

WLE 7

(THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT)

COS 26TH MEETING/82

Copy No 65 of 76 copies

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 26TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 am

pa
du 14
ALA 05011

RECEIVED IN REGISTRY	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
INDEX	Action Factors

OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (Representing the Chief of the Defence Staff) 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 outlined in the latest signalled summary (1), and summarised a report (2) on the Soviet attitude to the Falkland crisis. He said he would discuss with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office a report that certain West German firms had offered to sell the Argentines torpedoes and machinery for ammunition loading, and he would issue that morning an assessment on the Argentine military and civilian presence in the South Sandwich Islands.
3. In discussion it was agreed that the Deputy Chief of Public Relations should discuss with the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) how best to release to the Press our own intelligence disproving Argentine's propaganda claims that a merchant ship had successfully passed through the Exclusion Zone to reach the Falkland Islands.

Note by the Secretary

The Assessment on the South Sandwich Islands had been issued (3).

Notes:

1. INTSUM No. 34 210600Z April 1982.
2. Secret Report dated 201440Z April 1982.
3. DCDS(I) 26 dated 21 April 1982.

Page 1 of 4 pages

Part I to COS 26th Meeting/82
21 April 1982

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. The situation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (4). In discussion it was noted that the Navy Department were seeking assurances from Brazil that she had no submarines operating in the area through which the HERMES group would pass. It was also agreed that no publicity would be given to the VULCAN reconnaissance flight of 20 April.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reviewed the major articles in the daily newspapers. In discussion it was agreed that:

a. There was no reason to conceal from the media that the Task Force had the capability to use Stingray or that the RAF Harriers were being modified to enable them to use Sidewinder.

b. "Local boy" stories could be used provided policy issues were not discussed.

ITEM 4. SECURITY

6. The Committee agreed that there was a continuing requirement to remind staff to maintain the strictest security both in conversation and on paper. The circulation of sensitive papers needed to be severely restricted and, where possible, the use of specific dates should be avoided.

ITEM 5. ACTION AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

7. The Committee noted the summary of action in hand (5); a revised summary is at Annex A. After a short discussion the following points were agreed:

a. The Operation CORPORATE - Prisoner of War paper (6) would be cleared out of Committee that afternoon.

Notes:

4. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 27).
5. Annex A to COS 25th Meeting/82.
6. Attachment to COS 1053/742/1 dated 20 April.

b. The BAS ship BRANSFIELD was the most suitable ship to take Argentine PWs off South Georgia. It would have to be requisitioned as a last resort if the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were unable to come to an agreement with the BAS.

8. In discussion the following points were made:

a. The section of the Flow Chart (7) on the Carrier Battle Group was incorrect. There was no requirement either to decide the Mission or to issue a Directive. In addition the Amphibious Group line needed to be adjusted to show both the earliest and latest dates for the group to leave Ascension Island. There was a need to include Special Force operations; deployment of VULCANS; offensive air action against the airfield at Port Stanley; and the setting up of the Air Exclusion Zone. There was no longer a need to show the PARAQUET Group.

b. The Navy Department would circulate a paper on the Rules of Engagement for the Carrier Battle Group within the Maritime Exclusion Zone later that day.

c. The Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics) had circulated a paper (8) on tentage and water in Ascension Island.

9. Summing up SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to amend the Flow Chart in accordance with their wishes.

Annex:

A. Operation CORPORATE - Action in Hand.

Notes:

7. D Ops 7/10/2 dated 19 April 1982.

8. VCDS(P&L)/127/3/3 dated 20 April 1982.

OPERATION CORPORATE - ACTIONS IN HAND

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 -
0059	23/82 Item 6	Prisoners of War	ACDS(P&L)	ACDS(P&L)		For clearance O/C by 21 Apr
0061	23/82 Item 7	Battle Casualty Replacements	ACDS(P&L)	ACDS(P&L)		
0064	25/82 Item 5	Assessment of Vulcan Capability	AFD	AFD		For COS 23 Apr 82