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JIC(82) 21st Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 215, Cabinet Office on
THURSDAY 29 APRIL 1982 at 11.00 am

PRESENT

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

Mr R P Flower
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday
Ministry of Defence

Mr J L Jones
Security Service

'C'

Sir Brian Tovey
Government Communications Headquarters

Sir Antony Duff
Cabinet Office

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THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Mr B S Gorman
Australian High Commission
(Items 1-4)

Mr C O Spencer
Canadian High Commission
(Items 1-4)

[REDACTED]
New Zealand High Commission
(Items 1-4)

Mr G C Cameron
Australian High Commission
(Items 1-4)

Mr P G Wallis
Assessments Staff

Mr R J O'Neill
Assessments Staff

Brigadier A B D Gurdon
Assessments Staff

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Mr M C Clements
Assessments Staff

Mr A J Colquhoun
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-6)

Mrs J P Hamilton-Eddy
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-6)

Mr A Heath
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-6)

Miss A W Lewis
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-6)

Mr K Sullivan
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-6)

SECRETARIAT

Mr T W Savage
Commander A H R York
Mr P J Bulstrode
Mr D J Kiernan

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1. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

THE CHAIRMAN said the Committee would wish to join him in welcoming Mr B S Gorman, the new Australian Intelligence Liaison Officer in London, who was attending their meeting for the first time. He would also wish to thank Mr G Cameron for his efforts as deputy since the departure of Dr D Blight, Mr Gorman's predecessor.

The Committee -

Took note, with approval.

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2. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS

The Committee had before them the following current assessments -

- a. Part II of the draft Weekly Survey of Intelligence (JIC(82)(WSI) 17) which consisted of items entitled "The Soviet Leadership" and "Poland".
- b. Three draft Notes entitled "Lebanon: The AMAL Militia" (JIC(82)(N) 40 (DRAFT)); "Afghanistan: Recent Developments" (JIC(82)(N) 41 (DRAFT)); "Argentina's Political Structure" (JIC(82)(N) 42 (DRAFT)).

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

1. Approved Part II of JIC(82)(WSI) 17 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion, instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form, agreed that the item on the Soviet Leadership should be released to NATO and that the item on Poland should be edited for release to NATO.
2. Approved the three draft Notes (JIC(82)(N) 40, 41 and 42) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue them in final form.

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3. SOVIET LONG-TERM INTEREST IN ARGENTINA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Committee had before them a draft Note on the above subject (JIC(82)(N) 38).

During a brief discussion it was noted that the paper did not take sufficient account of the concerns expressed by some Ministers, politicians and academics over possible Soviet intentions in the South Atlantic. In this respect, there would also be advantage in providing a critical review of the opportunities which might be presented to the Soviets by the current crisis.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said the Committee would wish to agree that the Assessments Staff should prepare a further draft which would provide a more explicit treatment to the concerns, however ill-founded, which had been given currency during the present crisis in the South Atlantic. The draft should be presented for consideration at their next meeting on Thursday 6 May.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Instructed the Assessments Staff to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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4. IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENTS: FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Committee -

Took note of JIC(82)(IA)s 45 and 47, assessments on the Falkland Islands, issued since their previous meeting.

5. IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENT BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT: FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Committee had before them JIC(82)(IA) 46, the immediate assessment (now renamed daily assessment) on the Falkland Islands, issued on 28 April.

THE CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would wish to be aware that the new arrangement whereby he and Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday were able to comment on draft assessments before issue were now in operation and working well. He thanked the Assessments Staff for their ready co-operation and invited other members of the Committee to provide the Assessments Staff as appropriate with suggestions for further items for future daily assessments. In this context he recommended that the daily assessment for 30 April should include a further assessment of the situation with regard to Israeli arms supplies to Argentina.

The Committee -

1. Took note of JIC(82)(IA) 46.
2. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's remarks.
3. Instructed the Assessments Staff to proceed accordingly.

6. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS: ITEMS BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT

The Committee had before them Part III of the draft Weekly Survey of Intelligence (JIC(82)(WSI) 17) which consisted of items entitled "Gibraltar: Spanish Amphibious Exercise" and "United States Arms Sales to Taiwan: Implications for Sino/United States Relations".

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

Approved Part III of JIC(82)(WSI) 17 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form.

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7. DISCLOSURE OF UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY

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30 April 1982

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