

COS 20TH 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 15 APRIL 1982 at 5.00 pm

PRESENT

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin,
 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 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)

Sir Frank Cooper,
 Permanent Under Secretary

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

Mr D H Gillmore,
 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
 Wing Commander A M Wills

COS 20th Meeting/82
15 April 1982

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

- 1-3. (1) OPERATION CORPORATE
- 4. (1) BELIZE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- 101.(2) PRIORITIES FOR THE USE OF AIRLIFT IN PEACETIME
- 102.(2) OPERATION CORPORATE: BATTLE CASUALTY EVACUATION

Notes:

- 1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.
- 2. Issued on 14 April 1982.

101. PRIORITIES FOR THE USE OF AIRLIFT IN PEACETIME RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a report (1) prepared by the Defence Operations Staff subject to written amendment (2). The report (3) is being issued.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 60/149 dated 15 March 1982.
2. CAS 90760 dated 30 March 1982.
3. COS 6/82.

102. OPERATION CORPORATE: BATTLE CASUALTY EVACUATION RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a draft signal (1) to CINCFLEET and agreed its use as a basis for planning, subject to telephone comment. VCDS(P&L) has been informed and the signal (2) has been sent.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 113/742/1 dated 13 April 1982.
2. I9F 131745Z Apr.

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CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 20TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
THURSDAY 15 APRIL 1982 AT 5.00 pmITEM 1. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR OPERATION PARAQUET

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish to discuss the Rules of Engagement for Operation PARAQUET (1) which had been tabled for their consideration.
2. SIR HENRY LEACH said that these specific rules had been prepared in accordance with the machinery for authorising Rules of Engagement already submitted and approved (2). Their originality lay only in their selection from an already agreed catalogue.
3. In discussion, the following points were made:
 - a. To attack a merchant ship or civilian aircraft without warning constituted a criminal act under International Law.
 - b. Although an SSN could make the distinction between a nuclear and conventional submarine target with a high probability of accuracy, a surface ship would be less able to do so. This would be a particular problem if a nuclear submarine target was being operated at less than its full capability, so that the pattern of its activity was similar to that of a conventional boat. There was therefore a risk, albeit slight, that a Soviet nuclear submarine within the declared zone could be mistaken for an Argentine conventional submarine and attacked. Ministers should be aware of this possibility.
 - c. While there was a need to remain within International Law, and therefore a requirement for Rules of Engagement to be modified, there was also the possibility that restrictions might be imposed which would prejudice the success of the operation. Ministers should also be aware of the inevitable conflict posed by a requirement to commit warlike acts without a formal declaration of war.

Notes:

1. COS(Misc)124/742/1 dated 15 April 1982.
2. COS(Misc)111/742/1 dated 12 April 1982.

4. SIR FRANK COOPER (Permanent Under Secretary of State) said that he could not be associated with any advice going forward from the Ministry of Defence which recommended contravention of International Law.

5. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish to invite the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), in conjunction with the Defence Secretariat, to prepare a paper which would take account of their discussion and which he would forward to the Secretary of State later that evening. The Committee agreed that clearance of the final paper could be agreed on their behalf by the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Chief of the Naval Staff, and the Permanent Under Secretary of State out of committee.

ITEM 2. OPERATION SUTTON - APPRECIATION

6. The Committee approved the revised draft appreciation (3) for Operation SUTTON which had been tabled for their consideration. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish him to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy) to draft Terms of Reference for a study of the implications of keeping the landing force ashore on Ascension Island for up to two months, and of maintaining an effective sea and air blockade of the Falkland Islands during that period.

Note by the Secretary

The appreciation has been forwarded to CINCFLEET (4).

ITEM 3. OPERATION SUTTON - PLANNING DIRECTIVE

7. The Committee approved the draft planning directive (5) to CINCFLEET as amended in their discussion. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish to instruct their Secretary to forward the Directive to CINCFLEET.

Note by the Secretary

The Directive has been forwarded to CINCFLEET (6).

Notes:

3. COS(Misc)122/742/1 dated 14 April 1982.
4. Appendix 1 to Annex A to COS 9/82.
5. COS(Misc)121/742/1 dated 14 April 1982.
6. Annex A to COS 9/82.

ITEM 4. BELIZE

8. After a short discussion the Committee agreed that, in view of the latest JIC assessment (7), they were content to leave the forces in Belize at their present levels. The Commander's tour of duty had been extended by three months in view of the delay (8) in withdrawal until 21 September 1982. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish to invite the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics), in conjunction with the Service Departments, to ensure that sufficient forces remained available to meet the requirements in the Joint Theatre Plan (9) for the reinforcement of the British Garrison.

Annex:

- A. Operation CORPORATE - Forecast of Decisions or Actions Required (2 pages).

Notes:

7. JIC(82)|1A)20 dated 11 April 1982.
8. MO5 dated 13 April 1982.
9. JTP60(Seventh Revise) dated 11 September 1981.

OPERATION CORPORATE - FORECAST OF DECISIONS OR ACTIONS REQUIRED

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0009	4/82 Item 3 para 11	Availability of Chilean airfields	AFD	Ministers		FCO are investigating
0015	5/82 Item 1 para 7	Sale of Hunter aircraft to Chile	AFD	FCO		FCO have despatched signal
0023	6/82 Item 1	Op CORPORATE - Military Appreciation	COS	DS 11	7/82 Item 5 12/82 Item 6	To be revised -
0028	7/82 Item 1	Use of Brazilian ports	ND	Ministers		FCO investigating
0032	8/82 Item 1	Publicity for bunkering facilities	FCO	FCO Ministers		
0039	14/82 Item 1	Confirmation of Argentine Naval dispositions	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		
0040	14/82 Item 1	Argentine CAP capability over Falklands	AFD	AFD		

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0045	16/82, Item 1	Update of any information of Argentine mining of the Falklands	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		For COS
0049	17/82, Item 6	Maritime Exclusion Zone Terminology		DS11		
0050	17/82, Item 8	Fuel on Ascension Island	AFD	AFD		
0052	19/82, Item 4	ROE Op PARAQUET	ND	Ministers	20/82 Item, 1	For COS o/c
0054	20/82, Item 4	BELIZE - JTP 60	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		
0055	20/82, Item 2	OP SUTTON - Effects of delay	ACDS(Pol)	ACDS(Pol)		Draft TORs being prepared for clearance O/C 161500A