

OPERATION CORPORATE- DAILY SUMMARY NO 22 - 28 APRIL 1982

MODUK's 281128Z promulgated the declaration of a Total Exclusion Zone, coincident with the boundary of the Falklands Maritime Exclusion Zone, to become effective from 301100Z April. Ships or aircraft within the TEZ will be considered as operating in support of the illegal occupation and will be liable to attack. Port Stanley airfield will be closed and aircraft on the ground will also be liable to attack. Authority to enter the Zone may be sought only from DS 5 (in respect of ships) and DS 8 (aircraft) and those entering must adhere strictly to MOD instructions. (28014). This declaration was amplified at 2240Z, FCO pointing out that the warning also applied to merchant vessels and fishing vessels engaged in surveillance or intelligence gathering activities against British forces in the South Atlantic (28094). The note was delivered to the Brazilian Foreign Ministry at 1400Z (28032) and, via the Swiss Embassy, to the Argentine Government at 1410Z (28037).

POLITICAL AND BACKGROUND

2. The US deadline for an Argentine answer to the State Department's latest proposals passed without reply, the Junta being reportedly still in session with the Navy alleged to be taking a hard line while the other two services were in favour of acceptance of the terms. Later in the day Mr Haig informed the Foreign Secretary that Costa Mendez was refusing to meet him (Mr Haig) and that if no reply was received to the proposals by am 29th the US Government would "go public". By the evening, when Costa Mendez had received fresh instructions and was to meet Mr Haig, the latter had put back the public declaration until absolutely no hope of a negotiated agreement remained. (28002, 28038, 28051, 28079).

3. ICRC The ICRC sent a formal note to both the UK and Argentina, stating that it is at the service of the two countries to carry out its humanitarian and traditional Treaty mandate. The note urged both countries to establish hospital and safety zones and to envisage the establishment of neutralised zones, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention (28042). The President of the ICRC personally drew attention to Article 23 of this Convention and would be grateful for details of the arrangements envisaged by the UK for the free passage of medical supplies, food and clothing to the Falkland Islands.

RETAINED UNDER
SECTION 3(4)

5. The Japanese Prime Minister's reply to the Prime Minister was disappointing - no applications for expert credit guarantees were expected and no sanctions were to be taken against imports from Argentina - particular exception was taken to the Japanese concession that importers were not to take advantage "unduly" of the situation (28070, 28080). Mrs Thatcher's reply can have left the Japanese in no doubt as to HMG's sentiments, pointing out that public opinion in Europe would certainly not understand it if any increased trade between Argentina and Japan resulted (28084).

6. The Irish Foreign Minister indicated that support for sanctions would be re-examined if British forces went into action in the Falklands. Ministers would have been under greater pressure if the South Georgia operation had not involved so little cost (28041).
7. In Capetown, Mr Pik Botha said that although his Government had to remain neutral, there was a "fund of sympathy" for Britain in the country and Government and that he personally hoped that the matter would be "solved in a manner which redounded to the credit of Mrs Thatcher" (FCO 281350Z).
8. Argentine Affairs Rumours and opinions that President Galtieri's days of political power are numbered have come from Chile, France and the BIS, Swiss Embassy, Buenos Aires. The appearance of Peronista slogans during the union-sponsored rally on 27 April ("The Malvinas are Argentina's but the people are Peron's") was the first strong indication that popular support is not conditional (28021). The Chilean abstention from the OAS vote was largely due to President Pinochet; conviction that he will not have to deal with Galtieri much longer and that whatever regime emerges it will be unlikely to contemplate an adventure such as attacking Chile. The Argentinians have made a recent approach concerning the Beagle Channel - this was rebuffed partly because the Chileans distrusted the Junta's premises and partly because of their certainty as to the President's future (28098).
9. Uruguay is willing in principle to accept hospital ships (28039). HEMA Montevideo has been instructed to inquire, as a personal initiative to establish a contingency, whether the Uruguayan Government would be willing to assist in the temporary evacuation of the Falklands (28045).

NATO FORCE LEVELS

10. A joint assessment of the effects of the UK South Atlantic deployment on the maritime mission of NATO has been prepared by SACLANT and CINCHAN and will be discussed at the DPC meeting on 29 April (COS). The UK Delegate has advised that if the Secretary of State for Defence can take his NATO colleagues into his confidence, giving the material setting for the naval movements in the political/diplomatic framework, they are likely to be more supportive. There is no NATO disposition to criticise the force withdrawals and there is a consciousness of the various lessons for deterrence, resolution and war planning (28054).

PLANNING AND POLICY

11. CINCFLEET attended COS Meeting 34, when his request for three additional battalions was discussed. A paper, reflecting his views, is to be presented to COS on 29 April (COS 34).
12. The Prisoner-of-War policy draft is to be cleared at two-star level by 29 April (NSAG 1800).
13. CINCFLEET has recommended that Active Service should be declared before further operations commence. The Chinese crews of LSLs have already shown distinct concern when the Bofors were fitted to their ships and COMAW reports that this could lead to disaffection: Active Service would confer disciplinary, administrative and operational benefits (28062).

OPERATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE

14. CTG 317.9 has established a garrison on South Georgia. BRILLIANT and PLYMOUTH have detached to transfer the Special Forces to the Battle Group; the PLYMOUTH will return to South Georgia to permit ANTRIM and TIDESPRING to proceed to Ascension Island with approximately 185 Argentinians and two Uruguayans (who are not being treated as prisoners) (Duty Cdr). The Chileans are now aboard ENDURANCE, where they will remain until further notice. The names of all personnel taken at Grytviken and Leith Harbour have been signalled (28104, 28105).

