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COS 40TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX
TO
COS 40TH MEETING/82 HELD ON
SUNDAY 2 MAY 1982 AT 10.15 am

Mr. Buxton

OPERATION CORPORATEITEM 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). He said he had set in hand an examination of the state of readiness and the disposition of Venezuela's armed forces.
3. In discussion it was stated that our Ambassadors in Moscow and Warsaw had been instructed urgently to represent to the Russian and Polish governments the need for their fishing vessels to leave the Total Exclusion Zone immediately, in the interests of their own security.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. The Task Force organization was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).
5. The operations of the previous 24 hours had been summarised in the Television Briefing preceding their Meeting.
6. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he would seek OD(SA) agreement as soon as possible to extend the Rules of Engagement for our ships and

Notes:

1. INTSUM No 57 020600Z May 1982.
2. Force Tote Sitrep Issue 38.

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COS S24(9)

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SSNs to allow attacks on all Argentine naval ships, submarines and auxiliaries outside the Total Exclusion Zone, as had already been authorised (3) against the Argentine aircraft carrier.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

7. Mr McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage. He reminded them that the Defence Public Relations Staff in London could not edit reports sent by press representatives with the Task Force; detailed reports, such as that relayed the previous day from a reporter on board HMS HERMES, should be vetted for security breaches under Task Force arrangements before transmission. He also reminded the Committee of the need to give him timely information on events, for him to release before Argentine accounts gained currency. This had been achieved the previous day, but only just.

8. Summing up a short discussion, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to invite the Permanent Under Secretary urgently to represent to the BBC at the highest level that television reporting such as that of the previous evening was potentially damaging to the national cause. He would also discuss with the Permanent Under Secretary ways of improving the machinery for processing and releasing information quickly both within the Ministry of Defence and at the Headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief Fleet. Finally, he said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations), in conjunction with the Defence Secretariat, to provide at 1100 daily a situation report for release at the routine Press Briefings.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

9. The Committee noted the Summary of Actions in Hand (4).
10. In discussion it was agreed that:
- a. They would support the recommendations of the paper (5) on Requisitioning of Shipping, which OD(SA) were due to consider that morning. Although the paper was imprecise about helicopters, this did not affect the thrust of the paper and could be resolved separately.

Notes:

3. OD(SA)(82) 22nd Meeting.
4. Annex A to COS 39th Meeting/82.
5. OD(SA)(82)40.

b. They would review at their meeting on Friday 7 May the future handling of the paper (6) on the Maintenance of a British Garrison in the Falkland Islands.

ITEM 5. DEFENCE OF ASCENSION ISLAND

11. The Committee noted that the report (7) on the defence of Ascension Island had not yet been received. They instructed their Secretary to bring forward the subject for their consideration daily.

ITEM 6. SPECIAL FORCES

12. The Committee had before them a Note (8) on Special Forces. In discussion it was pointed out that a decision need not be taken until nearer the sailing date from Ascension Island of the Amphibious Group, which would allow time for further assessment of the task and of Hercules air-to-air refuelling trials.

13. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to defer a decision, and to instruct their Secretary to bring the matter forward for their further consideration on Wednesday 5 May. They would also wish to invite the Air Force Department to examine whether US authorities might be able to assist in overcoming Hercules air-to-air refuelling problems, and to report on this to them, also on 5 May 1982.

ITEM 7. MILITARY OPTIONS FOR REPOSSESSION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

14. The Committee had before them a paper (9) setting out Military Options for the Repossession of the Falkland Islands.

15. In discussion it was agreed that:

a. It would be useful to have such a document as an aide-memoire. However, it would need continual up-dating; some of it had already been overtaken by events.

Notes:

6. COS(Misc)185/742/1 dated 30 April 1982.
7. COS 39th Meeting/82, Item 4.
8. Attachment to COS(Misc)188/742/1 dated 2 May 1982.
9. Attachment to COS(Misc)187/742/1 dated 1 May 1982.

b. It would be preferable to separate those options which had already been taken up from those which remained.

c. At some stage they might wish to forward such a document to Ministers.

16. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to instruct their staffs to forward detailed comments on the paper to the Defence Policy Staff. They would also wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Policy), in conjunction with the Defence Secretariat, to revise the paper in the light of those comments and of the views they had expressed in discussion; and also to prepare an outline covering submission to the Secretary of State, commenting on the feasibility of the options, in case they should decide to forward the paper to him. They would wish the revised paper and draft submission to be presented for their consideration at their meeting on Thursday 6 May 1982.

Annex:

A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand (2 pages).

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	Revised paper for COS 6 May
0065	-	Maintenance of a British Garrison in the Falkland Islands	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)127/3/3 dated 19 Apr 82 33/82 Item 9	For COS 7 May
0066	-	Long Term Measures to Sustain Op CORPORATE	CDS	DCDS(OR)	CDS 2038/1/1 dated 22 Apr 82 D/DORS/58/1 dated 26 Apr 82	
0067	-	Op SUTTON - Prisoners	CDS	ACDS(P&L)	CDS 2038/1 dated 25 Apr 82	For COS o/c 4 May
0071	31/82 Item 6	US Assistance	CDS	ACDS(Pol)	38/82 Item 3	For COS 4 May
0075	33/82 Item 7	Defence of Ascension Island	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)	35/82 Item 7 37/82 Item 4 39/82 Item 4 40/82 Item 5	ACDS(Ops) to report to COS 4 May

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0076	33/82 Item 9	Long Term Logistic Requirements	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		Included in 0065
0077	35/82 Item 4	Arrangements for POW at Ascension Island	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		For COS o/c 4 May
0079	35/82 Item 4	Canberra PR	AFD	AFD	39/82 Item 4	
0081	38/82 Item 3	Supply of US Equipment	DCDS(OR)	DCDS(OR)		Included in 0071
0082	40/82 Item 6	Special Forces	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		For COS 5 May
0083	40/82 Item 6	Hercules air-to-air refuelling	AFD	AFD		For COS 5 May (with 0082)

101. BRIEFS FOR THE 79TH MEETING
OF THE NATO MC/CSRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved the briefs (1) prepared by the Defence Policy Staff. ACDS(Pol) has been informed and the briefs (2) are being issued.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 156/467/13 dated 23 April 1982.
2. COS(Brief) 1/82 dated 30 April 1982.

102. SSN RULES OF ENGAGEMENTRESTRICTED

The Chiefs of Staff have approved a draft submission (1) to the Secretary of State subject to telephone amendment. The Navy Department has been informed and the submission (2) has been forwarded.

Notes:

1. Attachment to COS(Misc) 172/742/1 dated 29 April 1982.
2. CDS 1000/1 dated 30 April 1982.