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JIC(82) 11th Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 215, Cabinet Office on
THURSDAY 18 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

Lieutenant-General Sir James Glover
Ministry of Defence

Mr J L Jones
Security Service

'C'

Sir Brian Tovey
Government Communications
Headquarters

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Air Vice-Marshal M J Armitage
Ministry of Defence

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

Mr G C Cameron
Australian High Commission
(Items 1 and 2)

Mr E Burtmanis
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 - 5)

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Mr A J Colquhoun
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 - 3)

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

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

Mr K Sullivan
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 - 4)

Captain J J R Tod
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 - 4)

SECRETARIAT

Mr T W Savage
Commander A H R York
Mr F J Wilson (Item 4)
Mr R D Lawrence
Mr D J Kiernan (Items 1 - 4)

CONTENTS

Item No	Subject	Page
1	CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT	1
2	CURRENT ASSESSMENTS	1
3	CURRENT ASSESSMENTS: ITEMS BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT	2
4	NOTE - BELIZE: THE THREAT FROM GUATEMALA	3
5	THE "NICOLL" REPORTS	3
6	EXERCISE HILEX 10	4
*7	RESTRICTIONS ON THE CIRCULATION OF SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE	4

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1. CHAIRMANS STATEMENT

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would wish to join him in welcoming Mr Egils Burtmanis, the Head of Current Intelligence in the Australian Office of National Assessments at Canberra, who was attending the meeting as part of his programme of visits to the United Kingdom.

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) 11 DRAFT) which consisted of items entitled "The Soviet Leadership", "Poland", and "Recent Developments in Indo-Pakistan Relations".
- b. Two Notes entitled "Afghanistan" (JIC(82)(N) 17 DRAFT) and "Soviet Naval and Naval Air Depolyments" (JIC(82)(N) 18 DRAFT).

During a detailed discussion of the above items it was noted that the item entitled Soviet Naval and Naval Air Deployments had been produced at the Committee's request as a complement to an earlier assessment on Soviet Naval Aircraft Deployments to Libya (JIC(82) WSI) 9 paragraphs 12-15 dated 4 March 1982).

The Committee -

1. Approved Part II of JIC(82)(WSI) 11 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form.
2. Agreed that the items entitled "The Soviet Leadership", and "Recent Developments in Indo-Pakistan Relations" should be released to NATO, and that the item entitled "Poland" should be edited for release to NATO.

3. Approved JIC(82)(N) 17 DRAFT and JIC(82)(N) 18 DRAFT as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue them in final form.

4. Agreed that the Note entitled "Afghanistan" should be edited for release to NATO.

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3. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS: ITEMS BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT

The Committee had before them the following draft Notes, each circulated under a UK EYES A caveat -

- a. "The Arab/Israeli Military Balance" (JIC(82)(N) 19 DRAFT)
- b. "South Africa's Capability to Carry Out External Military Operations" (JIC(82)(N) 15 REVISED DRAFT)
- c. "Bangladesh: Possibility of Military Takeover" (JIC(82)(N) 21 DRAFT)

During a detailed discussion it was noted that JIC(82)(N) 15 REVISED DRAFT had been produced as a companion paper to an earlier political assessment entitled "South Africa's Policies Towards Neighbouring Black States" JIC(82)(N) 4 dated 4 February 1982).

The Committee -

1. Approved the three Notes as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue them in final form.

2. Agreed that JIC(82)(N) 21 on Bangladesh, which would have a very restricted circulation, should be edited for wider distribution including to the Intelligence Allies.

4. BELIZE: THE THREAT FROM GUATEMALA

The Committee considered JIC(82)(N) 20, a draft note on the above subject.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up a detailed discussion, said that the Committee would wish to approve the Note as amended by their discussion and agree that in view of the fact that a decision was due to be taken within the next ten days regarding the date of withdrawal of British troops from Belize it would be appropriate for the Secretary to bring the Note to the attention of Sir Robert Armstrong, with the recommendation that it be distributed to the relevant ministers. There would also be advantage in arranging for a sanitised version of the Note to be passed to the American authorities and for a similar version to go to the Canadians subject to Foreign and Commonwealth consideration of the desirability of briefing the Canadian authorities on the background to the assessment.

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.
3. Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

SECRET UK EYES A

5. THE "NICOLL" REPORTS

THE CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that Sir Frank Cooper, Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, had read a copy of the summary of the final "Nicoll" Report, which had been submitted to the Secretary of the Cabinet, (JIC(82) 6th Meeting, Minute 3 refers). As a result, he had written to Sir Robert Armstrong commenting that he found the summary fascinating. He suggested that since the potential hazards facing the decision maker described in the report were worth registering with all those involved in international crisis management, not just the JIC, a special short summary of the final report should if possible be produced at a lower level of security classification for a wider distribution.

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During a brief discussion it was noted that the Committee had already commissioned a special version of the final Nicoll Report for passing to the Intelligence Allies (JIC(82) 10th Meeting, Minute 4 refers). Although there was agreement in principle with Sir Frank Cooper's suggestion, it was considered inappropriate to produce another version until the one for the Allies had been completed.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee would wish to agree that before Sir Frank Cooper's request was considered, they would wish to see the special version which was being produced for passing to the Allies.

The Committee -

Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.

SECRET UK EYES A

6. EXERCISE HILEX 10

THE CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that he had asked the Secretary to provide a report on the recent Exercise HILEX 10 so that members could consider how the "CIG" and "JIC" had functioned in the context of the exercise Transition to War Committee and Cabinet, and decide whether there were any lessons to be learned.

The Committee

Took note.

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7. RESTRICTIONS ON THE CIRCULATION OF SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE

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Cabinet Office

19 March 1982

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