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JIC(82) 13th Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 215, Cabinet Office on
THURSDAY 1 APRIL 1982 at 11.00 am

PRESENT

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

Lieutenant-General Sir James Glover
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

Mr H Warren-Gash
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr C O Spencer
Canadian High Commission
(Item 1)

Mr G C Cameron
Australian High Commission
(Item 1)

New Zealand High Commission
(Item 1)

Mr R J O'Neill
Assessments Staff

Brigadier A B D Gurdon
Assessments Staff

Mr A J Colquhoun
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 and 2)

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

Mr K Sullivan
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 and 2)

Mr A R Sowerbutts
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 and 2)

Captain J J R Tod
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 and 2)

SECRETARIAT

Mr T W Savage
Commander A H R York
Mr F J Wilson
Mr D J Kiernan (Items 1-3)
Mr P R Lakey (Items 1-3)

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1. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

THE CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that in accordance with normal practice over bank holiday periods there would be no meeting on Thursday 8 April because of the Easter Holiday (JIC(82)(SEC) 10 dated 25 February refers) and that their next meeting on 15 April would begin at 1430. In addition, members would wish to note the following arrangements for the forthcoming May Day, Queen's Birthday and Spring Bank Holidays;

- a. In the week of the May Day Holiday the Committee would meet on Thursday 6 May at 1430.
- b. There would be no meeting on Thursday 27 May and the meeting on the following Thursday 3 June would be at 1430.

Details of all the proposals for CIGs and Committee meetings would be circulated in a Secretary's Minute.

The Committee -

Took note.

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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) 15 (DRAFT) which consisted of items entitled "Poland" and "Bangladesh: Military Coup".
- b. Two Notes entitled "Egypt's Foreign Relations"(JIC(82)(N) 26) and "Recent Developments in Sino-Soviet Relations" (JIC(82)(N) 27)
- c. An Immediate Assessment entitled "Guatemala: Junior Officers' Coup" issued on 31 March 1982 (JIC(82)(IA) 5).

During a detailed discussion of the above items it was noted with regard to the item on Poland that although the crisis had subsided for the time being there was still considerable Ministerial interest, particularly in regard to the three main "trigger points" of the lifting of martial law, release of detainees and the resumption of the dialogue between the State and the Unions.

Nevertheless, the assessment under consideration exemplified a tendency towards excessive detail. It was agreed that while bearing in mind the continuing interest of Ministers the Assessments Staff should note the need to maintain a tight control over the scope and length of future reports in Poland. There would be advantage in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office checking what particular Departments required in future reporting on this subject.

The Committee -

1. Approved Part II of JIC(82)(WSI) 13 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form.
2. Agreed that the item entitled "Poland" should be edited for release to NATO.
3. Approved JIC(82)(N) 26 and JIC(82)(N) 27 as amended by their discussion, _____ and instructed the Secretary to issue both Notes in final form.
4. Agreed that JIC(82)(N) 27 on Sino-Soviet Relations should be released to NATO.
5. Took note of JIC(82)(IA) 5 on Guatemala.

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3. SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN MARTIAL LAW IN POLAND

The Committee had before them JIC(82)(N) 24, a draft note on the above subject.

In considering the paper the Committee noted that in order to examine the interaction of Soviet policies and objectives with regard to the continuing crisis, culminating in the imposition of martial law, the paper's aim was to consider all the available historical evidence to see, if possible, why the Poles had felt able to resist the imposition of such measures in earlier crises, and what was the exact coincidence of factors that had led to the eventual outcome in December 1981. During a detailed discussion it was agreed that while it was difficult, and perhaps unprofitable, to try and determine absolutely the decisiveness and relative weight of Soviet policies and advice in the total range of considerations that lead to General Jaruzelski's final decision to impose martial law, there was ample evidence that the Soviet Union had exerted intense, consistent and prolonged pressure on the Polish authorities, particularly by their involvement in its planning at every level. The conclusions of the piece should reflect more clearly the cumulative effect of this sophisticated and persistent pressure and the associated threat that if the Polish authorities did not provide a solution then the Soviet Union would intervene. There would be advantage in amending the conclusions to reflect more positively the fact that nagging Soviet pressure had certainly affected Jaruzelski's decision although it was agreed that it would be misleading to suggest that it had been the determining factor in the timing of his decision.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion said that the Committee would wish to approve the note as amended by their discussion. The United States offer to provide further comment on the piece would be most welcome.

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 Chief of the Assessments Staff to continue discussions with the United States Authorities on this assessment.

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4. FALKLAND ISLANDS

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5. UK/US DISCUSSIONS ON CHEMICAL WARFARE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN

(Previous reference: JIC(82) 12th Meeting, Minute 4 refers)

MR O'NEILL said that the Committee would wish to know that the meeting between United Kingdom analysts and the visiting team from the United States Intelligence Agencies had provided an excellent opportunity for questioning the conclusions of the recent US Special National Intelligence Estimate on the above subject. He was grateful to the United Kingdom Agencies and Departments for their expert support which had contributed greatly to the value of the discussions. He said that the Assessments Staff would seek to produce a Note after CIG discussion along the lines of the draft (Ja 01584) he had sent to the Chairman and copied to the Members on 30 March. It should be ready for presentation to the Committee at their next meeting after the Easter break (15 April). During a brief discussion it was noted that the assessment would be timely for bringing to the attention of Ministers. It was agreed that it was important to engage the United States Intelligence Agencies in dialogues of this type as a means of making them aware of our views on their assessments.

THE CHAIRMAN summing up said that the Committee would wish to agree that a suitable version of the Note should be produced for passing to the Americans, as an incentive to further discussions, and to the other Intelligence Allies. When the Committee considered the proposed Note, they would also need to discuss how best to keep our NATO allies informed about this subject. It would also be important to brief our JIC, diplomatic and military representation in Washington on how to handle follow-up discussions with the Americans; this would require some co-ordination between the Assessments Staff, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Ministry of Defence.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Invited the Chief of the Assessment Staff and appropriate departments to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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6. THE NICOLL REPORTS

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would wish to know that the Prime Minister had seen the final report prepared by Mr Nicoll and the summary of his conclusions, (JIC(82) 12th Meeting, Minute 2 refers), and had commented that it was 'excellent'. It would be appropriate for the Secretary to pass this comment to Mr Nicoll on behalf of the Committee.

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.

7. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET STRATEGIC SYSTEMS
(JIC(82)(N) 10)

MR O'NEILL said that in accordance with the Committee's wishes, (JIC(82) 9th Meeting, Minute 2 refers) the Assessments Staff had considered whether a sanitised version of the above paper could be prepared for wider circulation. After consultation with the Ministry of Defence they had reluctantly concluded that such was not possible without reducing the value of the paper unacceptably.

The Committee -

Took note.

2 April 1982