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COS 31ST MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO  
COS 31ST MEETING/82 HELD ON  
MONDAY 26 APRIL 1982 AT 10.00 am

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
26/4

OPERATION CORPORATE

ITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN 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). In subsequent discussion the following points were made:
  - a. A copy of the recent film featuring Port Stanley airfield shown on BBC television should be obtained for analysis.
  - b. The Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) was compiling a report on the exodus of the civilian population from Port Stanley; he hoped to circulate it later that day.
  - c. The Navy Department were preparing a draft submission to the Secretary of State seeking the classification as naval auxiliaries of Argentine fishing vessels engaging in surveillance of the Task Force.
  - d. It would be inopportune before the Total Exclusion Zone was declared to expand the existing Rules of Engagement to include the Argentine LST in Port Stanley harbour.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

3. The situation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).
4. SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM informed the Committee that he was now hopeful that a solution would be found later that

Note:

1. INTSUM No 44, 260600Z April 1982.
2. Force Tote Sitrep (Issue 32).

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day to the problems which had beset Vulcan air-to-air refuelling. He would report the results to them the next day.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage. In discussion the following points were agreed:

- a. News of the success of Operation PARAQUET had been received just in time to meet press deadlines. The Task Force Commander should be reminded of the need for timely information, taking account of press and other deadlines.
- b. Details of the ships or individuals involved in Operation PARAQUET should not be publicly released, both to avoid setting a precedent which could prove embarrassing in future operations, and to preserve the security of our order of battle.
- c. The Navy Department should be invited to obtain from the Task Force the facts and any photographs of Operation PARAQUET with a view to a feature article being prepared by the Defence Public Relations Staff for later release.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

6. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (3), and the forecast of decisions required (4).

ITEM 5. OPERATION PARAQUET

7. The Secretary of State said he would wish to offer his congratulations on the success of Operation PARAQUET.

8. The Committee discussed matters arising from the operation, the principal points being:

- a. The Argentines who had been captured on South Georgia should be described as prisoners, not prisoners of war.
- b. They would wish the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to obtain by 1300 that day the Task Force Commander's recommendations concerning

Note:

3. Annex A to COS 30th Meeting/82.
4. D Ops 7/10/2 252100Z Apr 82.

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arrangements for the prisoners, prior to the proposed statement in Parliament that afternoon.

c. For security reasons, they would wish the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) personnel still in South Georgia to be evacuated, or at the least to be concentrated at Grytviken or Leith. They would wish to invite the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to obtain the views of the BAS.

d. They would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to obtain the Task Force Commander's recommendations concerning the garrison to be left on South Georgia, to include ships to remain on station.

e. They could not at present recommend the release of either HMS ENDURANCE or enough Royal Marines to retake Southern Thule in the South Sandwich Islands. Weather would prohibit such an operation after the end of May.

f. They would wish the Chief of the Defence Staff to send a congratulatory signal to the PARAQUET Force Commander on their behalf.

ITEM 6. UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE

9. The Committee had before them a paper (5) setting out areas in which we might seek increased US military assistance in support of OPERATION CORPORATE. In discussion they agreed that this was a highly sensitive issue in which care should be taken to avoid embarrassment to either the United States authorities or ourselves, and not to jeopardize existing bilateral arrangements. They agreed that the paper did not adequately reflect this, and they instructed that it be withdrawn.

10. Summing up SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he would give further instructions to the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy).

Annex:

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

Note:

5. COS(Misc) 161/742/1 dated 25 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)	MOD(UK) I9F 242205Z Apr 82	For comment by CTF.
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
0066	-	Long Term Measures to Sustain Op CORPORATE	CDS	DCDS(OR)	CDS 2038/1/1 dated 22 Apr 82 D/DORS/58/1 dated 23 Apr 82	
0067	-	Op SUTTON - Prisoners	CDS	ACDS(P&L)	CDS 2038/1 dated 25 Apr 82	
0068	31/82 Item 5b	Op PARAQUET - Prisoners	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		
0069	31/82 Item 5c	BAS personnel on South Georgia	ACDS(Ops)	FCO		
0070	31/82 Item 5d	South Georgia Garrison	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		
0071	31/82 Item 6	US Assistance	CDS	ACDS(Pol)		