

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Room 5301, Ministry
of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall,
on SUNDAY 18 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

The Rt Hon John Nott MP
Secretary of State for Defence

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

Air Commodore R C Allen,
Representing the 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)

Colonel M M S Finnis,
Representing the Assistant Chief
of the Defence Staff
(Personnel and Logistics)

Group Captain A E Hotchkiss,
Representing the 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 D H Gillmore,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

SECRETARIAT

Lieutenant Colonel J B R Peacock
Commander M Bickley RN

COS 23rd Meeting/82
18 April 1982

C O N T E N T S

PART I - ITEMS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

- 1-7. (1) OPERATION CORPORATE
- 8. (1) CHILE

PART II - ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

NIL

Notes:

- 1. Recorded as a Confidential Annex.

COS 23RD MEETING/82

Copy No 72 of 76 copiesMINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEECONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 23RD MEETING/82 HELD ON
SUNDAY 18 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 amOPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN invited the Director of Service Intelligence to update them on current intelligence.
2. AIR VICE-MARSHAL ARMITAGE (representing the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) reviewed the intelligence situation, as outlined (1) in the latest signalled summary.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. There had been no changes to the Force Tote Sitrep (2) already published.
4. In discussion the following points were made:
 - a. The Operation PARAQUET task unit had been delayed by heavy weather and was unlikely to arrive off South Georgia before 23 April 1982.
 - b. The Chief of the Naval Staff would give the Secretary of State an estimate of when the Argentine aircraft carrier group could reach South Georgia waters if that was their intention.
 - c. MV NORLAND could not operate with military loading equipment. Steps were in hand to requisition another ship for 2 PARA Group heavy equipment.
5. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), in conjunction with the Navy and Army Departments, to arrange for the despatch of 2 PARA Group as soon as suitable shipping became available.

Notes:

1. INTSUM No 28 180600Z April 1982.
2. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 24).

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

6. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reviewed the major articles in the Sunday newspapers.
7. In discussion the following points were made:
 - a. The remaining Royal Marines from the Falkland Islands and South Georgia were due to arrive in the UK on 20 April. In answer to press queries it should be said that all Royal Marines from the Falkland Islands and South Georgia had now been recovered.
 - b. There had already been some adverse publicity for the new rates of Local Overseas Allowance (LOA).
8. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said the handling of the LOA issue would need careful attention. They would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics) to ascertain the facts and agree a suitable defensive line with the Defence Public Relations Staff.

ITEM 4. DECISIONS REQUIRED

9. The Committee reviewed the forecast of decisions (3) A revised statement of outstanding work which they had commissioned is at Annex A.

ITEM 5. MAJOR DECISION POINTS

10. The Committee discussed a Note (4) prepared by the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), setting out forecast decision points. Decisions affecting submarines or Special Forces had been omitted in the interests of security.
11. In discussion the following points were made:
 - a. Rules of Engagement for Operation PARAQUET forces would need to be tabled for their consideration at their meeting the following day, prior to discussion by OD(SA) on Tuesday 20 April 1982.

Notes:

3. Annex A to COS 22nd Meeting/82.
4. COS(Misc) 131/742/1 dated 18 April 1982.

b. Although no planning should yet be started, OD(SA) might wish to consider alternatives to an assault on South Georgia, if diplomatic reasons made that course of action inadvisable. Possibilities might include a landing at Leith rather than Grytviken, a landing on a remote part of the island to re-establish a British presence, or relying on the remaining 15 British Antarctic Survey personnel on the island as evidence of our continuing presence.

c. A diagram showing major decision points would be a useful aid in their deliberations. It would need revision daily.

12. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Navy Department to prepare draft Rules of Engagement for Operation PARAQUET forces for their consideration the next day. They would also wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to produce daily a chart identifying forecast decision points, and to examine alternative methods of presenting this information.

ITEM 6. PRISONERS OF WAR

13. The Committee discussed briefly a draft paper (5) prepared by the Defence Secretariat. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to agree that Argentine prisoners would have to be removed from the islands and should be returned to Argentina, probably through Montevideo. He had already instructed (6) the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics) to coordinate further action.

ITEM 7. BATTLE CASUALTY REPLACEMENTS

14. SIR HENRY LEACH informed the Committee that the Royal Marines had already earmarked 500 men from their training organisation as battle casualty replacements. He believed that similar action should be taken by all three Service Departments. He considered that it would not be necessary to reduce notice to move for these individual replacements until the main Task Force had sailed from Ascension Island.

Notes:

5. D/DS11/10/6 dated 17 April 1982.
6. CDS 2038/1/2 dated 18 April 1982.

15. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Navy, Army and Air Force Departments to prepare battle casualty replacement plans; and to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics) to coordinate this action.

ITEM 8. CHILE

16. The Committee considered a draft submission (7) to the Secretary of State. They agreed that the recommended action should be set in hand now.

17. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to agree that he should forward the submission to the Secretary of State, together with a draft minute for the Secretary of State to send to his Ministerial colleagues informing them of his decision. They would also wish to agree that all further action should be coordinated by the Air Force Department in conjunction with the Defence Secretariat; such action should include the preparation of, and clearance with the FCO, a suitable line to take with the Press and in Parliament.

Note by the Secretary

The submission has been forwarded (8).

Annex:

- A. Operation CORPORATE - State of COS Remits not yet Completed (1 page).

Notes:

7. COS(Misc) 130/742/1 dated 17 April 1982.
8. CDS 2038/1 dated 18 April 1982.

OPERATION CORPORATE - STATE OF COS REMITS NOT YET COMPLETED

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
0023	6/82 Item 1	Op CORPORATE - Military Appreciation	COS	DS 11	7/82 Item 5 12/82 Item 6	To be revised -
0055	20/82 Item 2	OP SUTTON - Effects of delay	ACDS(Pol)	COS	22/82 Item 5	For COS 19 Apr 82
0056	20/82 Item 3	OP SUTTON - Plan	ACDS(Ops)	CINCFLEET		To MOD 19 Apr 82 for COS 20 Apr 82
0059	23/82 Item 6	Prisoners of War	ACDS(P&L)	ACDS(P&L)		
0060	23/82 Item 5	ROE Op PARAQUET	ND	ND		For COS 19 Apr 82
0061	23/82 Item 7	Battle Casualty Replacements	ACDS(P&L)	ACDS(P&L)		

One page only