

COS 63RD MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX  
TO  
COS 63RD MEETING/82 HELD ON  
SUNDAY 30 MAY 1982 AT 11.00 am

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RECEIVED IN REGISTRY		
DESK OFFICER		REGISTRY
INDEX	PA	Action Taken

OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 1. INTELLIGENCE

- SIR TERENCE LEWIN invited the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence) to update them on current intelligence.
- LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER (Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Intelligence)) reviewed the intelligence published in the latest summary (1), and assessed Argentine dispositions and intentions.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

- REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) outlined the deployment and planned operations of the Task Force.
- SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to place on record their appreciation of the performance of our forces in the action which had resulted in the repossession of the settlements at Darwin, and Goose Green and its airstrip the previous day. In particular they would wish to acknowledge the part played in the action by the 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. After fierce fighting, during which the Battalion's Commanding Officer had unfortunately been killed, our forces had overcome more than twice their own number of well dug in Argentine troops and taken a very large number of prisoners of war.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

- MR TAYLOR (Chief of Public Relations) reported on Press coverage.

## Note:

- INTSUM No 112, 300600Z May 1982.

6. In discussion the following points were made:
    - a. It had been reported that extreme dissatisfaction had been expressed by members of the Task Force at Press reports which had revealed both the intention and likely timing of operations at the Darwin, Goose Green, Teal Inlet and Douglas settlements.
    - b. Official Argentine statements were preparing their public for losses in the Falkland Islands by portraying Argentina as a weak country being confronted by overwhelming forces backed by a major power. These statements needed to be countered to show that direct US help was small and that it was our forces who were at a disadvantage, forced to conduct operations 8,000 miles from the UK and opposed by a shore-based air force superior in numbers to our embarked aircraft.
  7. In discussion the following points were agreed:
    - a. A military officer on the Task Force Commander's staff should brief press, radio and television correspondents later that day on the actions at Darwin and Goose Green.
    - b. Information regarding any casualties amongst Falkland Islanders should be forwarded to the Falkland Islands Office in London as and when it became available.
  8. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to ensure that the News Department and posts abroad were fully briefed on all aspects of operations at Darwin and Goose Green and the degree of direct US support for the Task Force.
- ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED
9. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (2).
- ITEM 5. ARGENTINE PRISONERS OF WAR
10. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would have seen a draft paper (3) on the handling of Argentine prisoners of war which was to be considered by OD(SA) senior officials on Tuesday 1 June.

## Notes:

2. Annex A to COS 62nd Meeting/82.
3. Attachment to DUS(P) 343/82 dated 28 May 1982.

11. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to forward their comments on the draft paper to the Defence Secretariat.

ITEM 6. LONG TERM MEASURES

12. SIR HENRY LEACH said that a minute (4) by the Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Operational Requirements), on the long term aspects of the Operation, proposed an extension of the normal planning assumption timescale by 3 months to 31 December 1982, and he considered that this should be agreed.

13. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to consider this at a later date.

Annex:

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

Note:

4. D/DORS/58/1 dated 27 May 1982.

OPERATION CORPORATE - ACTIONS IN HAND

ITEM	ARISING FROM COS MEETING	DECISION OR ACTION REQUIRED	SPONSOR	ACTION/ DECISION BY	CONTINUED	CURRENT STATE
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0023	6/82 Item 1 (re-titled 40/82)	Military Options for Repossession of the Falkland Islands	ACDS(Pol)	DPS/DS 11	7/82 Item 4 12/82 Item 6 35/82 Item 4 40/82 Item 7 43/82 Item 5 50/82 Item 5 54/82 Item 5 62/82 Item 5	For COS O/C
0091	54/82 Item 5	Contingency Studies	ACDS(Pol)	ACDS(Pol)	62/82 Item 5	For COS O/C
0092	59/82 Item 6	Future Garrison Studies	CDS	ACDS(Pol)		
0093	61/82 Item 6	Rules of Engagement	ACDS(Ops)	OD(SA)	OD(SA) 28 May	
0094	62/82 Item 6	Replacement for ships lost in Operation CORPORATE	ND	S of S		For COS I/C 3 June
0095	63/82 Item 5	Argentine Prisoners of War	DUS(P)	OD(SA)		Comments to DS11 for OD(SA) senior officials 1 June
0096	63/82 Item 6	Long Term Measures	DCDS(OR)	COS		for COS