15. The Argentine press reported that an Argentine Air Force C-130 overflew South Georgia to drop supplies to troops still holding out. The supplies were declined and the aircraft returned to base (28055).

16. Two Nimrod sorties were flown from Ascension one within 200 nm of the island and the other along the track of the merchant ship RIO DE LA PLATA. CBFSU reported that a thorough search of the island had revealed nothing suspicious and that the troops involved had been re-embarked (28100).

17. It is reported that there is a possible personality clash between the Military Governor of the Falklands and the Brigade Commander. The Argentine garrison is likely to suffer from characteristic shortcomings - communications are a weakness due to poor procedures, equipment failures are usually due to lack of maintenance and poor administration may lead to logistic problems. The Argentine troops, many of whom are conscripts, are experiencing poor living conditions and low temperatures and are assessed as "better suited to attack than defence" (28035).

18. The Brazilian press is reporting the probable transfer of EMB 111 Bandeirante patrol aircraft and Xavante aircraft to Argentina - pilots for the former will begin training next week. The British Air Attache states that the manufacturer (Auibras) is denying rocket weapon sales but is sure that SBAT 70s will be supplied (note: the SBAT 70 is an unguided 70 mm high-velocity rocket fired from a pod.) (28066).

MOVEMENTS

19. Own Forces The Battle Group is 600 nm north-east of the TEZ but has been delayed by bad weather and is due in the zone on 2nd May (28035). TU 317.0.1 will leave Ascension on 29th, when ARGONAUT and her Unit and UGANDA will arrive. The tugs TYPHOON and SALVAGEMAN are 350 nm South of Ascension, en route for TRISTAN DE CUNHA; IRISHMAN and YORKSHIREMAN are at Ascension, where STENA SEASPREAD arrived today (Duty Cdr, COS Tote).

20. Eleven Victors and four Nimrods are now at Ascension, where there are 35 RN, 38 Army and 410 RAF personnel ashore in support of CORPORATE. (COS Tote).

21. The RAF EOD Team will be embarked in SIR BEDIVERE, at CINCFLEET's request (28009, 28072, 28063).

22. AMBUSCADE is to sail from Gibraltar on 3 May to take up duties as Ascension Guardship, ETA 10 May; CBFSU has been invited to formulate orders (28004).

23. OpDefs: Machinery: ARROW, COVENTRY, ANTRIM, GLASGOW
 Weapons: ARROW, COVENTRY, ANTRIM, ARGONAUT,
 GLAMORGAN, ANTELOPE (LYNX), ARDENT. (DUTY CDR).
24. Argentine Forces TG 79.1 has moved to rendezvous with TG 79.2 in Area Romeo; 79.3 has not yet formed. The Type 209 SAN LUIS should have crossed into the Maritime Exclusion Zone on passage to her patrol area north of East Falkland Island (Duty Cdr).

STUFF AND LOGISTICS

25. SAXONIA has been taken up as a solid support ship and is due to leave Portsmouth on 5 May with provisions, general stores and special naval stores for transfer to RESOURCE and STROMNESS (28071).
26. The TIMARU STAR is to be surveyed on 7 May and the requirement for a third ship is to be confirmed (NSAG 1800).
27. An AMTE representative is to test the BRAMBLELEAF's contaminated Dieso and tanks and advise on the necessary action required (28028).
28. The US tanker carrying airfuel to Ascension has turned back with an unserviceable boiler. Present stocks (1.95 million US gallons) will be adequate only to 10 May, but 5.8 million gallons may arrive on 8th in the SEALIFT CARIBBEAN (Duty Cdr, 28035, 280103).
29. NAV KINTERBURY is sailing from Portsmouth on 1 May for Gibraltar with armament stores to top up CARDIFF and provide modest replenishment of Gibraltar stocks if priority items; until her arrival (5 May) stocks if many armament stores will be very low and, in some cases, exhausted.

SECURITY

30. Non-standard Meteorological information is classified and should not be released to the press and other unauthorised recipients. (NSAG 1800).
31. AIG 1000 (CinCs, Flag Officers) have been reminded that maximum care should be exercised in telephone conversations referring to ships: when necessary, full use should be made of current Fleet telephone codes (28053).

MATERIAL

32. JATE is to undertake Hercules minelaying trials, establishing the maximum load and the minimum dropping interval, and is to report on crew training and requirements.
33. AUWE is developing a towed broad-band acoustic sweep to counter the Italian low-frequency sensor possibly fitted in Argentine mines: the gear in the 11 MCM trawlers does not cover these low frequencies. (28057).
34. A Lynx-fitted Exocet jammer is under trial and a request has been made for a trial against ANDROMEDA's forthcoming (8/9 May) Exocet firings. The equipment is the only locked-on Exocet jammer available and may be effective against airborne fire-control radars. (28069).

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

75 Britnavxt Montevideo describes Contra Almirante Otero (Naval Group Cdr, Falklands) as:

"A short rotundish man who I would describe as a typical Spanish Argentine - proud, narrow of vision and unimaginative is not an extrovert person and therefore unlikely to be a dynamic leader in the field. Unlikely to delegate decision and will therefore be surrounded by a bureaucratic organisation in which all decisions will have to be passed up to him."

C.R.K. Cameron

P.P.

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Head of
Naval Historical Branch

29 April 1982

Checked by Lt Cdr C.R.K. Cameron

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