

COS 2ND MEETING/82

Copy No... 18

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry  
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,  
on FRIDAY 2 APRIL 1982 at 3.10 pm

PRESENT

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham  
Acting Chief of the Defence Staff

Admiral Sir Henry Leach,  
Chief of the Naval Staff

Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Morony,  
Representing the  
Chief of the General Staff

Air Marshal Sir David Craig,  
Representing the Chief of the Air Staff

ALSO PRESENT

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans,  
Vice Chief of the Defence Staff  
(Personnel and Logistics)

Lieutenant General Sir James Glover,  
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff  
(Intelligence)

Commodore R G Heaslip,  
Representing the  
Assistant Chief of the Defence  
Staff (Policy)

Brigadier H J Goodson,  
Representing the  
Assistant Chief of the Defence  
Staff (Operations)

Air Vice-Marshal T B Stephenson,  
Assistant Chief of the Defence  
Staff (Signals)

Rear-Admiral J W T Walters,  
Assistant Chief of the  
Defence Staff  
(Personnel and Logistics)

Brigadier R E L Jenkins,  
Director Defence Operational  
Movements Staff

Sir Frank Cooper,  
Permanent Under Secretary

Mr I S McDonald,  
Deputy Chief of Public Relations

Mr P R H Wright,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRETARIAT

Brigadier J A C G Eyre  
Captain J E S Raymond RN  
Lieutenant Colonel W S Bale  
Commander M Bickley



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C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

- 1 Mr P R H WRIGHT  
2-6. (1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

101. (2) REVIEW OF THE ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE OF SHAPE  
102. (2) COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY  
103. (2) NGAST 1236 (LRSOM)  
104. (3) PROJECT HEReward  
105. (3) INTELLIGENCE MATTERS  
106. (3) EXERCISE HILEX 10  
107. (4) DIRECTIVE FOR THE BRITISH OFFICER COMMANDING  
THE BELIZE DEFENCE FORCE  
108. (4) JOINT TRAINING AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE US RAPID  
DEPLOYMENT FORCE  
109. (4) THE THIRTIETH UNITED KINGDOM - GERMANY DEFENCE  
STAFF TALKS  
110. (4) LAWC PAPER 1/81

Notes:

1. Recoded as a Confidential Annex.
2. Issued on 26 January 1982.
3. Issued on 4 February 1982.
4. Issued on 16 February 1982



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- 111.(5) NUCLEAR RELEASE PROCEDURES
- 112.(5) HONG KONG REINFORCEMENTS
- 113.(6) UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
- 114.(6) 19TH UNITED KINGDOM - ITALY DEFENCE STAFF TALKS
- 115.(7) DIRECTIVE TO THE COMMANDER BRITISH CONTINGENT  
MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS (MFO)
- 116.(7) BRITANZ STAFF MEETING 24 MARCH 1982
- 117.(8) COMPOSITION OF THE DEFENCE MOVEMENTS PLANNING STAFF
- 118.(8) INTELLIGENCE MATTERS
- 119.(9) FUTURE POLICY FOR OPERATIONAL TRAINING AND EXERCISES
- 120.(9) INTELLIGENCE MATTERS
- 121.(10) BRITANZ STAFF MEETING
- 122.(10) THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
- 123.(10) CONTINGENCY PLANNING
- 124.(10) INTELLIGENCE MATTERS
- 125.(11) WITHDRAWAL OF THE BELIZE GARRISON
- 126.(11) SACEUR OPLAN 10002 "JUMP FAST"

## Notes:

- 5. Issued on 23 February 1982.
- 6. Issued on 2 March 1982.
- 7. Issued on 9 March 1982.
- 8. Issued on 11 March 1982.
- 9. Issued on 16 March 1982.
- 10. Issued on 23 March 1982.
- 11. Issued on 30 March 1982.



Part 1 to COS 2nd Meeting/82  
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ITEM 1. Mr P R H WRIGHT

1. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAN (Acting Chief of the Defence Staff) said they would wish to welcome Mr Patrick Wright, a Deputy Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office who was attending a meeting of their Committee for the first time.
2. The Committee warmly endorsed the remarks of the Acting Chief of the Defence Staff.



