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JIC(82) 10th Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 215, Cabinet Office on
THURSDAY 11 MARCH 1982 at 11.00 am

PRESENT

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

Mr R P Flower
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday
Ministry of Defence

Mr J L Jones
Security Service

Sir Brian Tovey
Government Communications
Headquarters

Sir Antony Duff
Cabinet Office

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

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Air Vice-Marshal M J Armitage
Ministry of Defence

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

Mr M C Clements
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 and 2)

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Mr A J Colquhoun
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 and 2)

SECRETARIAT

Mr T W Savage
Commander A H R York
Mr R D Lawrence
Mr D J Kiernan (Items 1-3)

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1. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

THE CHAIRMAN said that this was the last meeting of the Committee that Dr D G Blight would attend. The Committee would wish to join him in thanking Dr Blight for his contributions to the Committee's work during the past nineteen months, congratulating him on his promotion and wishing him well on his return to Australia.

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) 10 (DRAFT)) which consisted of items entitled "Iran/Iraq War", "South Africa: National Party Split", "Poland", and "Aegean: Greek-Turkish Relations".
- b. A Note entitled "Iran: Internal Situation" (JIC(82)(N) 15 (DRAFT)).
- c. An Immediate Assessment entitled "Uganda: the Commonwealth Training Team" issued on 5 March 1982 (JIC(82)(IA) 4). (This was a sanitized version of JIC(82)(IA) 3 of 4 March 1982 prepared for the Intelligence Allies.)

After a detailed discussion of each of the above items

The Committee

1. Approved Part II of JIC(82)(WSI) 10 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form.
2. Agreed that the items entitled "Iran/Iraq War" and "Poland" should be edited for release to NATO.

3. Approved JIC(82)(N) 15 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion, instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form and agreed that the text should be edited for release to NATO.

4. Took note of JIC(82)(IA) 4 on Uganda.

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3. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS: ITEMS BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT

The Committee had before them the following two items, both circulated under a UK EYES A Caveat:

- a. A Note entitled "Ghana" (JIC(82)(N) 16 (DRAFT)) and
- b. An Immediate Assessment entitled "Uganda: the Commonwealth Training Team" (JIC(82)(IA) 3 dated 4 March 1982).

After a detailed discussion the Committee -

1. Approved JIC(82)(N) 16 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form.

2. Took note of JIC(82)(IA) 3 on Uganda.

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4. THE NICOLL REPORT: RELEASE TO INTELLIGENCE ALLIES
(JIC(82) 9th Meeting, Minute 6 refers)

The Committee had before them a sanitized version of the final Nicoll Report which had been prepared by Sir Antony Duff. The sanitized version, together with other related correspondence, had been circulated by Sir Antony under cover of his letter dated 9 March to Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday.

It was noted, during a brief discussion, that the original report had been written solely with the United Kingdom in mind so that, even when sanitized, it would not be wholly appropriate for passing to our Intelligence Allies, particularly the Americans, because of the rather negative impression it would create. It was agreed therefore that there would be advantage in putting together a new "purpose-built" paper rather than attempting further to sanitize the report. This new version should exclude specific references to the earlier reports and concentrate on those parts relating to the JIC in its warning role and the decision making processes in acts of aggression. Additionally, most of the information contained in the recent submission from the Chairman to Sir Robert Armstrong on this subject should also be used. It was further agreed that Sir Antony Duff should mention the Nicoll Reports in discussions during his forthcoming visit to Washington and inform the Americans that we would pass to them a summary of the reports in the near future.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up, said the Committee would wish to agree that another version of the final Nicoll Report should be produced taking note of the points made in discussion. The final version should be available for passing to the Intelligence Allies and particularly for Agencies and Departments to pass to their American counterparts.

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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5. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

THE CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had written, as requested at the meeting on 25 February (JIC(82) 8th Meeting, Minute 7 refers), to the Secretary of the Cabinet informing him of developments in this field. In his reply the Secretary of the Cabinet had asked to be informed when the Committee next

discussed the subject following publication of the results of the various studies, so that he could then draw it to the attention of the Prime Minister. Subsequently, the Embassy in Washington had forwarded a proposal that when the American team led by Mr Buckley was in London for talks with Lord Bridges on economic aspects of the Polish situation, the FCO should raise, in the context of the discussion at COCOM, the possibility of talks with the United States on the intelligence assessment network designed to bring the US/UK positions on technology transfer to Eastern countries closer together.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up a brief discussion, said that the Committee would wish to agree that the FCO should advise Lord Bridges on the current situation with regard to the NATO and other related studies into this subject. The MOD should provide the FCO a short briefing paper for the purpose and include copies of the two interim reports already produced within NATO. The FCO should make positive reference to the fact that US and UK officials were already working closely together on studies related to technology transfer.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

Cabinet Office

12 March 1982