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JIC(82) 26th Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 215, Cabinet Office on
MONDAY 17 MAY 1982 at 4.30 pm

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

Sir Antony Duff
Cabinet Office

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THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Mr P G Wallis
Assessments Staff

Mr A W Saunders
Government Communications
Headquarters

Captain N L Browne
Assessments Staff

Brigadier A B D Gurdon
Assessments Staff

Mr A J Colquhoun
Assessments Staff

Captain J J R Tod
Assessments Staff

SECRETARIAT

Mr T W Savage
Commander A H R York
Mr F J Wilson
Mr P J Bulstrode

i

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CONTENTS

Item No	Subject	Page
1	CURRENT ASSESSMENTS	1
2	FALKLAND ISLANDS	1

1. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS

The Committee had before them JIC(82)IAs 71 and 74 to 78. Daily Assessments on the Falkland Islands issued since their previous meeting.

During a brief discussion on the Falkland Island crisis THE CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would wish to know that the Note entitled "Strategic Options Open to Argentina in the Falkland Islands" (JIC(82)(N) 48), cleared out of Committee on Friday 14 May, had been a timely contribution to Ministers' discussion in OD(SA) and had been well received.

The Committee -

1. Took note of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Took note of JIC(82)(IA)s 71 and 74 to 78.

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2. FALKLAND ISLANDS: TIMING OF CIGs

THE CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that the Prime Minister had decided to hold meetings of the OD(SA) at 9.30 each morning until further notice. With this in mind, he said that members might wish to consider whether current arrangements for producing the Falkland Islands daily assessment would be adequate.

During a brief discussion it was noted that under present arrangements substantial updated intelligence did not normally become available to the Assessments Staff until about 0600 each day, which meant that it was not possible to produce a first draft assessment much before 0830. This was due partly to time zone differences between the United Kingdom and the United States of America, the latter being the supplier of much relevant new material, and partly to the time needed by the collecting agencies to process and circulate material. It was agreed, however, that there would be advantage in the Assessments Staff and appropriate Departments and Agencies exploring together the possibility of making the necessary intelligence information available to the Assessments Staff earlier each day. It was

noted that as any decision to hold an earlier CIG (at say 0630) would have consequences for the Departments and Agencies involved, their views would have to be sought. Both the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were already working on a 24 hour basis, and arrangements were also in hand for the Assessments Staff and Secretariat to move to a 24 hour working schedule if required.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee would wish to agree that there would be considerable advantage in producing the daily assessment at a time more directly related to OD(SA) meetings at 0930. The Chief of the Assessments Staff should discuss the problems involved in moving the time of the Falkland Islands CIG with the Departments and Agencies concerned.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Invited the Chief of the Assessments Staff and Departments and Agencies to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

Cabinet Office

18 May 1982