Part II to COS 2nd Meeting/82101. REVIEW OF THE ORGANISATION AND  
STRUCTURE OF SHAPERESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a Note (1) prepared by the Defence Policy Staff and agreed its recommendations subject to written amendment (2) (3) and telephone amendment. The report (4) is being issued. ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

## Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 9/459 dated 13 January 1982.
2. CNS 8800/1/1 dated 15 January 1982.
3. CAS 90158 dated 15 January 1982.
4. DP Note 2/82 dated 21 January 1982.

102. COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATYRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a Note (1) prepared by the Defence Policy Staff. ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

## Note:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 14/198/2 dated 21 January 1982.

103. NGAST 1236 (LRSOM)RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's Minute (1) subject to written comment (2). DCDS(OR) has been informed.

## Notes:

1. COS 1003/186/3 dated 11 January 1982.
2. VCAS 90232 dated 22 January 1982.



104. PROJECT HERewardRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1) and a draft letter (2) to the Chairman, United Kingdom Commanders-in-Chief Committee (Home) subject to written amendment/comment (3) (4). The letter (5) has been sent.

## Notes:

1. COS 1004/132 dated 13 January 1982.
2. COS 1004/132 dated 13 January 1982 (Annex A Appendix 1 and Annex B).
3. CGS 51-3 dated 25 January 1982.
4. VCAS 90265 dated 27 January 1982.
5. CDS 1081/1 dated 1 February 1982.

105. INTELLIGENCE MATTERSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a report (1) prepared by the Joint Intelligence Committee. DCDS(I) has been informed.

## Note:

1. JIC(82)1 dated 13 January 1982.

106. EXERCISE HILEX 10RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a Secretary's minute (1) and have agreed its recommendation. ACDS(Ops) has been informed.

## Note:

1. COS 1006/421/4 dated 21 January 1982.



107. DIRECTIVE FOR THE BRITISH OFFICER RESTRICTED  
COMMANDING THE BELIZE DEFENCE FORCE

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a Directive (1) prepared by ACDS(Pol). ACDS(Pol) and SCDS have been informed and the directive (1) has been forwarded to SCDS.

Note:

1. COS(Misc) 333/719 dated 1 December 1981.

108. JOINT TRAINING AND CO-OPERATION RESTRICTED  
WITH THE US RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a draft submission (1) to the Secretary of State, subject to written amendment (2), and have agreed its recommendations. DS11 has been informed.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 22/400/10 dated 5 February 1982.
2. CGS 50-3 dated 9 February 1982.

109. THE THIRTIETH UNITED KINGDOM - GERMANY RESTRICTED  
DEFENCE STAFF TALKS

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1). ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

Note:

1. COS 1008/110/6 dated 25 January 1982.

110. LAWC PAPER 1/81 RESTRICTED

The Vice Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a paper (1) prepared by LAWC and agreed its recommendations. The Secretary of the LAWC has been informed.

Note:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 8/168/1 dated 13 January 1982.



111. NUCLEAR RELEASE PROCEDURESRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a paper (1) prepared by ACDS(Ops) and agreed its conclusions and recommendations subject to written amendment (2). ACDS(Ops) has been informed.

## Notes:

1. COS(Misc) 6/916F dated 11 January 1982.
2. CNS 2900/3 dated 20 January 1982.

112. HONG KONG REINFORCEMENTSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1). DS11 has been informed.

## Note:

1. COS 1020/756 dated 17 February 1982.



113. UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA  
CONFERENCERESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1). DS5 has been informed (2).

Note:

1. COS 1023/140 dated 22 February 1982.

114. 19TH UNITED KINGDOM - ITALY DEFENCE  
STAFF TALKSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1). ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

Note:

1. COS 1019/110/7 dated 17 February 1982.



115. DIRECTIVE TO THE COMMANDER BRITISH  
CONTINGENT MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND  
OBSERVERS (MFO)RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a Directive and agreed paragraph 18 (1) prepared by ACDS(Pol) subject to written amendment (2). SCDS(A) and ACDS(Pol) have been informed.

## Notes:

1. COS(Misc) 41/763 dated 2 March 1982.
2. CNS 4700/7 dated 5 March 1982.

116. BRITANZ STAFF MEETING 24 MARCH 1982RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a Secretary's minute (1) subject to written amendment (2). ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

## Notes:

1. COS 1029/707/1 dated 2 March 1982.
2. CNS 7290/7 dated 5 March 1982.



117. COMPOSITION OF THE THE DEFENCE  
MOVEMENTS PLANNING STAFFRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1). VCDS(P&L) has been informed.

