

2038/111
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BRIEF FOR ACDS(OPS) - COS MEETING 1000 17 APRIL 1982

AGENDA ITEM 1 (INTELLIGENCE)

1. You may wish to see the latest INTSUMS in the DSC folder (E30 and E31).

AGENDA ITEM 2 (OWN FORCES) (Items included on TV Brief Sidelined)

2. TOTE. The latest (170600Z) is attached (1).
3. Ship Movements. Duty Commander's Brief (2).
 - a. TG 317.0.(BATTLE GROUP). FEARLESS and SIR TRISTRAM now at Ascension. Remainder are 450 miles N - ETA 191100Z Apr.
 - b. TU 317.8.1.(HERMES). Ascension. ETD am 18 Apr.
 - c. TU 317.8.2.(BRILLIANT). 1000 miles East of Rio de Janeiro.
 - d. TU 317.9.(ANTRIM). Proceeding according to plan. Presently approximately abreast Tristan de Cunha.
 - e. CANBERRA and ELK. At FREETOWN for bunkering. ETD asap.
 - f. UGANDA. Arrived in GIBRALTAR yesterday evening for conversion to a hospital ship. Now loading medical stores. ETD 19 Apr. ETA Ascension 29 Apr.
 - g. Trawlers FARNELLA and NORTHELLA commissioned 160900 as mine counter measures vessels and ready to deploy on completion of work up 20 Apr. They will then wait in Portland to await the second pair before deploying. Remaining two trawlers CORDELLA and JUNELLA are in process of conversion. Expected commissioning is 19 Apr. All 4 should be ready to deploy for Ops on 26 Apr (3).
 - h. MV ATLANTIC CONVEYOR. Arrived in DEVONPORT yesterday to become an aircraft transporter. ETD 28 Apr.

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j. MV NORLAND. After further assessment of her suitability to carry passengers (850) has been requisitioned. She will probably be able to discharge vehicles by Mexeflote but this is subject to confirmation by trial today. She will not be able to operate Sea King helicopters but can operate smaller helicopters (Lynx size). NORLAND will be at HULL today and should be ready to sail under CINCFLEET OPCON on 22 Apr.

4. 707 Naval Air Sqn (currently the Wessex V Trg Sqn) is to reform as 848 Naval Air Sqn with 12 Wessex V. Sqn to be at 24 hours notice to deploy in the Commando role from YEOVILTON from 19 Apr as a whole or by flights.

5. CINCFLEET is reconsidering the use of the Survey Ships HMS HECLA, HYDRA and HERALD as hospital ships (Casualty Ferries) pursuant to Articles 22 and 34 of the Geneva Convention. CINCFLEET has been asked to confirm that they could be employed fully within the restrictions these Articles demand (4).

6. Army.

a. 2 PARA Gp. In non-para role is at 72 hours NTM from 0900 today to embark (in MV NORLAND) to join Amphibious Task Force.

b. STINGER. There was a delay imposed on the sale of STINGER by US S of S Haig. A RAF VC10 is currently at DALLAS under control of BDLs WASHINGTON. When Mr Haig gives approval for the sale the VC10 will fly the equipment to ASCENSION via DAKAR.

7. RAF.

a. Deployment of VICTOR Aircraft to Ascension. S of S has approved the deployment of 9 VICTORS to Ascension before 19 Apr for a recce task. CINCFLEET will decide whether the mission will be flown. Diplomatic clearance is still to be obtained for the VICTORS to stage through the Azores. The AF Department is processing this through the FCO.

b. Hercules tasking is being revised to reflect the requirement to deploy equipment in support of the VICTOR tanker detachment. 2 additional VC10 sorties and 2 charter (? Boeing 707) freighters are also being arranged. The VICTOR task has been given overriding movement priority and will affect the flow of stores for ships at Ascension for the next two days.

8. Signal Message Statistics. Whitehall Commcen (5). These show a reduction in the backlog of traffic awaiting transmission compared with yesterday. Because ships are on HF silence they have no means of communication with each other except through the UHF Communications Satellite via the Whitehall Commcen, where messages have to be retransmitted. Thus such traffic forms much of the backlog:

9. The numbers of messages in and out of the DCC (6) on 16 Apr were:

OUT	1094	-5 on 15 Apr
IN	2202	+30 on 15 Apr
TOTAL	3296	+25 on 15 Apr

AGENDA ITEM 3 (PUBLIC RELATIONS)

10. DCPR is likely to speak about the problems associated with controlling the copy of the journalists afloat. The Duty Press Officer described the Press "as becoming restive".

AGENDA ITEM 4 (DECISIONS REQUIRED) (7)

11. 0055. OP SUTTON - Effects of Delay. This paper (8) was circulated for out of committee clearance by 170900. On the draft ACDS(Ops) had made a number of suggested amendments. These were not incorporated but have now been fed into SCDS for consideration by CDS.

AGENDA ITEM 5 (GIBRALTAR) (9)

12. Our proposed amendments to the DPS draft have been largely incorporated.

AGENDA ITEM 6 (UNFORESEEN MATTERS)

13. None is known.