

COS 11TH MEETING/82

Copy No ¹⁵

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on Thursday 8 April 1982 at 4.00 pm

PRESENT

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin,
Chief of the Defence Staff

Admiral Sir Henry Leach,
Chief of the Naval Staff

General Sir Edwin Bramall,
Chief of the General Staff

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham,
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)

Air Vice-Marshal J A Gilbert,
Assistant Chief of the Defence
Staff (Policy)

Rear-Admiral D W Brown,
Assistant Chief of the Defence
Staff (Operations)

Mr R M Hastie-Smith,
Deputy Under Secretary
(Policy and Programmes)

Mr J M Stewart,
Assistant Under Secretary
(Defence Staff)

Mr P R H Wright,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRETARIAT

Brigadier J A C G Eyre
Captain J E S Raymond RN
Lieutenant Colonel J B R Peacock
Lieutenant Colonel W S Bale

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1. (1) OPERATION CORPORATE
2. (1) GIBRALTAR
3. (1) MEETINGS

PART II - ITEMS TAKEN BEFORE THE MEETING

NIL

Note:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 11TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
THURSDAY 8 APRIL 1982 AT 4.00 pm

OPERATION CORPORATE

ITEM 1. PLANNING FOR SURFACE AND AMPHIBIOUS FORCES OPERATIONS

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to discuss the draft Directive (1) which had been prepared in accordance with their instructions (2). He said they would wish to separate those operations envisaged against South Georgia (Operation PARAQUET) from those against the Falkland Islands (Operation SUTTON).

2. In discussion the following points were agreed:

a. Operations should be carried out in three phases:

(1) Consolidation of the Exclusion Zone (3) by utilising surface forces, in conjunction with the SSNs to establish control of both sea and air in the Zone.

(2) Repossession of South Georgia.

(3) The establishment of a position to repossess the Falkland Islands, if necessary.

b. The Carrier Battle Group, at present, should remain together and proceed at best speed towards the Exclusion Zone, in advance of the total Task Force.

c. A draft Directive for Operation PARAQUET would now be required. The aim in this Directive should be to repossess South Georgia, as soon as possible, utilising only the Forces which had already been assigned for this operation. However if, in the event, intelligence indicated that a reappraisal

Notes:

1. COS(Misc) 95/742/1 dated 8 April 1982.
2. COS 9th Meeting/82.
3. SIC JPL/19F 072130Z April 1982.

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was necessary following a build up of Argentine Forces in South Georgia then this operation would have to be reviewed to establish the force levels required.

d. A draft Directive for planning the repossession of the Falkland Islands (Operation SUTTON) would also be required once an appreciation had been completed.

3. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to agree that the Navy Department should issue orders now to the Carrier Battle Group to move at best speed towards the Exclusion Zone.

4. Concluding, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct:

a. The Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), in conjunction with the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy), to prepare a draft Directive to the Commander-in-Chief Fleet on actions to be carried out in the Exclusion Zone for consideration at their Meeting on 11 April 1982

b. The single Service Departments to draft Rules of Engagement for use within the Exclusion Zone by surface ships and aircraft for their consideration at a Meeting early in the following week.

c. The Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to prepare a draft Planning Directive for Operation PARAQUET for consideration at their Meeting on 9 April 1982.

d. The Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Policy) to prepare a Directive for an appreciation on Amphibious Operations against the Falkland Islands (Operation SUTTON) for their consideration at their Meeting on 9 April 1982.

ITEM 2. GIBRALTAR

5. The Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy) said he had prepared a draft paper on Gibraltar (4) which they had commissioned (5).

Notes:

4. ACDS(Pol) Paper handed out at the Meeting.
5. COS 9th Meeting/82.

6. In discussion it was agreed that:
- a. Orders were to be issued for B Company 1 Staffords to return to Gibraltar by 12 April 1982.
 - b. TA training, already planned, should continue in Gibraltar.
 - c. Orders were to be issued for the Guard ship to be stationed at Gibraltar.
 - d. Two Sea King helicopters of 824 Squadron were authorised to be retained in Gibraltar for the present.
 - e. To avoid increasing tension with Spain, movement of forces to Gibraltar should be presented as routine deployments.
 - f. The Air Force Department would re-examine the reforming of 291 SU RAF and its despatch to Gibraltar. An early report would be submitted to their Committee.

ITEM 3. MEETINGS

7. The Chiefs of Staff agreed that the Committee would meet daily throughout the Easter period and that scheduled meetings would start at 10.00 am.

Annex:

- A. Forecast of Actions or Decisions Required (2 pages).
- B. Record of Decisions of Actions Completed and Removed from Annex A (3 pages).