Note:

1. COS 1024/163 dated 23 February 1982.

118. INTELLIGENCE MATTERSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a report (1) prepared by the Joint Intelligence Committee. DCDS(I) has been informed.

Note:

1. JIC (82)3 dated 22 February 1982.



119. FUTURE POLICY FOR OPERATIONAL  
TRAINING AND EXERCISESRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a report (1) prepared by the Defence Operations Staff. The report (2) is being issued.

## Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 43/149 dated 2 March 1982.
2. COS 5/82.

120. INTELLIGENCE MATTERSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Secretary's minute (1). DCDS(I) has been informed.

## Note:

1. COS 1021/912 dated 25 February 1982.



121. BRITANZ STAFF MEETINGRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of briefs (1) for use by Head BDLs Canberra at the BRITANZ Staff Meeting to be held on 24 March 1982. ACDS(Pol) has been informed and the briefs (2) have been forwarded.

## Notes:

1. Attachments to COS 1032/707/1 dated 11 March 1982.
2. Attachments to COS 1035/707/1 dated 17 March 1982.

122. THE FALKLAND ISLANDSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a note (1) prepared by the Defence Secretariat and have agreed its conclusions. AUS(D Staff) has been informed.

## Note:

1. Attachment to COS 1036/742 dated 19 March 1982.

123. CONTINGENCY PLANNINGRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a Planning Directive (1) prepared by ACDS(Ops). ACDS(Ops) has been informed.

## Note:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 49/762 dated 10 March 1982.

124. INTELLIGENCE MATTERSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a report (1) prepared by the Joint Intelligence Committee. DCDS(I) has been informed.

## Note:

1. JIC (82)5 dated 8 March 1982.



125. WITHDRAWAL OF THE BELIZE GARRISONRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a report (1) prepared by the Defence Operations and Logistic Staffs. ACDS(Ops) and ACDS(P&L) have been informed.

## Note:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc)70/719 dated 25 March 1982.

126. SACEUR OPLAN 10002 "JUMP FAST"RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a draft signal (1) to UKMILREP Brussels subject to written amendment (2). ACDS(Pol) has been informed and the signal (3) has been sent.

## Notes:

1. Attachment to COS 1039/275/5 dated 19 March 1982.
2. CNS 9500/10/1 dated 16 March 1982.
3. A2C 231420Z Mar/SECREP 38.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX  
TO  
COS 2ND MEETING/82 HELD ON  
FRIDAY 2 APRIL 1982 AT 3.10 pm

ITEM 2. REPORT OF THE SITUATION IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (Acting Chief of the Defence Staff) invited SIR HENRY LEACH to update the Committee on the Ministerial meeting which he had just attended. SIR HENRY LEACH said that discussions had centred on the announcements which would be made in the House of Commons and to the Press. Continuing, he said that there was likely to be a full Cabinet meeting which, amongst other items, would probably address the question of ordering the sailing of the Task Force (1). It was also likely that Parliament would be recalled.

2. LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) informed the meeting that the JIC were to produce an assessment within the next 24 hours. He explained they were faced with difficulties because there was inadequate cover over the operational area, the Argentine Naval forces had imposed an effective radio silence and communications with Port Stanley had been broken. The latest intelligence was from the Master of the RRS BRANSFIELD who reported that he had picked up a Falkland radio station broadcast that 200 Argentine Marines with Armoured Vehicles had landed and were moving toward Port Stanley. It also announced that three warships were anchored in the FORT WILLIAM area and that there had been considerable helicopter activity. No injuries to civilians or military personnel were reported. This intelligence had been complemented by a broadcast intercepted by HMS ENDURANCE which said that Government House had been surrounded before its radio link with the UK had been broken.

3. Continuing, LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) said that the JIC had agreed to look at three specific areas in their assessment:

a. International Implications. This would include Soviet reaction, and the possibility of assistance from potential Allies, particularly Chile and to a lesser extent Brazil.

Note:

1. COS S12(1) OPERATION CORPORATE (Issue 2).  
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b. Argentine Domestic Scene. This would consider the internal strength of the Junta and the possibility of a protest against the current operation;

c. Military Capability. This would encompass the likely problems for the Argentine of sustaining a military presence in the Falkland Islands and their military potential against any UK Task Force.

