

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on TUESDAY 11 MAY 1982 at 11.15 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 Defence Staff

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

ALSO PRESENT

Mr Peter Blaker MP
Minister of State for the Armed Forces

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)

Group Captain C W C Heal,
Representing the Director Defence
Operational Movements Staff

Sir Frank Cooper,
Permanent Under Secretary

Mr R T Jackling,
Representing the Assistant Under
Secretary (Defence Staff)

Mr I S McDonald,
Deputy Chief of Public Relations

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

1-5. (1) OPERATION CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

- 101. (2) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF 5 INFANTRY BRIGADE
- 102. (2) BRITISH FORCES POST OFFICE NUMBERS
- 103. (2) GIBRALTAR - DEFENCE CAPABILITY

Notes:

- 1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.
- 2. Issued on 11 May 1982.

RESTRICTED

Part II to COS 48th Meeting/82

101. ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS OF 5 INFANTRY BRIGADE RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a note (1) prepared by the Army Department and agreed its recommendations. DMO has been informed and the submission (2) has been forwarded.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 208/742/1 dated 9 May 1982.
2. CDS 2038/1/1 dated 10 May 1982.

102. BRITISH FORCES POST OFFICE NUMBERS RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have taken note of a Secretary's minute (1). MA/VCDS(P&L) has been informed.

Note:

1. COS 1077/742/1 dated 9 May 1982.

103. GIBRALTAR - DEFENCE CAPABILITY RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a Note (1) prepared by ACDS(Pol) and a draft submission (1) subject to written amendment (2). ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

Notes:

1. Attachments to COS 1073/751 dated 6 May 1982.
2. CNS 7170/4 dated 7 May 1982.

PART II/1

COS RU1(40)

RESTRICTED

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 48TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
TUESDAY 11 MAY 1982 AT 11.15 am

OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 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).
3. In discussion the following points were made:
 - a. The Task Force Commander had alerted (2) the Task Groups about the possible threat to shipping in the area of both Ascension Island and South Georgia from the Argentine Guppy submarine, whose location was uncertain.
 - b. Argentine communications to and from the BAHIA PARAISO should be monitored; communications in code would be incompatible with her new status as a hospital ship. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office would bring to US Secretary of State Haig's attention any evidence that the ship might be abusing this status.
 - c. Further telephoned information from our Defence Attache in Paris indicated that, apart from the five air-launched EXOCET missiles delivered to Argentina, no further deliveries had been made direct to South American countries.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. REAR ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) summarised the operations and deployment of the Task Force. In subsequent discussion it was noted that Uruguay and Chile had sought clarification of the

Notes:

1. INTSUM NO 74 110600Z MAY 82
2. CTF 317 I9F/LAA 101928Z MAY 82.

12 mile limit we had imposed on Argentine combat aircraft and warships; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would consult the Defence Secretariat in preparing an answer.

5. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Air Force Department to prepare for their information a note setting out the present and proposed air to air refuelling capability of RAF aircraft involved in Operation CORPORATE, particularly C130 Hercules.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

6. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on Press coverage.

7. In discussion the following points were agreed:

a. They would wish to invite the Permanent Under Secretary to coordinate the arrangements for publicity to be given to the transfer of Argentine Prisoners of War at Ascension Island. In this context, it was noted that the legal restrictions on what we could say about the incident in which an Argentine Prisoner of War had been shot on South Georgia should be clarified later that day. It was also noted that it would be necessary to re-open press communications from Ascension Island at the time of the transfer.

b. The television picture relay link which had been set up at Ascension Island should be activated, but photography on the Island should not be permitted.

c. They would wish to invite the Permanent Under Secretary to coordinate action to correct the misleading impression of their views about Operation CORPORATE given on the BBC Panorama programme the previous evening.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

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

ITEM 5. MAINTENANCE OF A BRITISH GARRISON IN THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

9. The Committee had before them a paper (4) by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics), drawing together studies into the logistic problems which might be posed if we had to provide a garrison in the Falkland Islands after a successful military re-occupation.

Notes:

3. Annex A to COS 47th Meeting/82.

4. Attachment to COS(Misc) 185/742/1 dated 30 April 1982.

10. In discussion the following points were made:
- a. The studies had been conducted for a "worst case" situation. The actual requirement could not be determined until a landing had been made; the military, political and diplomatic situation had been clarified; and an assessment of the task had been made in the light of the situation at the time.
 - b. Although the restoration of Port Stanley airfield to full operational status would be of immediate importance, the availability of proper port facilities on the Island would be a prerequisite if a large quantity of stores and equipment was needed for the task.
 - c. The probable need to maintain a garrison in South Georgia at the same time should be taken into account.
 - d. The possible need to protect the long sea line of communication should also be taken into account.
11. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to agree that the studies had been a useful staff exercise to clarify the possible logistic requirement for a future garrison in the Falkland Islands, but it would be premature to implement any of the proposals at that stage. They would therefore wish to take note of the paper, but not agree its recommendations; to invite Central Staffs and the Service Departments to forward detailed comments on the studies to the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics); and to agree that the studies should be used as a basis for the development of contingency plans for a possible garrison.

Annex:

- A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand (1 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 (re-titled 40/82)	Military Options for Repossession of the Falkland Islands	ACDS(Pol)	DPS/DS 11	7/82 Item 4 12/82 Item 6 35/82 Item 4 40/82 Item 7 43/82 Item 5	To be updated for COS 13 May
0085	43/82 Item 6	Concept of Operations - Op SUTTON	CDS	CINCFLEET		
0086	43/82 Item 7	ROE Package	ACDS(Ops)	CDS		
0087	43/82 Item 8	Active Service arrangements for RFA/ MS personnel	ND	S of S		
0089	43/82 Item 11	Special Forces Plans	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		For COS 12 May
0090	48/82 Item 2	RAF Air to Air Refuelling Capability	AFD	AFD		For COS o/c