

COS(Misc) 178/751

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GIBRALTAR - RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

1. The attached Note has been prepared by ACDS(Ops) in response to a signal (1) from the Commander-in-Chief Gibraltar.

2. Unless the Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee hears to the contrary by telephone (Ext 6347) by 1200 on Friday 30 April 1982, it will be assumed that the Chiefs of Staff have taken note of the Note, and approved the draft signal to the Commander-in-Chief Gibraltar and the draft submission to the Secretary of State annexed to the Note.

ENCL No.
36

Attachment:

Note by ACDS(Ops) (8 pages).

Note:

1. CINC GIBRALTAR IAE/IOE 241030Z APR 82.

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29 April 1982

COS S2(13)

cod.

GIBRALTAR - RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

1. It has been assessed (1) that there is some military threat to Gibraltar from Spain. There is the possibility, albeit very slight, that an attack on Gibraltar could be mounted from the Spanish amphibious exercise now taking place 35 miles West of the colony from 26 April until 4 May 1982 (2).

PRESENT SITUATION

2. In their directive(3) to the Commander-in-Chief Gibraltar, the Chiefs of Staff have said "you are responsible for the defence of Gibraltar and its territorial waters". Beyond this the Commander-in-Chief has no other ROE and it is presumed therefore that he is free to take whatever action he considers necessary with the forces with which he has been provided.

3. In the current circumstances, however, the Commander-in-Chief has seen fit to state (4) a series of contingency precautions which he intends taking and some proposals for ROE for the use of force.

4. The FCO have advised 2 minor changes to the wording of the Commander-in-Chief's paragraph 1 (4) to minimise the possibility of falsely alarming the Spanish.

5. It is not proposed to use ROE to instruct the Commander-in-Chief in any detail on how to meet his defence responsibility, only to put specific constraints on him where required. Constraints are considered necessary only in the matter of the initial use of force.

6. The ROE proposed by the Commander-in-Chief do not cover all eventualities. At the same time their specific nature leaves many unwanted inferences to be drawn from what is not said.

7. It is possible that the Commander-in-Chief may wish to issue further ROE to his forces. In this case, any maritime ROE should be taken from Fleet Operating and Tactical Instructions (FOTI) to ensure no confusion is caused by using ad hoc ROE alongside existing ones.

8. A signal has therefore been drafted, and is attached at Annex B, which will:

a. Make some minor amendments to the Commander-in-Chief's intentions(4)

b. Give the Commander-in-Chief broader but more comprehensive ROE.

- (1) JIC(82)(N)31 of 8 Apr 82
- (2) JIC(82)(WS)17 Draft PE III of 27 Apr 82.
- (3) COS 14/78
- (4) CINCGIBALTAR IAE/IOE 241030Z APR 82 (Annex A)

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(Concluded)

c. Instruct the Commander-in-Chief to use Fleet Operating and Tactical Instructions should he wish to issue further maritime ROE.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The draft signal has been agreed by appropriate single service and central staff 2-star officers and it is recommended that COS approve its despatch.
10. It is further recommended that CDS advise the Secretary of State of this action and a draft submission is attached.

Annex:

- A. CINCGIBRALTAR IAE/TOE 241030Z APR 82.
- B. Draft Signal to Commander-in-Chief Gibraltar.
- C. Draft submission to S of S.

SECRET
UK EYES A

ANNEX A TO
ATTACHMENT TO
COB(Plsc) 178/751

FROM: CINC GIBRALTAR

IMMEDIATE

TO: MODUK

SECRET - UK EYES A

SIC/IAE/IOE

SECURITY PREPAREDNESS AT GIBRALTAR

1. IN VIEW OF THE FORTHCOMING SPANISH AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE DUE TO TAKE PLACE 26 APRIL to 4 MAY AT SIERRA DE RETIN, I HAVE MADE THE FOLLOWING COVERT PREPARATIONS TO DEAL WITH ANY ATTEMPT, ADMITTEDLY EXTREMELY UNLIKELY, AT AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT ON GIBRALTAR.

A. ANY EASTWARD MOVEMENT OF FORCE OUT OF EX AREA:

1. SAIL GUARDSHIP
2. PREPARE FOR HEL PROBE WEST OF PT TARIFA
3. GUARDBOAT AT IMMEDIATE NOTICE AND ARMED

B. WHEN FORCE CONSIDERED A THREAT REACHES PT TARIFA:

1. ESTABLISH TATTLETAIL WITH HEL/GUARDSHIP
2. RECALL ALL PERSONNEL TO BARRACKS, AT 30 MIN NOTICE
3. FRONTIER COMPANY AND RAF PLATOON AT 15 MIN NOTICE
4. COVERTLY DEPLOY BLOWPIPE TROOP
5. ALL AIRCRAFT TO 15 MIN READINESS

C. WHEN FORCE ENTER GIBRALTAR WATERS:

1. GUARDSHIP CLOSE TATTLETAIL
2. ALL REGULAR ARMY UNITS DEPLOY TO PREPLANNED POSITIONS
3. ALL REMAINING PERSONNEL TO IMMEDIATE READINESS
4. ALL AIRCRAFT AT COCKPIT READINESS

SECRET

ANNEX A TO
ATTACHMENT TO
COS(Misc) 172/751
(Concluded)

2. PROPOSED RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

- A. SHIPS. NO ENGAGEMENT UNTIL ENEMY OPENS FIRE OR HAVE LANDED IN GIBRALTAR AND OPENED FIRE.
- B. ENEMY ON GIBRALTAR TERRITORY. ORDERS FOR OPENING FIRE AS CONTAINED IN BRITISH FORCES GIBRALTAR FORM k (ALMOST IDENTICAL TO NI YELLOW CARD).
- C. HELS. NO ENGAGEMENT UNTIL HELS HAVE LANDED AND OCCUPANTS CHALLENGED.