4. AIR COMMODORE ASHFORD (Air Commodore Intelligence) was then asked by the Committee to update them on the Argentine military capability. He explained that:

a. Army. High conscript numbers created a relatively weak army, but equipment had improved significantly over the last 5 years;

b. Navy. Although it included 30% conscripts, it was an effective sea going force but it had some limitations with sophisticated weapons, both in tactical handling and serviceability.

c. Marines. A well-trained force of 8,000 despite high conscript numbers.

d. Airforces. Little was known; there were only 3 major airfields; land based aircraft ranges were limited; but a worry was the possible recent purchase of EXOCET missiles with which its SUPER ETENDAND were likely to be armed.

5. Concluding LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER, (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) said that it was difficult to determine the overall military effectiveness of the Argentine force on the scant evidence available. However it was his considered judgement that neither the maritime nor the air threat was such that it should put our Task Force at serious risk when at distance from mainland Argentina, ie East of the Falklands.

ITEM 3. OPERATION CORPORATE

6. BRIGADIER GOODSON (Acting Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) informed the Committee (1) of the actions which had been set in train for OPERATION CORPORATE and of a number of military options which were being urgently examined. REAR ADMIRAL WHETSTONE (Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Operations)) said that:

Note:

1. COS S12(1) OPERATION CORPORATE (Issue 2).

COS S10(2)



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- a. HMS ENDURANCE. The ice patrol ship HMS ENDURANCE had been sent back to South Georgia to give what assistance she could to the Royal Marine detachment at Grytviken and to establish communication facilities. Her captain had been given discretion in offering assistance to the Royal Marine shore party but was invited to bear in mind the potential of the Argentine corvette armed with EXOCET. ENDURANCE had no RAS capability and currently held 23 days fuel and 15 days normal victuals.
  - b. RFA's FORT AUSTIN and APPLELEAF. Both RFAs would continue South, however they would be held well North of the area which Argentine ships could threaten and would await the arrival of the main Task Force before proceeding further into the South Atlantic.
  - c. Long Term Logistics. The maintenance of a Task Force in the South Atlantic would create a requirement for the Navy Department to take up bulk tankers from Trade. The Navy Department was also examining the reactivation and restoring of RFA STROMNESS (a stores support ship), and also the retention of RFA TIDEPOOL (fleet tanker) which was shortly to be handed over to the the Chilean Navy.
7. Concluding, SIR HENRY LEACH said that the quoted date - 6 April 1982 - for the sailing of the Task Force had certain flexibility. It was possible to sail all but 2 units on 5 April 1982. The 2 ships could then leave UK 24 hours later but catch up the main force during the passage South.

ITEM 4. FORECAST OF DECISIONS REQUIRED

8. In discussion the following points were agreed:
  - a. Advice to Ministers on Rules of Engagement for the SSNs was required and on their likely employment on arrival off the Falkland Islands.
  - b. Directives for the Force Commander and the Commander 3 Cdo Bde would need to be agreed by Ministers.
  - c. Instructions for RFA FORT AUSTIN would be required in due course.
  - d. The FCO would need to decide what position we are legally in, ie are we at war with the Argentine or in a state of belligerence?



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e. Advice to Ministers on the evacuation of British nationals from Argentina could be necessary.

f. In conjunction with JIC advice, we would need to explore what military options the Argentine might take during the long period before we are able to get our own main forces into the area (27 April 1982).

ITEM 5. CHILEAN OPTION

9. The Chiefs of Staff discussed the use of air bases in South America and agreed that it would be necessary for the FCO to obtain clearance for the use of airfields in Chile if it was intended to deploy RAF aircraft within operational range of the Falkland Islands. It was stressed that NIMROD, in particular, would be invaluable on surveillance tasks before the SSNs arrived and would thereafter increase the operational effectiveness of both the SSNs and the Task Force. NIMROD deployment offered presentational advantages as its attack capability could be minimised.

ITEM 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. The Chiefs of Staff agreed that Ministerial approval should be obtained to allow six accredited journalists to embark with the Task Force. They would wish to invite the Deputy Chief of Public Relations to take the appropriate action. The Chiefs of Staff further agreed that their Committee should be at 1½ hours notice for meetings and that meetings would take place each day until further notice.

11. Summing up SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said that they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), in conjunction with single Service departments and the Defence Secretariat to take account of their discussion and instructions in developing further plans for OPERATION CORPORATE.

12. The Committee agreed with the remarks of the Acting Chief of the Defence Staff in his summing up.