

FC 871

CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

Memorandum

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PJO/COS

From: Maj I M Walden RM

To:

Date: 4 May

2038/1/1

DEFENCE OF ASI

I think COS has seen FLAG W.

FLAG X is VCAS' brief for COS today, covering a draft paper by ACOS(OPS) which we had not seen.

FLAG Y is the final version of ACOS(OPS) paper. Conclusion and Recommendations at TAB 3. FLAG Y will be presented to COS etc.

~~IM~~  
6 May

Behave

Flag W - CBFJU AT CENSION  
021800Z MAY  
Flag X - Note by ACOS(OPS)  
Flag Y - FC 839



SECRET

AGENDA ITEM 5

LOAD : ACDS (OPS)

ITEM : Defence of Ascension Island

BRIEF : The draft paper of the defence of Ascension Island is at Flag A.

It predicates that a sea attack or air attack by combat aircraft is unlikely but that an air landed coup de main action is a possibility. A report on the security requirements has been made and agreed by all senior commanders on Ascension Island.

It recommends:

An Airhead Defence Centre - RAF Regt Wing HQ  
 Maritime Surveillance - Daily Nimrod patrols.  
 A Guard Ship - Investigation of suspicious sea movement and some Air Defence.

Early Warning Radar - Type 17 is recommended but is of limited capability and earmarked for Gibraltar.

A Standby Harrier - from 3 Harriers to be based there.

5KPs - require a rapid reaction force of a 31 man RAF Regt Flight supplemented by CBFSU staff for guarding.

Points still under staff discussion are the provision of:

a. A type 259 radar to provide better radar coverage, possibly in conjunction with the short range sea coverage of the type 17. Neither radar has a height finding capability.

b. Given the present sea movements there will be a gap in the availability of an RN warship from 7 - 10 May 82; is extra Nimrod coverage an acceptable substitute?

AW updated version by ACDS (OPS) of the attached draft will be available before the meeting and is expected at approximately 1000 hours.

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