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COS 14TH MEETING/82

Copy No 17

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on SUNDAY 11 APRIL 1982 at 10.00 am

PRESENT

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin,
Chief of the Defence Staff

Admiral Sir Henry Leach,
Chief of the Naval Staff

Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Morony,
Representing the
Chief of the General Staff

Air Marshal Sir David Craig,
Representing the Chief of the Air Staff

ALSO PRESENT

Air Vice-Marshal M J Armitage,
Representing the
Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff
(Intelligence)

Brigadier D H A Swinburn,
Representing the
Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff
(Policy)

Rear-Admiral D W Brown,
Assistant Chief of the Defence
Staff (Operations)

Colonel D J Milton,
Representing the
Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff
(Signals)

Air Commodore A Beill,
Director Defence Operational
Movements Staff

Sir Frank Cooper,
Permanent Under Secretary

Mr I S McDonald,
Deputy Chief of Public Relations

Mr J M Stewart,
Assistant Under Secretary
(Defence Staff)

Mr P R H Wright,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRETARIAT

Brigadier J A C G Eyre
Captain J E S Raymond RN
Lieutenant Colonel W S Bale
Wing Commander A M Wills

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1-8.(1) Operation CORPORATE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

101.(2) DEFENCE OF GIBRALTAR

Notes:

1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.
2. Issued 11 April 1982.

101. GIBRALTARRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a draft paper (1) prepared by the Defence Policy Staff. ACDS(Pol) has been informed.

Note:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc)102/742/1 dated 9 April 1982.

PART II/1

COS RU1(40)

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COS 14TH MEETING/82

67
Copy No of 68 copies

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 14TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
SUNDAY 11 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 am

OPERATION CORPORATE

ITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN (Chief of the Defence Staff) invited the Director of Service Intelligence to update them on the current situation in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.
2. AIR VICE-MARSHAL ARMITAGE (representing the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) said that as far as the Soviet Union was concerned:
 - a. A JIC assessment on Soviet trade links with Argentina, which included a report that a Soviet Trade Delegation was about to conclude an agreement on oil exploration in Argentina, would be available on 13 April 1982.
 - b. On 8 and 9 April 1982, a Soviet ELINT satellite had tracked over Argentina and the Falkland Islands, and on the same day a photographic satellite had tracked over South Georgia and Ascension Island.
 - c. There was no known Soviet shipping at present within or near the Maritime Exclusion Zone, but that the plot would be updated later that day.
3. Continuing, AIR VICE-MARSHAL ARMITAGE reviewed Argentine force deployments:
 - a. At Sea. Few ships remained within the Maritime Exclusion Zone. One frigate was stationed just to the North of the Falklands, possibly to prevent unauthorised entry to Port Stanley; a naval auxiliary and a polar transport ship were both en route for Port Stanley, carrying 3 helicopters, and ammunition and spares for the frigate; and two further cargo ships were assumed to be still in Stanley harbour. All four submarines were now assumed to be in Argentine ports.

- b. Ashore. Troops ashore had been supplemented by the arrival of an artillery unit, but it appeared that some 60 - 100 members of the Commando force, which had originally taken the Falkland Islands, had been withdrawn. Occupying forces were now estimated at 5200. C130 aircraft were arriving at Port Stanley airfield at a rate of one every 2 hours, but although some heavy plant had arrived yesterday, there was so far no evidence that the airfield was being extended. It was assessed that using available plant and aluminium matting the runway could be extended by 2000 feet in about two weeks, although because of limited fuel, congestion and vulnerability it was unlikely that the airfield could at present realistically sustain more than 2 or 3 combat aircraft for air defence.
4. In discussion, the following points were made:
- a. It was possible that an Argentine oil tanker was in the vicinity of the Cape Verde Islands. Information on her cargo and destination would be valuable and should be available from her port of departure.
- b. The lack of parking and taxiing space, together with a shortage of fuel, were likely to limit Argentine ability to mount sustained Combat Air Patrols from Port Stanley, particularly in poor visibility or at night.
- c. There was a need for more positive information on the state of Argentine ships currently in their home ports. This could possibly become available through the Defence Attaches of those countries who had declared support for the United Kingdom.
5. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish to instruct the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to obtain details of the commercial tanker in the vicinity of Cape Verde, and to progress the possibility of obtaining more timely and accurate information on Argentine ships in home ports; and to invite the Air Force Department to continue with their study into the Argentine capability to mount Combat Air Patrol sorties over the Falkland Islands.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

