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COS 28TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO
COS 28TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
FRIDAY 23RD APRIL 1982 AT 9.30 am

OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

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 published in the latest summary (1). He said he would circulate later that day a report on the debriefing of the civilian refugees from the Falkland Islands who had arrived in the UK on 22 April. He would also circulate the report on the air defences of Port Stanley airfield, which he had undertaken to do at their last meeting but which he had delayed to incorporate further intelligence gained from the refugees.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. The situation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).
4. There was a brief discussion on the merits of the advance task unit returning to join the Carrier Battle Group to facilitate integration with that Group before it came within range of Argentine aircraft. The military advantages of doing this would have to be weighed against the political risks and the presentational problems should a reverse of direction become public. If such a course of action were to be proposed, Ministerial approval would be needed.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage. In subsequent discussion the point was made that it would be helpful if one or two

Notes:

1. INTSUM No 38, 230600Z April 1982.
2. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 29).

authoritative newspapers could be encouraged to include within their coverage an article highlighting the need for discretion and responsibility in the reporting of an operation in which men's lives could be at risk.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

6. The Committee noted the summary of action in hand (3); a revised summary is at Annex A. It was noted that the Air Force Department's assessment of the capability of the Vulcan force would be tabled for their consideration at a later meeting.

7. The Committee also noted the latest forecast (4) of decisions required.

ITEM 5. ASCENSION ISLAND

8. The Committee were informed that the difficulties (5) at Ascension Island arose from practical problems over the handling capacity of Wideawake airfield; the US Government had raised no objections. They invited the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff (Personnel and Logistics) to investigate what assistance could be offered to the US authorities on the island to improve matters, and to keep the situation under review.

Annex:

A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand (1 page).

Notes:

3. Annex A to COS 27th Meeting/82.
4. D Ops 7/10/2, 222100Z April 1982.
5. CINCFLEET AAA/I9F/KAA/LAA/A2Z 221808Z April 1982.

OPERATION CORPORATE -- ACTIONS IN HAND

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
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 29th Mtg/82
0065	-	Maintenance of a British Garrison in the Falkland Islands	VCDS(P&L)	ACDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)127/3/3 dated 19 Apr 82	By 26 Apr