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JIC(82) 18th Meeting

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UK EYES A

CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in  
Room 215, Cabinet Office on  
THURSDAY 15 APRIL 1982 at 2.30 pm

PRESENT

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

Mr R P Flower  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr J L Jones  
Security Service

'C'

Sir Brian Tovey  
Government Communications  
Headquarters

Sir Antony Duff  
Cabinet Office

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Air Vice-Marshal M J Armitage  
Ministry of Defence

Mr C O Spencer  
Canadian High Commission  
(Item 1)

New Zealand High Commission  
(Item 1)

Mr P G Wallis  
Assessments Staff

Captain N L Browne  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1-4)

Mr A J Colquhoun  
Assessments Staff  
(Item 1)

Mr G C Cameron  
Australian High Commission  
(Item 1)

Mr R J O'Neill  
Assessments Staff

Brigadier A B D Gurdon  
Assessments Staff

Mr M C Clements  
Assessments Staff  
(Item 1)

Mrs J P Hamilton-Eddy  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1-3)

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Mr A Heath  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1-3)

Mr K Sullivan  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1-4)

Mr D M Sutherland  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1 and 2)

Captain J J R Tod  
Assessments Staff  
(Items 1-3)

SECRETARIAT

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

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\* Distributed as a Limited Circulation Annex.

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## 1. 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)) consisting of an item entitled "SYRIA/IRAQ".
- b. A Note entitled "ARGENTINA: ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY" (JIC(82)(N) 32 (REVISED DRAFT)).
- c. A Note entitled "FALKLAND ISLANDS: THE SOVIET ATTITUDE" (JIC(82)(N) 34 (DRAFT)).

After a detailed discussion on each of the above items the Committee -

1. Approved Part II of JIC(82)(WSI) 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.
2. Approved JIC(82)(N) 32 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form and, in view of its operational relevance, to consult the Defence and Overseas Secretariat with regard to the wider distribution of this paper.
3. Approved JIC(82)(N) 34 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form.

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## 2. IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENTS

FALKLAND ISLANDS - 14 APRIL 1982 (JIC(82)(IA) 24)

FALKLAND ISLANDS - 15 APRIL 1982 (JIC(82)(IA) 25)

The Committee had before them the above two Immediate Assessments.

During a brief review of the current situation AIR VICE-MARSHAL ARMITAGE said that he wished to pass to the Chairman Lieutenant General Sir James Glover's apologies for not being present for this discussion: he had been required at short notice to attend a Chiefs of Staff Meeting.

The Committee -

Took note of the Immediate Assessments.

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5. THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE: POSSIBLE INVOCATION BY ARGENTINA OF THE RIO TREATY

The Committee had before them JIC(82)(N) 33, a draft note on the above subject.

During a detailed discussion it was noted that there would be advantage in expanding the assessment to include more information about the military assistance which Argentina might expect from certain South American countries. It was agreed that this aspect merited further, separate consideration; an additional paper should be produced assessing the military capabilities of South American countries and their attitudes towards providing military support for Argentina.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee would wish to approve the Note as amended by their discussion. The Assessments Staff should produce an assessment of the military capabilities of South American countries and their possible military support for Argentina.

The Committee -

1. Took note with approval of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Approved JIC(82)(N) 33 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion.
3. Invited the Chief of the Assessments Staff to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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4. CURRENT ASSESSMENT: ITEM BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT

The Committee had before them a Note entitled "CHEMICAL WARFARE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND AFGHANISTAN" (JIC(82)(N) 30 (DRAFT)) circulated under a UK EYES A caveat.

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During a detailed discussion it was noted that when this subject had last been before the Committee (JIC(82) 13th Meeting, Minute 5 refers) it had been agreed that a suitable version of the Note should be produced for passing to the Americans and to the other Intelligence Allies. Such a version would contain a critique reflecting the honest differences of interpretation which existed after discussion with the Americans but, in view of the current importance of the intelligence relationship in the context of the Falklands crisis, it might be appropriate to produce this in slow time - in two or three weeks.

The full version, while retaining the UK EYES A Caveat, could be passed with little amendment to the Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders but it would be important to explain, in a covering letter, what had been given to the Americans. The FCO should consult with UKDEL NATO and advise the Chief of the Assessments Staff on the production of a suitable version for NATO.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee would wish to approve the Note as amended by their discussion. The Assessments Staff should produce a version for passing in due course to the United States; a slightly amended full version to the Intelligence Allies and, in consultation with the FCO, provide a version for passing to NATO.

The Committee -

1. Took note with approval of the Chairman's summing up.
  2. Approved JIC(82)(N) 30 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion.
  3. Invited the Chief of the Assessments Staff to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.
5. DISCLOSURE OF UNITED KINGDOM INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY

Recorded as a Limited Circulation Annex.

6. FALKLAND ISLANDS: MEDIA COMMENTS ON UK/US INTELLIGENCE CO-OPERATION

THE CHAIRMAN said that he wished to draw the Committee's attention to exchanges that had followed the disclosure in the United States press and television, repeated in the United Kingdom media, about US intelligence and operational assistance to the United Kingdom in relation to the Falkland Islands dispute. It had been reported by Secretary of State Haig that the Argentinians had expressed great concern over these allegations. In an attempt to defuse the situation Haig had issued a statement on 14 April stressing that the United States had "not acceded to requests [for assistance] that would go beyond the scope of customary patterns of co-operation based on existing bilateral agreements". Whilst this publicity was most unwelcome, it was understood that the assistance we were receiving from the United States would continue at its present level.

The Committee -

Took note.

7. FALKLAND ISLANDS: RELEASE OF PRODUCT TO INTELLIGENCE ALLIES

(Previous reference: JIC(82) 17th Meeting, Minute 2)

THE CHAIRMAN said that notwithstanding their previous discussion of this matter at their meeting on 13 April the Committee should know that some Ministers and Officials had expressed concern at the extent to which United Kingdom assessments on the Falkland Islands were being passed to our Intelligence Allies. It was important that HMG's policy and operational planning should not be revealed, however unwittingly, through assessments which we had shared. Although every effort should continue to be made to take the Allies into our confidence, each assessment should be considered carefully before the UK EYES ONLY caveat was removed.

The Committee -

Took note.

Cabinet Office

16 April 1982