

FC 752

File 2  
30BRIEF FOR ACDS(OPS) - COS MEETING 2 MAY 82 AT 1015AGENDA ITEM 1 (INTELLIGENCE)

1. Please see INTSUMS 53 and 54 in DSC Folder.

AGENDA ITEM 2 (OWN FORCES)

2. TOTE as at 020600 Apr is at (1) including a new task organisation wef 011200Z May.

3. Air Attack on Falkland Islands. Initial reports of attack on Port Stanley airfield by one Vulcan indicate scar 250 m long, 70 m wide across centre of runway formed by 3 craters, one on runway and one either side. Follow up attack by 12 Sea Harriers using 1000 lb Retard and CB left airfield devastated. Attack by 3 Sea Harrier on Darwin Airfield (Goose Green) believed to be equally successful with damage to parked Pucarra aircraft. No UK casualties and aircraft returned safely.

4. Other Actions.

- a. 011937Z INVINCIBLE reported 2 Mirage engaged by CAP; one shot down. The second Mirage was shot down by Arg gunfire.

- b. 012053Z INVINCIBLE's CAP intercepted 3 Arg Canberras: ✓ one shot down, one returned home, one believed damaged ditched tanks and bombs.

- c. Ships have also been bombarding Arg positions on West Falkland.

- d. A copy of ACNS(0)'s Sitrep to 1SL is at (2).

5. Naval.

- a. Battle Group (TG 317.8). Has withdrawn to the NE of Port Stanley.

CHIEF OF REFERENCE STAFF

DATE 2/5/82

2038/5

- b. Amphibious Group (TG 317.0). LSL group with ANTELOPE (TU 317.0.4) continues South to a holding position 1500 nm SSW of Ascension; remainder at Ascension.
- c. ANTRIM and TIDESPING (317.9) sail for Ascension by 021200Z. PLYMOUTH is returning to South Georgia.
- d. ILLUSTRIOUS. Final decision by S of S on date to leave Swan Hunter expected today.
- e. Lift for 5 Bde. 2 vessels will be TUFT as follows:
  - (1) 2 May: BALTIC FERRY. ETA Portsmouth 3 May; fit out and sail to Southampton for loading - ETA 5 May.
  - (2) 3 May: NORDIC FERRY. ETA Portsmouth 4 May; fit out and sail to Southampton for loading - ETA 6 May.

6. Air.

a. Maritime Patrol Operations.

- (1) Two Nimrod Mk2 sorties were flown in support of the Vulcan aircraft operation and during one of these sorties the Soviet PRIMOREYE AGI was located 20 nm North of Ascension.
- (2) A Nimrod Mk 1 aircraft provided SAR cover for the Sea Harrier deployment and this aircraft will remain deployed at Freetown until 6 May to cover future Sea Harrier movements to Ascension.
- (3) Three Nimrod Mk 2 aircraft are deployed at Ascension and another remains on standby at Gibraltar. One SAR sortie and one surveillance sortie are planned for today.

- b. Support Operations. Eleven Victor aircraft were deployed in support of the Vulcan operation. Two Victor aircraft supported 6 Sea Harriers from Banjul to Ascension and a further 2 Victors supported 2 Sea Harriers from RNAS Yeovilton to Banjul. Two more Victors are deployed to support Nimrod and Hercules AAR trials.
7. Ascension Island - Communications. You may wish to inform COS of the situation regarding civil communications in and out of Ascension. A speaking note is at (3).

AGENDA ITEM 3 (PUBLIC RELATIONS)

8. Because of developments yesterday CTF 317.0 reports that embarked press were temporarily silenced to allow time to propose a more effective method of control. He proposes to adopt sliding scale of control as situation dictates.
- a. Stage one. No speculation and all conversations with editors monitored.
- b. Stage two. As practicable pool stories daily and individual features to MOD by signal for clearance and release. Radio and TV cleared on Marisat with MOD.
- c. Stage three. Press Silence. Stage one was invoked wef today.

CPR may not support this proposal on the grounds that provided reporters do not disclose 'operational' information they are acting within the rules.

9. A copy of the latest Press release is at (6).

AGENDA ITEM 4 (ACTIONS AND DECISIONS)

10. See Annex A to COS minutes at Tab D.
11. Item 0075. (Defence of Ascension). This is briefed at Agenda Item 5.

AGENDA ITEM 5 (DEFENCE OF ASCENSION ISLAND)

12. The signal giving CBFSU operational command for the defence of Ascension Island responsible to CINCFLEET has been sent. His other responsibilities to CDS remain.
13. Recce. You are aware that the 2 officers have been delayed and the COS minutes show that your report may be delayed. The interim signal required by 020400Z has/has not arrived. Your speaking note is at (7).

AGENDA ITEM 6 (MILITARY OPTIONS FOR REPOSSESSION OF THE FALKLANDS)

14. A COS paper (8) will be tabled. D(RoW)'s comments and line to take are at (9).

AGENDA ITEM 7 (UNFORESEEN MATTERS)

15. Following a request from MGRM for the Air Tp SAS, a paper (10) produced by D of D Ops on Special Forces Deployment, which has received 2-star clearance, will be tabled. A speaking note is at (11).
16. CNS and/or PUS may raise the confusion caused by a note (12) from the Foreign Secretary to the PM regarding action against the Argentine Carrier. The note refers to an area South of 41° South, whilst the Notification to the Argentine Government says Nóρθ of 41° South. You should also see CDS's note to S of S on the subject (13).

OTHER MATTERS

17. There is an OD(SA) at Chequers today beginning with lunch at 1230. All Chiefs of Staff are attending ETD MOD 1130.