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COS 45TH MEETING/82

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 45TH MEETING/82 HELD ON  
SATURDAY 8 MAY 1982 AT 10.30 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 latest summary (1). In subsequent discussion the following points were made:
  - a. More photographic intelligence was required of Goose Green airstrip on East Falkland Island.
  - b. There remained the possibility that Soviet and Polish fishing vessels were still in the Total Exclusion Zone although warnings had been given that they should keep clear of the area.
3. Summing up, SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to invite the Air Force Department to examine the feasibility of operations against the airstrip at Goose Green. Further they noted that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office were making arrangements for the issue of further advice to the Soviet and Polish authorities concerning the danger to their fishing vessels which might still be in the Total Exclusion Zone.

ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. The Task Force organisation was set out in the Force Tote Sitrep (2).

## Notes:

1. INTSUM No 68 080600Z May 1982.
2. Force Tote Sitrep Issue 44.

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COS S23(6)

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ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage. He said that a signal had been received (3) from the Task Group Commander that the embarked correspondents were extremely dissatisfied with the restraints placed upon them with regard to the release of their reports.
6. In discussion the following points were made:
  - a. Measures were already in hand (4) to improve the general situation in regard to the need to retain the goodwill of the media.
  - b. It was illusory for the embarked correspondents to believe that they would receive, and be able to release, the first news of any incident involving the Task Force.
  - c. The Permanent Under Secretary would issue a paper on the procedures for the release of information during the following week.
  - d. In general, the press had adopted a responsible attitude in their reporting of Operation CORPORATE.
7. In discussion the following points were agreed:
  - a. The problems raised by the embarked correspondents should be discussed with the editors concerned.
  - b. The BAHIA PARAISO's status as a hospital ship could be released at the routine press briefing that day.
8. Summing up a short discussion, SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to invite the Deputy Chief of Public Relations to discuss the problems raised by the embarked press with the editors concerned.

## Notes:

3. CTG 317.8 I9F/EVA 071700Z May 82.
4. COS 44th Meeting/82, Item 3.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

9. The Committee noted the summary of action in hand (5).

10. In discussion the point was made that Rules of Engagement were urgently required for use by our aircraft or surface ships against merchant ships or fishing vessels which appeared to be engaged in re-supplying the Falkland Islands.

11. Summing up, SIR MICHAEL BEETHAM said they would wish to instruct the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations) to issue revised Rules of Engagement to enable our aircraft or surface ships to deal without warning with merchant ships or fishing vessels within 150 nautical miles of the centre of the Total Exclusion Zone which appeared to be engaged in re-supplying the Falkland Islands, as authorised (6) by the Secretary of State.

## Annex:

A. Operation CORPORATE - Actions in Hand.

## Notes:

- 5. Annex A to COS 44th Meeting/82.
- 6. MO 5/21 dated 8 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	To be updated for COS 13 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 11 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	
0076	33/82 Item 9	Long Term Logistic Requirements	VCDS(P&L)	VCDS(P&L)		Included in 0065
0084	43/82 Item 6	Concept of Operations - Op CORPORATE	CDS	CINCFLEET		
0085	43/82 Item 6	Concept of Operations - Op SUTTON	CDS	CINCFLEET		

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(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
0086	43/82 Item 7	ROE Package	ND	COS		For OD(SA) 10 May
0087	43/82 Item 8	Active Service arrangements for RFA/ MS personnel	ND	S of S		
0088	43/82 Item 9	Honours and Awards	CDS	DS Sec		
0089	43/82 Item 11	Special Forces Plans	ACDS(Ops)	ACDS(Ops)		For COS 12 May