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HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS ONLY

Reference D/3136DQ/2201/52

5 April 1982

H1 H74 J J3 K K2 S ASO V W Z copy to each

FAIKLAND ISLANDS-COVER & REPORTING

1. The following decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by DP today.

A GCHQ Staffing

2. This should be handled at Division level as far as possible: Directorate guidance will be available as necessary.

a. K. K are taking stock of manpower resources. Any additional manpower for the processing group should be called on gradually to minimise training problems. The processing group will probably operate a 5-team shift system with 5-man teams. Other tasks which will possibly require K manpower are:

- i. additional crisis-related in depth analysis (up to now the main effort has been on decrypts);
- ii. additional effort on diplomatic elsewhere;
- iii. cover of communications associated with the Argentine interest after closure of embassy in UK (possibly to be handled by Brazilians). This may mean the retention of Argentine staff and thus the continuance of ARD;
- iv. covering the communications to the Argentine side of any negotiations (UN and possibly London).

b. H. H have been operating with a pool of 11 staff, with one or two per shift. For sustaining a longer term operation up to 30 people will be needed. Volunteers from other H branches have been asked for; training is to start today (Monday). This will undoubtedly affect other H tasks. Additional resources may be needed if ship-ship ciphony is intercepted and can be forwarded to GCHQ.

c. J. J have 7 Spanish linguists in J30 who will be released for K tasks. (See also para. 4 b.).

d. Z. Z attendance at CIGs will be necessary. [redacted] and [redacted] are available in London but will need help while there are daily CIGs. There will also be an Action-on component which will require Z support. There may be need for Z assistance with external telephone enquiries etc. K and Z to discuss.

B Accommodation

3. The K/H working party has been established in Spur 9, C Annex, usually occupied by HC. The spur opposite is also available, should it be required. This area is close to the H72 machines; POLE STAR terminals are available and should be operational by later today. Printer facilities in H72 are available. This accommodation allows sufficient space for expansion. The shift system to be established in this accommodation is to be initiated as soon as possible.

C Cover

4. a. [redacted]

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- b. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It was now necessary to make an assessment of the material received so far. This would be done by J31/K in collaboration. Z was to request [REDACTED] clearance for the necessary number of K linguists. There would be a need for on-line linguists in JOPs, and on-line transcribers to deal with any S1A. J can provide an on-line monitoring capability. Extra RO support would be needed in JOPs - so far this has been drawn from JOC - to deal with VFT.
- c. There had been some problems with VFT processing - there was possibly a fault in the X program. J is investigating with X Division.
- d. The future line on [REDACTED] co-operation was to be
- i. GCHQ should get its own house in order to be able to deal with future intercept.
 - ii. GCHQ should accept an offer of further [REDACTED] targeting, but should not push at this stage. There may be a need for specific targeting rather than a general search. J3, K to discuss.
- e. [REDACTED] There may come a point where [REDACTED] cover will be needed: there is time for a high-level initiative if necessary.
- f. There is a requirement for some knowledge of a technical base of Argentine communications - there is little knowledge either in UK or [REDACTED]

D SIGINT Alert Status

5. There would be little advantage in declaring a SIGINT alert at present. The level of Q support to JOPs depends on a SIGINT alert and so the present situation should be treated as an unofficial SIGINT alert for this purpose. The situation will be kept under review.

E AOB

6. [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]
8. The possibility of extra cover from ASCENSION.
- a. A major switch of aerials would be required. Previous experiments have not proved fruitful. It would be possible to cover the broadcast, but this is already being satisfactorily covered elsewhere.
 - b. ASCENSION will be used as a central point for communications.
 - c. The deployment of 2 additional COOs to ASCENSION is to be expedited to alleviate the situation there.
 - d. Cover of an ARGENTINE Security Emergency net is being tasked at ASCENSION [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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