

Plan - to enter?

48A

Reference D/3216DQ/2304/14 VEK11

19 April 1982

J1 AJ27 K K2 P V S Z

DR to see on file

FAIKLANDS : NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 1982

Present: DR (Chairman) J1 AJ27 K K2 V S Z D1A (Sec)

1. DR said that he proposed to hold daily meetings at 10.00 am to review the general picture regarding current intelligence, requirements, service etc., and make any operational/administrative decisions that were necessary.

Current Intelligence:

2. K outlined the current intelligence situation. A brief had been supplied as background to the [redacted] who had been interviewed on the BBC but intelligence had not been mentioned. K had been requested not to send any further new people to Northwood. The task there had changed from one of protecting Sigint to one of a "general interface". K proposed to re-think the present scheme and proposed to use 4 people on a 5 on/5 off basis with a staggered change-over and 2 people in reserve. Any problems arising over suitable staff were to be referred to DR. Otherwise K was to deal with Northwood direct.

Action : K

Service & Requirements:

3. (a) At Sunday's CIG (18.4.82)

GCHQ were complimented on the fast reaction to the recent key change and the intelligence on the submarine force (DTG 19063APR/82),

(b) Z referred to the apparent discrepancy between the recent signal (DTG 161735Z APR/82) from Coordinator regarding the need to provide as much information as possible during continuing diplomatic relations and the "complaint" (source unknown) that we were already providing too much. Z would investigate this with PUSD and also deal with the problem raised by Cdr Neville Brown (Assessments Staff) in ZL's signal (DTG 181220ZAPR 82).

Action : Z

(c) Z had received requests for "action-on" with regard to arms supplies and had warned FCO of a possible political problem [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(d) Z had provided a brief for the NIMROD flights out of Ascension.

(e) V stated that MOD (Northwood) had asked for details of the Elint fits of AR ships to feed into their shipborne detectors. A wrap-up signal would be sent today and would be up-dated every 24 hours.

(f) J1 raised the problem of the handling of [REDACTED] signals at Northwood. It was decided that this was essentially a MOD problem. This however led to a short discussion of the duplication of information, especially apply of [REDACTED] Elint by GCHQ to Northwood/MOD which information was later received by DMSI via [REDACTED]. DR would speak to DMSI on this "duplication" of information and the need to nominate a "central point" to enable information to be passed correctly. In addition, DR would remind DMSI about STS.

Action : DR

(g) J1 said that the position vis-a-vis the SoViets had changed little [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(h) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Ascension, Jim Walker (DD Sig3 (Air)) has agreed to the fitting of HF receivers and Store 4 tape-recorders in the Maritime Nimrods and the transfer of operators from 51 Squadron. S1 was now having to get the formal agreement of the 3 Service Departments, thus emphasising the need for a central point of reference with MOD. It was proposed to send M & S people to Kinloss to inspect a Maritime Nimrod so that advice could be given on the fit. S said that problems may arise as we had no access to operational information so he was unaware of the possible rotation of aircraft/operators etc. In addition there were possible further problems if it was found necessary to tamper with the air frame to accommodate other equipment.

(i) DR had responded to a signal from SUKLO (DTG 171521Z APR 82) on [REDACTED] use of helicopters to extend horizon etc., on the line that we will speak to MOD. On [REDACTED], J27 was at present in MOD and AJ27 would attempt to get hold of him.

Action : AJ27

(j) There was now a COMINT link to HERMES. S was asked to enquire of Hemersley regarding the present disposition of the collection equipment.

Action : S

(k) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(l) SUKLO had asked (DTG 181435Z APR 82) about the provision of a Spanish linguist to G-group: K would send a reply (with a copy to DR) to include the point that we were short of experienced Spanish linguists.

(m) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Action : DR

(n) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

4. Z said that Robin O'Neill had raised the matter of the "Sunday Times" articles. DO was investigating and would be briefing Director/DR.

5. Z raised the matter of the possible need to reinforce the Z1 post and asked for any suggestions. A proposal that we should have a GCHQ representative in MOD (like the one at Northwood) was put forward as was the doubling-up of the Z1 post. DR would explore the possibilities when he spoke to DMSI.

Action : DR

SECRET

19 April 1982

file on D/2304/14

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ALERT MARGAY: COMMS STATUS 19 APRIL

1. You may like to know that the Comcentre is in fair shape this morning now that we have had the weekend to catch up on backlogs.
2. To achieve this we instituted, from last Wednesday, some CCO overtime (with CSU agreement) and took 5 Cypher Supervisors (from last Tuesday) from W/HQ day jobs to form a team on shifts in the comcentre.
3. To date we have met all requirements for new circuits for ourselves and MOD elements. W and Q staffs have worked excellently together and we are receiving prompt reaction from [redacted] and FCO (where appropriate). There are concerns about shortage of basic facilities, like terminal boxes, but Q innovation is coping so far.
4. An Achilles Heel is signals output. On one occasion last week we received 19 Immediates, in manuscript, in a very short time frame. We utilise the valuable services of the out-of-hours OCR typist provided for K but some hold-up under these circumstances is inevitable.
5. On the broad front I have minuted DCLO's asking for their assistance in ensuring that the Comcentre is not pressed over delays of incoming non-crisis traffic, and in passing the word that non-crisis material of low precedence should not be submitted in manuscript.
6. We are constantly at risk from major equipment failure because even a short outage could create unmanageable backlogs. Q4B staff are constantly alert for trouble and we keep our fingers crossed. The AMSS is coping well (one 2 minute outage so far) and generally is of less concern than MDS, OCR and MPS.
7. W Comcentre manpower is under heavy pressure not only because of increased traffic volume but also because of increased manpower intensive tasks (off-line cypher, perf-typing etc). We are feeling the loss of CCO's sent to reinforce Ascension and Washington, and the effects of a bout of sickness. However the staff (with some overtime) are coping and I will hold in reserve any thought of reinforcement from elsewhere (eg Scarborough).

8. [redacted]

SECRET