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Copy No 14 of 22

OPERATION CORPORATE - DAILY SUMMARY NO 21 FOR 27 APRIL 1982

POLITICAL AND BACKGROUND



7714

1. Conferences

- a. OAS. As expected, ARG won their support with 17 votes to nine, and four abstentions. Trinidad spoke in favour of UK. No invocation of the Rio Treaty.
- b. Non Aligned Movement. The NAM Co-ordinating Bureau adopted their communique endorsing the ARG position on sovereignty. Cubans and other Latin-Americans gave strong support to ARG; Guyana supported by several others tried to separate the principle of the use of force from the substance of the sovereignty dispute (26097). Text of communique in UK Mission to NY Tel No 569 (262312Z).

2. Washington

- a. Mr Haig told HBMA (27004) that his speech at the OAS Meeting 'went down like a lead balloon' and nobody there was even likely to call him even-handed again. (Text of speech in Washington Tel No 1469). He continued to press Costa Mendez to arrange a meeting with the Junta without delay. Any further US proposals to ARG would be 'take it or leave it' with 24 hours in which to answer.
- b. President Reagan, in a speech to the US Chamber of Commerce on 26 April, said 'We remain determined to do all we can to help Britain and Argentina ... the US remains committed to a peaceful solution in the S Atlantic' (26099).
- c. HBMA to Mr Pym. Mr Weinberger was delighted by the S Georgia operation and the President was too. If talks broke down, contingency plans to aid UK would have been made. Much US opinion was very pro-British (27056).
- d. HMBA. Israeli's Military Supplies to Argentina. The FCO intended to summon the Israeli Ambassador so as to make a formal protest. Mr Eagleberger had told the Israeli Ambassador that his Govt should 'Knock it off forthwith'. ! HMBA went on to discuss ways of putting pressure on Israelis about callous cynicism of supplying weapons to ARG which had consistently supported/aided Nazis. (Tel No 1453 262020Z) - see also below.

3. Other Capitals

- a. Mexico City. Mexico supported the ARG claims since the colonial power had 'implanted' the local community. But Mexico also desired a peaceful settlement (27003).
- b. Bangkok, on the other hand, had come out with an unusually unequivocal pro-British editorial in 'The National Review' at an opportune moment (27005).



3. c. To Bonn. Costa Mendez had told Haig that British recovery of S Georgia had come as a complete surprise. Their own surveillance, predictions and press reported belied this. British commander had no alternative but to attack the ARG submarine SANTA FE. Further details (27045).
- d. UKDEL NATO At the lunch of NATO PERMREPs, Mr Luns had expressed satisfaction at our retaking of S Georgia, the UKPERMREP restated our position. The only comment came from Canada, supporting UK action but calling for a peaceful solution. (27037).
- e. South American
- (1) Lima. Peruvian portworkers had joined those in Venezuela, Columbia and Mexico in refusing to handle cargo on British vessels and possibly affecting all cargo to/from UK by any ship; although this would be prejudicial to Peruvian interests (27045).
 - (2) Montevideo There were two Uruguayans in S Georgia, who were believed to have landed at Leith with the party dismantling the whaling station. UK was concerned that they should be well-treated and returned in safety (27059).
 - (3) Santiago A Chilean newspaper had printed a report of UK/Chilean military co-operation - not for the first time. It was possible that the 'Daily Star' was being fed with ARG disinformation, and should be warned off (27060).

OPERATIONS, INTELLIGENCE, MOVEMENTS

4. Possible ARG threat to Ascension I. On 26 April it was thought there might be an ARG threat by special forces to Ascension. There has been speculation on a possible 'one-way mission' by a 707 with saboteurs. A more specific possibility has been suggested as saboteurs from the MV RIO DE LA PLATA, which has been loitering and shadowing the CANBERRA. There has been mention of a COSMOS mini-submarine of which it is said that Colombia bought four but is using only two! (27041).
5. S Georgia. Garrison has been established with mission of preventing recapture. RM M Company Group, constitutes the garrison, supported by one DD/FF, plus ENDURANCE and an RFA. Senior Officer Afloat (HMS PLYMOUTH) was to command sea and land forces (27055). Meanwhile, preparations are being made to evacuate ARG prisoners of war as soon as possible (Duty Cdr).
6. Own Forces (Duty Cdr 270600A)
- a. Battle Group. Continue towards the Maritime Exclusion Zone and had 780 miles to go. They were proceeding at 15 knots.
 - b. ANTRIM Group. Remained in area of S Georgia.
 - c. AMPHIBIOUS Group. Remained in Ascension awaiting approval to sail for Falklands area.
 - d. ARGONAUT Group. ETA Ascension 30 April.
 - e. SSNs. Continued in assigned areas.