6. There had been no change to the Force Tote Sitrep (1) already published.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

7. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reviewed the Editorials and Strategic Essays contained in the Sunday newspapers.
8. Continuing, MR McDONALD said that the Defence Briefing for the Press yesterday had gone well, and that he had now prepared three skeleton releases for use if an engagement took place. Finally, he reported that it should now be possible to beam television pictures, albeit black and white and possibly of poor quality, from on board HERMES.
9. In discussion, it was agreed that:
 - a. Defence Correspondents would not be permitted to go ashore at Ascension Island.
 - b. The Deputy Chief of Public Relations was authorised to inform the Press that most Argentine ships were at present in their home ports, and also to announce the requisition of SS UGANDA.
 - c. The Deputy Chief of Public Relations was to discount as propaganda the film shown on television and supposedly showing Argentine patrol craft off the Falkland Islands. Such patrol craft were unsuitable for operations so far from the mainland.
10. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish to invite the Deputy Chief of Public Relations to circulate for their consideration the three skeleton releases for use following an engagement, and to invite the Navy Department to inform the Task Force Commander that no Press representatives were to land from the Task Force at Ascension Island.

ITEM 4. DECISIONS REQUIRED

11. A revised forecast of decisions required is attached at Annex A.

Note:

1. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 17).

ITEM 5. OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE TO CINCPLEET

12. The Committee agreed a revised draft operational directive (2) to CINCPLEET.

Note by the Secretary

Directive issued as MODUK I9F 111200Z April 1982.

ITEM 6. NUCLEAR MATTERS

13. Following discussion of the draft paper (3) on nuclear matters, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish to instruct the Assistant Under Secretary (Defence Staff) to bring forward to their Secretary a revised draft to be tabled at their meeting later that day.

ITEM 7. BATTLE CASUALTIES

14. After a short discussion SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that they would wish to invite the Vice Chief of Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics) to carry out the work on battle casualties once the Navy Department had provided the necessary details.

ITEM 8. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

15. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said that he would reserve to himself authority to release the signal changing the Rules of Engagement for SSNs which was currently planned to be released at 1600 GMT 11 April 1982.

Annex:

- A. OPERATION CORPORATE - Forecast of Decisions or Actions Required.

Notes:

2. COS S13(4).
3. OD(SA)(82)(Draft) dated 11 April 1982.

OPERATION CORPORATE - FORECAST OF DECISIONS OR ACTIONS REQUIRED

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0009	4/82 Item 3 para 11	Availability of Chilean airfields	AFD	Ministers		FCO are investigating
0015	5/82 Item 1 para 7	Sale of Hunter aircraft to Chile	AFD	FCO		FCO have despatched signal
0022	5/82 Item 7	Delay Belize Withdrawal by 3 months	AD	Ministers		Submission forwarded 9 Apr 82
0023	6/82 Item 1	Op CORPORATE - Military Appreciation	COS	DS 11	7/82 Item 5 12/82 Item 6	To be revised
0028	7/82 Item 1	Use of Brazilian ports	ND	Ministers		FCO investigating
0031	8/82 Item 1	Argentine long term force level	COS	DCDS(I)		
0032	8/82 Item 1	Publicity for bunkering facilities	FCO	FCO Ministers		
0033	8/82 Item 5	Amphibious Operations	ACDS(Pol)	ACDS(Pol) (verbal update)	11/82 Item 1	For COS 13 Apr 82

ANNEX A TO
 PART I TO COS 14TH MEETING/82
 11 APRIL 1982
 (Concluded)

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0034	10/82 Item 1	Nuclear matters	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)	12/82 Item 8 14/82 Item 6	For COS 11 Apr 82
0035	11/82 Item 1	Op PARAQUET	ACDS(Ops)	CINCFLEET	12/82 Item 4	For COS 13 Apr 82 (Paper will be available pm)
0037	12/82 Item 5	Argentine Appreciation	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		For COS 13 Apr 82
0038	14/82 Item 1	Details of Argentine tanker	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		
0039	14/82 Item 1	Confirmation of Argentine Naval dispositions	DCDS(I)	DCDS(I)		
0040	14/82 Item 1	Argentine CAP capability over Falklands	AFD	AFD		
0041	14/82 Item 3	Skeleton press releases for use if engagement occurs	DCPR	COS/Ministers		
0042	14/82 Item 3	No press to land at Ascension	DCPR	ND		To inform TF Commander
0043	14/82 Item	Battle Casualties	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		