

IMMEDIATE

1941

A DISTRIBUTION  
 FINAL SPECIAL\*\*\*\*\*  
 EXCLUSIVE FOR  
 DR MR J A JOHNSON  
 CS DR R BENJAMIN  
 DP [REDACTED]  
 J M E HERMAN  
 K [REDACTED]  
 L [REDACTED]  
 P [REDACTED]  
 R [REDACTED]  
 S [REDACTED]  
 V [REDACTED]  
 Z [REDACTED]  
 D1 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

P 2575

O 241730Z MAY 82 ZYH

FM GCHQ LONDON

TO GCHQ

INFO SUKLO

[REDACTED] BOH

ZEM

T O P S E C R E T UMBRA UK EYES ALPHA SECTION ONE OF TWO

EXCLUSIVE FOR DR (JOHNSON):CS (BENJAMIN): DP [REDACTED]: J (HERMAN

):

K [REDACTED] - 2 COPIES: L [REDACTED]: P [REDACTED]: R [REDACTED]:

S [REDACTED] V [REDACTED]: Z [REDACTED]: D1 [REDACTED] FROM

DIRECTOR. HERewith JIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR 24 MAY 1982.

1. DGI AND DS INT WERE BOTH PRESENT : A FULL ATTENDANCE OF THE FIRST TEAM APART FROM MYSELF.

2. ITEM 1. THE COMMITTEE SPENT LITTLE TIME ON RECENT DAILY ASSESSMENTS AND FOUND NO FAULT WITH THEM. I MENTIONED THE MINOR CONFUSION OVER SAN PABLO/SAD PAULD BUT NO ONE WAS DISPOSED TO

COMPLAIN. THE CHAIRMAN REPORTED CABINET INTEREST IN THE POSSIBILITY

OF ISRAEL'S SUPPLYING ARMS TO ARGENTINA, AND AGAIN THANKED THE AGENCIES FOR THEIR GENERALLY GOOD PERFORMANCE ON ARMS PROCUREMENT AND THEIR HELPFULNESS ON ACTION. [REDACTED]

3. ITEM 2. ON MC161 AND 255, IT WAS CONCLUDED AFTER A FAIRLY LONG DISCUSSION THAT THE JIC SHOULD ADVISE THE CHIEFS OF STAFF THAT MC161 AS A WHOLE, AND THE CONCLUSIONS OF MC255 (BUT NOT ITS DETAILED ARGUMENT) WERE ACCEPTABLE TO THE UK, AND SHOULD PROVIDE A BRIEF COMMENTARY TO THE CHIEFS ON THE PAPERS' DEFICIENCIES (INCLUDING THE ALLEGATION OF THE USSR'S INSTRUMENTALITY IN POLAND). THIS COULD ALSO BE SUPPLIED TO UK MIL REP NATO FOR USE IF OPPORTUNITY OFFERED. THE SECRETARIAT AND ASSESSMENTS STAFF WOULD JOINTLY PRODUCE A DRAFT. THERE WAS DISCUSSION WHETHER NEXT YEAR

IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE A MORE DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE PAPERS BUT THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT SINCE ONCE DRAFTED NATO PAPERS COULD BE CHANGED ONLY WITH GREAT EFFORT, AND PERHAPS LOSS OF GOODWILL, THIS WAS HARDLY WORTHWHILE. INSTEAD THE MOD AND FCO REPRESENTATIONS AT THE NATO MEETINGS SHOULD REPORT RESPECTS IN WHICH THE PAPERS DIVERGED FROM JIC VIEWS, SO THAT ONCE AGAIN THE COMMITTEE COULD BRIEF THE CHIEFS AND MIL REP.

4. ITEM 3. THE COORDINATOR'S LETTER ABOUT THE INQUIRY INTO INTELLIGENCE ON THE FALKLANDS SITUATION WAS THE SUBJECT OF A RATHER WORRIED DISCUSSION. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE COORDINATOR FEELS THAT THE INTELLIGENCE MACHINE, AND PERHAPS ESPECIALLY THE JIC, WILL BE ON TRIAL IN A MORE LITERAL SENSE THAT I AT LEAST HAD IMAGINED. THE INQUIRY IS LIKELY TO CONSIST OF THREE PRIVY COUNSELLORS, PROBABLY A CONSERVATIVE FORMER MINISTER, A LABOUR COUNTERPART, AND A CHAIRMAN WHO MAY BE AN ACADEMIC OR A RETIRED OFFICIAL. THEY WILL HAVE PV CLEARANCE AND INDOCTRINATED STATUS. THE MINISTERIAL WISH IS FOR A REALLY DETAILED AND THOROUGH ENQUIRY, PERHAPS GOING BACK A NUMBER OF YEARS AND LEADING TO A REPORT

WHICH CAN BE PUBLISHED (THOUGH IT WILL PROBABLY NEED TO HAVE  
CLASSIFIED ANNEXES).



#0002

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ZZS - VOLUNTARY CORRECTION

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T O P S E C R E T UMBRA UK EYES ALPHA SECTION TWO OF TWO

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DIRECTOR. HERewith JIC HIGHLIGHTS FOR 24 MAY 1982.

[REDACTED]

6. ITEM 4. ON FUTURE MEETINGS, IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD MEET TO REVIEW THE FALKLANDS SITUATION ON THURSDAY 27 MAY: THE MEETING WILL BE AT 1100 AND WILL PROBABLY ALSO CONSIDER A NOTE ON [REDACTED], ON TUESDAY JUNE 1 THE MEETING WILL BE AT 1530 AND THE SUBJECTS THE FALKLANDS AND THE PAPER ON REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITIES 1982 - 1984, AND ON THURSDAY

JUNE 3 AT 1430 A NORMAL JIC.

7. UNDER OTHER BUSINESS, THE COORDINATOR RAISED THE SUNDAY TIMES (23 MAY) REVELATIONS: DGI AND I BOTH EXPRESSED OUR SERIOUS CONCERN. THE GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT THE LEAK HAD MORE PROBABLY OCCURRED IN WASHINGTON THAN IN LONDON. DGI SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THE COMMITTEE'S CONCERN TO ADMIRAL ASH AFTER THE MEETING.

8. DGI ALSO RAISED A LETTER FROM PUS MOD ON THE NEED FOR ASSESSMENT OF THE VIEW OF THE FALKLANDS SITUATION BEING TAKEN IN ARGENTINA BY ON THE ONE HAND THE POPULACE AND ON THE OTHER THE JUNTA. PUS FELT THAT ASSESSMENTS CONCENTRATED TOO MUCH ON THE DIPLOMATIC VIEW. THERE WAS A PREDICTABLE AND WELL-INFORMED DISCUSSION (IN WHICH I DID NOT NEED TO TAKE THE LEAD) OF THE DIFFICULTIES, BUT IT WAS AGREED THAT ASSESSMENTS COULD AT LEAST REFLECT THE LACK AT THIS STAGE OF HARD INFORMATION, NOT SURPRISING GIVEN THE JUNTAS POLICY OF KEEPING THE POPULACE IN IGNORANCE OF THE TRUE SITUATION, AND INDEED OF ITS OWN EVIDENTLY INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.

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