3. MY INTENTION IS THAT ANY PREPARATION SHOULD BE ENTIRELY COVERT AND NOT GIVE RISE TO ANY LOCAL SPECULATION. UP TO DATE ALL REINFORCEMENT AND PREPARATIONS HAVE GONE ENTIRELY UNNOTICED LOCALLY.

BT

SECRET

A-2 of 2 Pages

SECRET

UK EYES A

DRAFT

ANNEX B TO
ATTACHMENT TO
COB(Misc) 778/751

FROM: MODUK

IMMEDIATE

TO : CINC GIBRALTAR

SECRET - UK EYES A

SIC/IAE/IOE

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

REF CINC GIBRALTAR IAE/IOE 241030Z APR 82.

1. COVERT PREPARATIONS.

A. REF PARA 1A(3). ARMING OF GUARD BOAT SHOULD BE COVERT UNTIL CONTINGENCY AT PARA 1B AS AMENDED ARISES.

B. REF PARA 1B. CONTINGENCY SHOULD BE AMENDED TO QUOTE IF FORCE CONTINUES TO BE ASSESSED AS A THREAT AND PASSES PT TARIFA UNQUOTE.

2. ROE FOR USE IN CASE OF THREAT ARISING FROM AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE 26 APR TO 4 MAY ARE

A. BACKGROUND.

(1) AN ATTACK ON GIBRALTAR BY SPANISH FORCES PARTICIPATING

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UK EYES A

SECRET

IN THE CURRENT SPANISH AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE IS REGARDED AS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. AT THE SAME TIME THE SPANISH MAY BE SENSITIVE TO ANY OVERT MILITARY PRECAUTIONS ON THE PART OF THE UK.

B. BASIC POLICY.

(1) THE BASIC POLICY IS TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO USING MINIMUM FORCE.

(2) NO OVERT ACTION WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED BY THE SPANISH AS AGGRESSIVE IS TO BE TAKEN UNLESS THEY COMMIT A HOSTILE ACT OR SHOW UNMISTAKEABLE SIGNS OF INTENDING TO COMMIT A HOSTILE ACT. ABNORMAL ACTIVITY IS TO BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM.

C. ACTION IN CASE OF A HOSTILE ACT.

(1) IN THIS CONTEXT, A HOSTILE ACT IS TO BE CONSIDERED AS THE LANDING IN GIBRALTAR TERRITORY OF ANY UNAUTHORISED SPANISH MILITARY UNIT WITH HOSTILE INTENT OR THE FIRING UPON ANY BRITISH UNIT OR GIBRALTAR TERRITORY BY A SPANISH UNIT.

(2) ON THE COMMISSION OF A HOSTILE ACT OR ACTS THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF GIBRALTAR IS AUTHORISED TO ORDER THE USE OF MINIMUM FORCE TO STOP THE HOSTILE ACT OR ACTS AND TO NEUTRALISE THE THREAT.

3. SHOULD THE NEED ARISE TO ISSUE ANY SPECIFIC MARITIME ROE, THE SOURCE DOCUMENT FOT1 0204 SHOULD BE USED.

SECRET

UK EYES A

DRAFT

ANNEX C TO
ATTACHMENT TO
COB(Misc) 178/751

DRAFT MINUTE FROM CDS TO SECRETARY OF STATE

PROPOSED RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR GIBRALTAR

1. You will wish to be aware of a proposal from CINC Gibraltar for Rules of Engagement (ROEs) to be implemented in the extremely unlikely event of Spanish forces committing a hostile act against the Colony. Since the JIC assessment JIC(82)(N)31, the DIS has reported that a large scale amphibious exercise is being conducted at Sierra de Retin 35 miles from Gibraltar. The exercise, begun on 26 April and is to end on 4 May. It involves about 4000 marines and an assortment of naval landing vessels.
2. The CinC's proposals for a series of contingency precautions and for ROEs are at Annex A [CINC GB. IAE/IOE 241030ZAPR] I agree that the precautions in paragraph 1 are prudent and low key. Measures under sub-paragraphs B would only be taken if surveillance indicated that the force was likely to have a hostile intent. Measures such as the recall of troops to barracks are regularly exercised and would not of themselves excite undue interests.
3. I have advised [will be advising] CINC Gibraltar that his proposed Rules of Engagement should be framed as in Annex B. [As in amended Annex A to D Ops Staff 9/26/2 of 27 April 82].
4. I am satisfied that these proposals, as amended are adequate and appropriate to the security of Gibraltar.

C - 1 of 1

UK EYES A

SECRET