

LOOSE MINUTE

D Ops Staff 7/10/2

ACDS(Ops)
ACNS(O)
DMO
ACAS(Ops)

NOTES OF AN INFORMAL DOE MEETING - 29 APRIL

Notes of an informal DOE meeting convened by ACDS(Ops) at 1400 on 29 April are as follows:

1. Construction of an Airstrip on South Georgia.

- a. Requirement: The main requirement for an air strip on South Georgia was stated by ACNS(O) as being for handling spares for ships in advance of Port Stanley airfield being made available. The requirement for spares and maintenance handling was assessed as desirable but not essential.
- b. Feasibility: It was assessed that it would take some 6 months at the very least to construct a suitable air strip on South Georgia and this could only be achieved by diverting some of the resources assigned to the Falkland Islands Forces.
- c. Summary: It was agreed that resources for the Falkland Islands must take priority and that in view of the long time scale involved the construction of an air strip on South Georgia could not be recommended.

2. Ascension Island Threat.

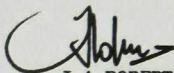
- a. Task. To consider the internal security of Ascension Island against possible Argentine attack following DCDS(I)'s threat assessment (DCDS(I)26 dated 28 Apr 82).
- b. Security Adviser. Security Adviser being sent out to conduct a full defence survey. Adviser to be briefed by DMO before departure. Signal to be sent to CBFSU informing him of visit and instructing him to raise with the adviser the following:
- (1) Quantity of small arms to be provided for RAF personnel already at Ascension Island.
 - (2) Need for additional forces.
- c. American Involvement. DSS to consider and advise on reaction of American Authorities towards defence of their airfield facilities.

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d. RN Ships. Adequate air defence can be provided by RN ships at Ascension Island. ACNS(O) to look into future presence of RN ships scheduled to be in Ascension Island, particularly ships with height finding equipment.

e. RAF Radar. Subsequent to meeting ACAS(Ops) reported that an S259 air portable radar could be taken to Ascension Island in 4 days (2 Hercules loads for equipment and 24 men) but it had no height finding capability.

29 Apr 82



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