

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on FRIDAY 30 APRIL 1982 at 11.45 am

PRESENT

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin,
Chief of the Defence Staff

Admiral Sir Henry Leach,
Chief of the Naval Staff

General Sir Edwin Bramall,
Chief of the General Staff

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beetham,
Chief of the Air Staff

ALSO PRESENT

Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans,
Vice Chief of the Defence Staff
(Personnel and Logistics)

Lieutenant General Sir James Glover,
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
(Intelligence)

Lieutenant General Sir Maurice Johnston,
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
(Operational Requirements)

Air Vice-Marshal J A Gilbert,
Assistant Chief of the
Defence Staff (Policy)

Rear-Admiral D W Brown,
Assistant Chief of the Defence
Staff (Operations)

Air Vice-Marshal T B Stephenson,
Assistant Chief of the Defence
Staff (Signals)

Rear-Admiral J W T Walters,
Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff
(Personnel and Logistics)

Brigadier P C Bowser,
Director Defence Operational
Movements Staff

Sir Frank Cooper,
Permanent Under Secretary

Mr I S McDonald,
Deputy Chief of Public Relations

Mr J M Stewart,
Assistant Under Secretary
(Defence Staff)

Mr P R H Wright,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRETARIAT

Brigadier J A C G Eyre
Captain J E S Raymond RN
Lieutenant Colonel J B R Peacock
Lieutenant Colonel W S Bale

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1-7 (1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

NIL

Note:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.

SECRET

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COS 37TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 37TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
FRIDAY 30 APRIL 1982 AT 11.45 am

OPERATION CORPORATE

ITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN invited the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to update them on current intelligence.

2. LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) reviewed the intelligence published in the latest summary (1). He said that he would publish a revised assessment of the Argentine order of battle and deployment in the Falkland Islands that day.

3. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in conjunction with the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to produce a quick assessment of the latest intelligence on Argentine naval operations for consideration by OD(SA) that afternoon.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. The situation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).

ITEM 3. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

5. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (3).

6. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) informed the Committee that Rules of Engagement for use against Argentine fishing or merchant vessels engaged in surveillance operations had now been formulated (4).

Note:

1. INTISUM No 52 300600Z April 1982.
2. Force Tote Sitrep Issue 36.
3. Annex A to COS 35th Meeting/82.
4. MODUK AAA/19F/JEE 292009Z April 82.

ITEM 4. SOUTH GEORGIA AIRSTRIP

7. The Committee had before them a paper (5) examining the requirement for and feasibility of constructing an airstrip on South Georgia.

8. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said the need for such an airstrip had not yet been established. They would wish to take no action on it at present.

ITEM 5. DEFENCE OF ASCENSION ISLAND

9. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) reported on the possible need to defend Ascension Island from Argentine attack. He said a small reconnaissance team was going to Ascension Island that day. Meanwhile small arms had been despatched to the island for about 400 of the 600 British servicemen there; adequate air defence was available from RN ships until 5 May; and an early warning radar detachment had been placed at 48 hours notice to move.

10. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to obtain a signalled report from the reconnaissance party and report to them further on Sunday 2 May 1982.

ITEM 6. FALKLAND ISLANDS LANDING OPERATIONS - REINFORCEMENTS

11. The Committee discussed a revised draft OD(SA) paper (6).

12. Summing up SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct their Secretary to amend the paper in the light of their discussion and then forward it to the Cabinet Office for consideration by OD(SA) that afternoon.

ITEM 7. MOVEMENT OF 5 BRIGADE TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

13. The Committee had before them a paper (7) setting out the movement options should it be decided to send 5 Brigade to join the Task Force.

Notes:

5. Attachment to COS(Misc) 179/742/1 dated 30 April 1982.
6. COS 35th Meeting/82 Item 7.
7. COS(Misc) 181/742/1 dated 30 April 1982.

14. In discussion the following points were agreed:
- a. It should be assumed the "slimline" Brigade, omitting most of its cargo vehicles and heavy support, would be required. The Brigade was currently at 7 day's notice to move.
 - b. The Queen Elizabeth 2 (Option 2) could delay sailing until 12 May and still arrive at the Falkland Islands on 28 May at the same time as the ships carrying the equipment.
 - c. Although notice for the troops need not be changed before 5 May, equipment and stores depots would need to start outloading on Monday 3 May. Therefore a decision had to be taken on Sunday 2 May if the arrival of the Brigade and its equipment in the Falkland Islands was not to be delayed.
 - d. Careful consideration would have to be given to the protection of the convoy on passage, particularly once it had passed Ascension Island.
 - e. If it was decided to send the Brigade, the public relations line should be that the move was being made to position reserves nearer the operational area.

Annex:

- A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in hand (2 pages).

OPERATION CORPORATE - ACTIONS IN HAND

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0023	6/82 Item 1	Op CORPORATE - Military Appreciation	ACDS(Pol)	AUS(D Staff)	7/82 Item 4 12/82 Item 6 35/82 Item 4	For COS 1 May
0065	-	Maintenance of a British Garrison in the Falkland Islands	VCDS(P&L)	ACDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)127/3/3 dated 19 Apr 82	To be included in 0076
0066	-	Long Term Measures to Sustain Op CORPORATE	CDS	DCDS(OR)	CDS 2038/1/1 dated 22 Apr 82 D/DORS/58/1 dated 26 Apr 82	
0067	-	Op SUTTON - Prisoners	CDS	ACDS(P&L)	CDS 2038/1 dated 25 Apr 82	
0071	31/82 Item 6	US Assistance	CDS	ACDS(Pol)		For COS 3 May
0075	33/82 Item 7	Defence of Ascension Island	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)	35/82 Item 7 37/82 Item 4	ACDS(Ops) to report to COS 2 May

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0076	33/82 Item 9	Long Term Logistic Requirements	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		
0077	35/82 Item 4	Arrangements for POW at Ascension Island	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		
0079	35/82 Item 4	Canberra PR	AFD	AFD		
0081	38/82 Item 3	Supply of US Equipment	DCDS(OR)	DCDS(OR)		By 4 May