

COS 21ST MEETING/82

Copy No

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on FRIDAY 16 April 1982 at 10.00 am

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)

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)

Air Commodore A Beill,
Director Defence Operational
Movements Staff

Sir Frank Cooper,
Permanent Under Secretary

Mr I S McDonald,
Deputy Chief of Public Relations

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
Commander M Bickley

COS 21st Meeting/82
16 April 1982

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1-4(1) OPERATION CORPORATE

5.(1) BELIZE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

NIL

Notes:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEECONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 21ST MEETING/82 HELD ON
FRIDAY 16 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 amOPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN invited the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to update them on the current situation in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.

2. LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) reviewed the latest intelligence situation, as outlined (1) in his latest signalled summary. In his report and in the subsequent discussion the following points were made:

a. The FCO would take appropriate diplomatic steps with West Germany, Italy, Austria and Israel over reported approaches to them by Argentina seeking arms and equipment.

b. It was assessed that the Argentine Fleet was unlikely to be heading for our Maritime Exclusion Zone (MEZ) or towards South Georgia. They would more probably remain close to the mainland of Argentina and move South, either for propaganda purposes or to counter reported Chilean naval movements.

c. Care needed to be taken over the weighting given to military inputs to the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC); for example a recent JIC assessment (2) was too categoric in stating that no Soviet submarines were in the South Atlantic.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. There had been no change to the Force Tote Sitrep (3) already published.

Notes:

1. INTSUM No 24 160600Z April 1982.
2. JIC(82)(N)34 dated 15 April 1982.
3. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 22).

4. In discussion, the following points were made:
 - a. The defect in HMS INVINCIBLE had been rectified and trials were taking place.
 - b. The Harrier aircraft to be embarked in SS ATLANTIC CONVEYOR would have to be carried on deck, where they would be exposed to the effects of sea and weather. To minimise exposure, the aircraft would be flown to Ascension Island before embarking.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reviewed the major articles in the daily newspapers.

6. In discussion the following points were made:

a. It now appeared that both the BBC and Reuters had reporters at Ascension Island already. It would be difficult to hold back their reports once the Task Force arrived.

b. It remained preferable not to permit the embarked Press corps to go ashore at Ascension. The advantages we would gain if they were given a facility there would be outweighed by the potential embarrassment to the United States such a visit would be likely to cause.

c. No publicity should be given to the forthcoming visit of the Commander-in-Chief Fleet to Ascension Island and to HMS HERMES.

d. The Secretary of State wished to be informed before any announcement concerning Local Overseas Allowance was made. Any such announcement should be made to the Task Force through the normal Service channels and not by press release in London.

e. No advance publicity should be given to the training of Vulcan aircrew, or to the nomination of an additional battalion for operation CORPORATE.

f. A lower Public Relations profile should be adopted for a few days so as not to prejudice current diplomatic negotiations.

g. The Permanent Under Secretary of State agreed to discuss with the BBC the balance of its television news coverage.

ITEM 4. DECISIONS REQUIRED

7. The Committee reviewed the forecast of decisions which had been identified (4). A revised forecast is at Annex A.

ITEM 5. BELIZE

8. AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR DAVID EVANS (Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics)) said, with reference to their discussion the previous day (5), he was satisfied that at the moment forces could be made available to meet the Belize reinforcement requirement simultaneously with Operation CORPORATE if necessary.

Annex:

A. Operation CORPORATE - Forecast of Decisions or Actions Required (1 page).

Notes:

4. Annex A to COS 20th Meeting/82.
5. COS 20th Meeting/82, Item 4.

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 -
0052	19/82, Item 4	ROE Op PARAQUET	ND	Ministers	20/82 Item, 1	Approved OD(SA) 16 April 1982
0055	20/82, Item 2	OP SUITION - Effects of delay	ACDS(Pol)	COS		TOR for agreement O/C 170900A

One page only