IT) and computer security. It was recommended that the re-established Sub-Committee should be retitled the Joint Intelligence Committee Information Technology Sub-Committee. As far as membership was concerned, it was recommended that there should be representation from each Agency and Department represented in the JIC at about Principal/Assistant Secretary level. There should however be flexibility about membership to ensure that advisers could attend as required to cover both the handling of intelligence and technical requirements.

THE CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider the Draft Composition and Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee on Information Technology which had been circulated as a Secretary's Minute, JIC(82)(SEC) 11 dated 2 March 1982.

In discussion, it was noted that the Assessments Staff would be represented as appropriate and the Treasury and other customer departments might be invited to send representatives as and when this would be useful. Although there was reluctance to impose any deadlines on the Chairman of the new Sub-Committee, it was agreed that there would be advantage in the Committee having a progress report in about 6 months' time.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee would wish to accept the proposals for the Composition and Terms of Reference of the new Sub-Committee and agree that it should be titled the Sub-Committee on Information Technology. The Chairman of the Sub-committee should present a progress report for consideration by the Committee in about 6 months' time.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Agreed to the establishment of a Sub-Committee on Information Technology with composition and terms of reference as laid down in JIC(82)(SEC) 11.
3. Instructed the Secretary to discuss with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee the presentation of a progress report as agreed.

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6. THE NICOLL REPORTS  
(JIC(82) 6th Meeting, Minute 3 refers)

The Committee had before them a draft report for the Secretary of the Cabinet on the above subject, produced by Sir Antony Duff and the Chief of the Assessments Staff, which had been circulated under cover of a letter dated 24 February from Sir Antony Duff to the Chairman.

During a brief discussion it was noted that the draft report reflected fully both the Nicoll reports and the Committee's view of them. It was frank about the JIC's performance and made clear that the Committee was alert to the lessons to be learnt from Nicoll.

With regard to informing the Americans of the Nicoll reports themselves, it was noted that it would be preferable to produce one sanitized version of the concluding report, "JIC and Warning of Aggression", which could be distributed to all the Intelligence Allies.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said the Committee would wish to thank Sir Antony Duff and the Chief of the Assessments Staff and to approve their draft, as amended by their discussion, with its recommendations for further limited distribution. Sir Antony Duff should be invited to produce a sanitized version of the concluding Nicoll Report which could then be distributed to the Intelligence Allies.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Invited Sir Antony Duff to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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7. STUDIES OF SOVIET CIVIL DEFENCE

VICE ADMIRAL SIR ROY HALLIDAY said that the Committee would wish to know that for some years the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) had been a full participating member of a United States inter-agency group concerned with the assessment of Soviet civil defence programmes. As part of the next phase of the group's work, the DIS had been invited to take responsibility for the detailed study of 5 of 20 designated sectors of Moscow. This DIS involvement, which could not be undertaken independently, would enable the United Kingdom to have access to the complete United States study. Additionally, there was advantage for the DIS to share in a project to which the Americans attached great significance.

The Committee -

Took note, with approval.

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8. SUMMARIES OF CURRENT ASSESSMENT ITEMS

MR O'NEILL informed the Committee that the Americans and Canadians had asked that they might be given summaries of the Committee's current assessments.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up a brief discussion, said that the Committee would wish to agree that all the Intelligence Allies should be given summaries of the current assessment items that they normally received.



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The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Instructed the Secretary to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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9. ASSESSMENTS STAFF: FUTURE WORK

MR O'NEILL informed the Committee that the Assessments Staff were preparing an overall review of the Polish situation which would be available for presentation by the end of March. At the request of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office the Assessments Staff were also conducting a further detailed review of the evidence of Soviet involvement in the events of December 1981 leading up to the imposition of martial law; this might help to assess to what degree General Jaruzelski "was his own man".

The Committee -

Took note.

Cabinet Office

5 March 1982

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