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JIC(82) 31st Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 215, Cabinet Office on
THURSDAY 3 JUNE 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

Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday
Ministry of Defence

Sir Brian Tovey
Government Communications Headquarters

Sir Antony Duff
Cabinet Office

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Mr J A Cradock
Security Service

Mr C O Spencer
Canadian High Commission
(Items 1 - 5)

Mr B S Gorman
Australian High Commission
(Items 1 - 3)

New Zealand High Commission
(Items 1 - 3)

New Zealand High Commission
(Items 1 - 3)

Mr R J O'Neill
Assessments Staff

Brigadier A B D Gurdon
Assessments Staff

Captain N L Browne
Assessments Staff
(Items 1- 6)

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Mr A J Colquhoun
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 - 5)

Mr D I Miller
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 - 2)

Captain J J R Tod
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 - 6)

SECRETARIAT

Mr T W Savage
Commander A H R York
Mr F J Wilson
Mr D J Kiernan (Items 1 - 5)

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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) 22) which contained an item entitled "Soviet Grain Purchases".
- b. A draft Note entitled "Iraq Internal" (JIC(82)(N) 56).

After a detailed discussion on each of the above items -

The Committee -

Approved JIC(82)(WSI) 22 (DRAFT) and JIC(82)(N) 56 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion, instructed the Secretary to issue them in final form, agreed that the text of the item on Soviet Grain Purchases should be released to NATO and that the note on Iraq should be edited for release to NATO.

3. IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENTS

The Committee had before them the following Immediate Assessments -

FALKLAND ISLANDS - daily assessments issued since the previous meeting -

JIC(82)(IA) 85, 85, 87, 89, 90, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103,
105, 106.

THE CHAIRMAN summing up a brief discussion initiated by Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday, said that the Committee would wish to agree that every precaution should be taken when drafting assessments to ensure that no indication was given of any British military intentions.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Took note of JIC(82)(IA) 85, 85, 87, 89, 90, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 106.

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4. FALKLAND ISLANDS: DAILY ASSESSMENT BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT

The Committee took note of JIC(82)(IA) 104, a daily assessment on the Falkland Islands, issued on 1 June 1982 under a UK/US EYES ONLY caveat.

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5. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS: ITEM BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT

The Committee considered Part III of the Draft Weekly Survey of Intelligence (JIC(82)(WSI) 22) which consisted of one item entitled "Syria/Soviet Union - Military Relations".

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up a detailed discussion, said that the Committee would wish to agree that in view of the importance of the information addressed in this item there would be advantage, before approving the assessment, in seeking discussions with the United States authorities to examine the available intelligence evidence on Soviet intentions in this context and its significance. Accordingly, they would wish to delay consideration of

the item, and instruct JIC Rep Washington in consultation with the Secretary and the Chief of the Assessments Staff to pursue the matter with the United States State Department, with Chancery participating as appropriate. In view of the possibility that this topic would be raised in discussions between President Reagan and the United States Secretary of State and United Kingdom Ministers at the forthcoming summits, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office should arrange to bring to the attention of senior officials and, if appropriate, Ministers, that the subject was currently under urgent consideration in the United Kingdom intelligence community and that it was proposed that the matter should be pursued in detail with the United States authorities.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Invited the Chief of the Assessment Staff and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.
3. Instructed the Secretary to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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6. THE SITUATION FOLLOWING BRITISH REPOSESSION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Committee had before them JIC(82)(N) 55, a draft Note on the above subject.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up a detailed discussion, said that the Committee would wish to agree that the Assessments Staff should redraft the paper, taking into account the points made in their discussion. The title of the Note should be changed to "Argentine and International Attitudes following British Repossession of the Falkland Islands". In view of the relevance of the subject matter the Note should be cleared out of Committee to be

available for distribution to Ministers and senior officials before the weekend. To achieve this end, the revised draft should be circulated by early Friday morning, so that Departments and Agencies could comment and the Note finally cleared at a Chairman's meeting at 1450 on Friday, 4 June.

The Committee -

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

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7. DISSEMINATION OF JIC MATERIAL IN THE UNITED STATES

MR O'NEILL said that the Committee would wish to be aware that under current arrangements for the dissemination of JIC material in the United States the Daily Assessments on the Falkland Islands were being circulated not only to the United States Intelligence Agencies but also to other addressees, including the United States Representative at the United Nations, Mrs Kirkpatrick.

During a discussion it was noted that the current arrangements had been agreed with the CIA in 1978; it would be very difficult to curtail the distribution, especially as it was now an established feature. However, there was concern that JIC material might be receiving too wide a distribution, particularly in the current crisis; there might be advantage in examining the distribution lists with a view to deciding whether any adjustments were necessary.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee would wish to agree that whilst it would be difficult to alter the established distribution of their material within the United States, there would be

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value in examining the current distribution lists for the Falkland Islands Daily Assessments. The Intelligence Co-ordinator, in conjunction with the Chief of the Assessments Staff and the Secretary, should be invited to look into the distribution lists and make what recommendations he considered necessary.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Invited the Intelligence Co-ordinator, to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

Cabinet Office

4 June 1982

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