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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

PA.

PART II MINUTE No 101 - 102

For attachment to the MINUTES of the
9th Meeting/82 of the Chiefs of Staff Committee:

ITEMS DEALT WITH PRIOR TO THE MEETING

ARGOSOM	
RECEIVED	
<u>15 APR 1982</u>	
DATE	
INDEXED	

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
SW1A 2HB

8 April 1982

COS RU1(10)

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Part II to COS 9th Meeting/82101. EXERCISE DISTANT DRUM 82RESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a draft signal (1) to CING SOUTH. ACDS(Ops) has been informed and the signal (2) has been sent.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc)82/742/1 dated 4 April 1982.
2. A2A/BEA 050811Z Apr.

102. OPERATION CORPORATE - RULES OF ENGAGEMENTRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have agreed a note (1) prepared by the Navy Department. Staff of CDS and the Navy Department have been informed.

Note:

1. Annex A to attachment to COS(Misc) 91/742/1 dated 7 April 1982.

COS 9TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 9TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
THURSDAY 8 APRIL 1982 AT 9.30 amOPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE MATTERS

1. SIR TERENCE LEWIN invited the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to update them on the current situation in the Falkland Islands and South Georgia.
2. In a general resume of the situation in South America, LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) made the following points:
 - a. Both the Peruvian President of the Senate and the Minister of War had declared Peruvian military support for Argentina. He would circulate details of the Peruvian Armed Forces, although he assessed that Peru was unlikely to become involved militarily.
 - b. Full details of the Chilean President's meeting with his Commanders-in-Chief last night were not yet available, but initial reports were disappointing.
 - c. US assessments indicated that the Argentine Government might consider making concessions to allow international observers in the Falkland Islands, and possibly also reduce or withdraw their forces as long as their sovereignty was recognised. They were unlikely to make any concession to British sovereignty or administration of the Islands.
 - d. Argentina had announced a 200 mile operational zone both around her mainland and around the Falkland Islands and the Dependencies.
3. Continuing, LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER gave his assessment of the options available to Argentina in the face of the Exclusion Zone imposed by the United Kingdom. These were:
 - a. To abandon the sea lines of communication to the islands and rely on resupply by air.

- b. To abandon the naval element of her sea lines of communication.
- c. To maintain the sea lines of communication despite the Exclusion Zone.
- d. To form her own task force to seek out and destroy our SSNs.

4. Concluding, LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER said that there had been no significant redeployments; most of the Argentine naval ships were either in or approaching mainland harbours and many ships, particularly the aircraft carrier, had serviceability problems. Furthermore, it was now known that the German built T209 submarines were not supplied with anti-submarine torpedoes from West Germany; unless these had been obtained from another source, the Argentine submarines had no capability against our SSNs. Also, he had little confidence in the capability of the Argentine Neptunes or carrier-based aircraft to detect SSNs. He assessed that the Argentines would believe that at least one SSN was already on station, and that they would realise the capability of our Task Force. They would also be worried about the possibility of attack by Chile, which could lead them to hold back, but on the other hand Argentine national pride could demand some visible action. He assessed that on balance the Argentines would feel compelled to put a substantial naval force to sea, but would keep it out of the Exclusion Zone on the pretext of defending their own mainland. Resupply of the islands could probably continue by merchant ship and by air, although it was now known that the arrival of engineer plant to extend the airfield at Port Stanley had been delayed.

ITEM 2. DEFENCE AND OVERSEAS POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE ON SOUTH AMERICA (OD(SA)) DEBRIEF

5. SIR TERENCE LEWIN briefed the Committee that the OD(SA), at their meeting at 1900 on 7 April 1982, had approved the announcement that evening of the establishment of an Exclusion Zone of 200 miles radius to be centred on the Falkland Islands. Continuing, he said that Rules of Engagement for SSNs would be put before OD(SA) at their meeting at 1100 today, 8 April 1982.

ITEM 3. WHITEHALL PROCEDURES

6. Mr JOHN NOTT (Secretary of State for Defence) outlined the following points:

- a. Whilst it was important that other Government Departments were kept informed of military thinking where appropriate, it was important that the

military decision making process was not hampered by a procedure whereby strictly military decisions had to be cleared with the FCO in advance.

b. While diplomatic efforts to secure a peaceful solution continued, it was important that the Ministry of Defence maintained a clear and determined line, separate from the diplomatic discussion.

c. There was a need to establish a clear deception plan. The Minister of State (Armed Forces) would take responsibility for overseeing this part of the Operation.

d. The Secretary of State would remain at 2 hours notice over the forthcoming Easter weekend, and the Minister of State (Armed Forces) would be regarded as his deputy with full authority to act on his behalf.

ITEM 4. OWN FORCES

7. Expanding on the Force Tote Sitrep (1), REAR ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) said that there were now 112 Operation CORPORATE personnel on Ascension Island. SS CANBERRA and MV ELK would now sail on 9 April 1982, and trials of replenishment at sea would be carried out after they had sailed.

ITEM 5. PUBLIC RELATIONS

8. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) said that the main themes in today's press had been Mr Haig's visits to London and Buenos Aires, Mr Pym's speech in the Commons yesterday and the establishment of the Exclusion Zone. Continuing, he reported that yesterday's meeting with newspaper editors had gone well and that, starting on 9 April 1982, he himself would be giving daily briefings to maintain a point of contact with the press. Finally, he reported that accommodation space had been found aboard the Task Force for an extra television camera crew; the crew would probably join the Force today. Both the BBC and ITV had made arrangements for their film to be distributed throughout the world, and it could be expected that reports from the press aboard the Task Force would receive wide dissemination.

Secretary's Note:

SIR TERENCE LEWIN left the meeting after Item 5.

Note:

1. COS S12(1) Force Tote Sitrep as at 080600A (Issue 13).

ITEM 6. MILITARY APPRECIATION

11. After a short discussion on two options for attack on the Falkland Islands, SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM (representing the Chief of Defence Staff) said that they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to bring forward a short paper for their Secretary to table for their meeting later that day.

ITEM 7. GIBRALTAR

12. After a short discussion on the Defence of Gibraltar, SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said that they would wish to discuss the problem further and instructed the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Policy), in conjunction with the Assistant Under Secretary (Defence Staff), to report on the matter at their meeting to be held later that day.

Note:

2. COS 8th Meeting/82.