OPERATION CORPORATE - FORECAST OF DECISIONS OR ACTIONS REQUIRED

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0003	2/82 Item 4 para 8b	Directive for Task Force Commander	Ministers		ND have under review - can be signalled after Force sails. COS will need to discuss
0004	2/82 Item 4 para 8b	Directive for Embarked Military Force Commander	Ministers		ND have under review - can be signalled after Force sails. COS will need to discuss
0009	4/82 Item 3 para 11	Availability of Chilean airfields	Ministers		FCO are investigating
0012	4/82 Item 5	Clearance for staging facilities at Dakar, Freetown and Cape Verde	FCO	8/82 Item 1	Facilities at Dakar approved
0015	5/82 Item I para 7	Sale of Hunter aircraft to Chile	FCO		FCO have despatched signal
0022	5/82 Item 7	Delay Belize Withdrawal by 3 months	VCDS(P&L)		Draft submission with CDS

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0023	6/82 Item 1	Military Appreciation	COS	7/82 Item 5	For clearance Out of Committee
0027	7/82 Item 1	Use of Brazilian airfield by Nimrods	Ministers		FCO investigating
0028	7/82 Item 1	Use of Brazilian ports.	Ministers		FCO investigating
0030	7/82 Item 8	Intelligence matters	DCDS(I)		Not to all, nor needed
0031	8/82 Item 1	Argentine long term force level	DCDS(I)		
0032	8/82 Item 1	Publicity for bunkering facilities	FCO Ministers		
0033	8/82 Item 5	Amphibious Operations Appreciation (Operation SUTTON)	ACDS(Pol)	11/82 Item 1	For COS 9 Apr 82.
0034	10/82 Item 1	Nuclear matters	ACDS(Ops)		For COS 11 Apr 82.
0035	11/82 Item 1	Planning Directive	ACDS(Ops)		For COS 9 Apr 82.
0036	11/82 Item 1	Directive to CINCFLEET	ACDS(Ops)		For COS 11 Apr 82.

OPERATION CORPORATE - RECORD OF DECISIONS OR ACTION COMPLETED AND REMOVED FROM ANNEX A

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION	FURTHER REFERENCES	COMPLETION
0001	2/82 Item 4 para 8a	ROE for SSNs	5/82 Item 5 6/82 Item 2 7/82 Item 5 8/82 Item 2	COS(Misc) 91/742/1 dated 7 Apr 82
0002	2/82 Item 4 para 8b	Directive for Task Force Commander	11/82	
0005	2/82 Item 4 para 8c	Instructions for RFA FORT AUSTIN		By ND
0006	2/82 Item 4 para 8d	Legal position of UK in dispute with Argentina		DUS(P) 235/82 dated 6 Apr 82. See also 0014
0007	2/82 Item 4 para 8e	Advice on evacuation of British Nationals (1000) from Argentina	TWC 5 April	FCO advise that this could be undertaken by routine civilian air services
0008	3/82 Item 4 para 11	Use of facilities at Ascension Island		PUS reports no difficulty with blanket use of facilities at Ascension
0010	4/82 item 5	Movement of HMS ENDURANCE either East or West		ENDURANCE withdrawn to Ascension

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION	FURTHER REFERENCES	COMPLETION
0011	4/82 Item 5	Movement of Spearhead Bn and an SAS Sqn		Spearhead Bn to deploy with 3 Cdo Bde. SAS decision out of committee
0013	4/82 Item 6 para 15	Positioning of RM SBS	7/82 Item 4	1 section to embark FORT AUSTIN 1 section to embark CONQUEROR
0014	4/82 Item 7 para 16	Clarification of legal aspects of Article 51 of UN Charter	See also 0006	
0016	5/82 Item I para 7	Falkland Islands airfield.	8/82 Item 1	COS(Misc) 93/742/1 dated 7 Apr 82
0017	5/82 Item 1 para 7	Details of Argentina's ROLAND weapon systems	7/82 Item 1	DCDS(I) stated equipment not held
0018	5/82 Item 2 para 11	Swiss Government to be invited to represent interests of BAS civilians		FCO
0019	Spare			
0020	5/82 Item 6 para 19b	South Georgia		Included in Item 0023

ANNEX B TO
 PART I TO COS 11TH MEETING/82
 8 APRIL 1982
 (Concluded)

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION	FURTHER REFERENCES	COMPLETION
0021	5/82 Item 5 para 17a	SSN Communications		S of S Briefed by ND
0024	6/82	FRG to delay FF delivery	7/82	Announced by FRG 7 Apr 82
0025	7/82 Item 1	Record of RM debrief		
0026	7/82 Item 1	Details of Argentine air threat.	8/82 Item 1	DCDS(I)26 dated 7 Apr 82
0029	7/82 Item 7	Argentine Communications		D Ops Staff 7/10/2 dated 6 Apr 82