7. OPDEFS (Duty Cdr 270600A)

ARROW	Hot gas leak.
COVENTRY	Std Olympus emergency use only. 965 defective.
ANTRIM	Port SEACAT defective - bad weather prevented repair.
GLAMORGAN	992 radar (temp repair). Sonar 182.
ARGONAUT	Sonar 182 body defect.
INVINCIBLE	Sonar 182, one still defective.
ANTELOPE	Lynx compass defect - VMC only.
SIR LANCELOT	Crane limitation (port 20 ton crane).

8. Argentine Forces (Duty Cdr 270600A)

- a. Surface Forces. Little change - TG 79.1 and 79.2 operating off Puerta Delgado. TG 79.3 forming up to South of Islans Año Nerevo.
- b. Submarines. SALTA - either in harbour or close inshore. SAN LUIS thought to be moving towards Falkland Islands.

9. Other

Many Polish and Japanese fishing vessels in area northwards from Maritime Exclusion Zone.

10. Weather

Falkland Is and Maritime Exclusion Zone, wind decreasing to force 4 - 5. Moderate conditions. S Georgia, wind SW strong to gale.

11. Operational Capabilities

CANBERRA (26100) has two flight decks, one forward one amidships. Both capable of operating Sea Kings by day only; midships deck can operate Chinooks cross deck with extreme caution. Signal gives details.

ELK (27040), single spot helo operations exercised by day and two spot should be feasible with further experience.

12. Explosive Ordnance Disposal Capabilities

MODUK AIR outlined tasks, capabilities and formation of No 1 EOD Unit and asked CINCFLEET to examine need to deploy it (26098). CINCFLEET considered Unit not required but asked for assistance of two experts (27043). Finally, use of No 1 EOD Team recommended by MODUK AIR (27062).

13. SEA SKUA Capabilities

CTG 317.8 requested (27021) guidance on SEA SKUA in high sea states, since 'weather here refuses to conform to MODUK PE release criteria'. Reply in 272131Z.

14. ARG Spares for Aircraft

The ARGs are reported to be short of spares for A4 and all other US aero-engine types including the Chinook. There is little chance of the US authorising export (27019).

15. ARG Defences on Falklands

The British Defence Attache in Montevideo (27050) has assessed some possible weaknesses in ARG defences:

Putative disagreements between Governor and Brigade Commander. Weakness of ARGs own voice communications, and long ranges involved. Logistics - no experience of working away from civilian resupply, no feeling for machinery. Large number of 18 year old green conscripts in garrison (27050).

16. ARG War Preparations

Press reports mention consistent ARG troops to southward, evacuation of civilians, hospitals preparation for war footing, 'yellow alert' in southern areas of country (27051).

LOGISTICS, SUPPORT, STUFF17. AVFUEL for Ascension

USNS NECHES, en route Ascension with 4m US gallons of aviation fuel, lost a boiler and had to turn back. USNS SEALIFT CARIBBEAN has been substituted, to sail Curacao with 5.8m US gallons but will have to leave Ascension on 16 May. USNS AMERICAN EXPLORER (load not yet known) will follow up, ETA Ascension 17 May (27042).

18. BRAMBLELEAF (27027)

Meanwhile RFA BRAMBLELEAF has biocontaminated diesel tanks which have to be tested as have TIDESPRING's to whom she RAS-ed (27027).

19. Army Supplies to ARG

- a. Based on report in 'Aerospace Daily' that shortly after ARG invasion of FI, US Dept of Commerce approved sale to ARG of 32 Wright J65. Skyhawk replacement engines (for ARG A45), HBMA raised matter with US authorities. Engines were shipment to Fiat in Italy for refurbishing; but export has been halted (27067).
- b. US has taken a tough line with Israel over selling military equipment to ARG, see para 2d above.

20. South Georgia

British Antarctic Survey has agreed that their stores may be used for maintenance of British Garrison, on recompense, thus easing logistics problem (27014).

21. Army Training Ammunition

MODUK Army has stated that training ammo will, until 10 May, be issued only to those Units training for Operation CORPORATE, or for duties in N Ireland (27017).

22. SAXONIA

This ship was under consideration as a STUFF, as a Solids Support Ship (NSAG 271800A).

23. ILLUSTRIOUS

CINGFLEET asked for a further look at her programme, which was to be monitored by DNAP, and status reviewed at 281800A (NSAG 271800A).

R. Cameron

T.P.

M B
Naval Historical Branch

Checked by Lt Cdr C R K Cameron

Distribution:

PS/Sof S	Copy No 1 of 22
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Sec 1SL	4 of 22
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Sec CFS	6 of 22
Sec VCNS	7 of 22
PS/DUS(P)	8 of 22
Sec ACNS(O)	9 of 22
Sec ACNS(P)	10 of 22
AUS (NS)	11 of 22
AUS (D Staff)	12 of 22
DNOT (Captain Garnier)	13 of 22
Head of DS 5	14 of 22
Head of DS 6	15 of 22
Head of DS 8	16 of 22
Head of DS 11	17 of 22
Head of DS 15	18 of 22
Head of NHB	19 of 22
Duty Captain NSAG	20 of 22
Duty Commander DSC Navy Ops Room	21 of 22
File	22 of 22