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COS 73RD MEETING/82

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11 JUN 1982

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL ANNEX

TO

COS 73RD MEETING/82 HELD ON
FRIDAY 11 JUNE 1982 AT 12 NOON

pages

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 reported that three Super Etendards in Peruvian markings, together with a Peruvian Boeing 707, had been seen at the Marcel Dassault factory in France, and that this appeared to be a joint Peruvian/Argentine attempt to circumvent the trade embargo; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had taken up the matter through our Ambassador in Paris. He would report further on 14 June 1982 how the original five Super Etendards had been delivered to Argentina. He then outlined the latest deployment of the Argentine Air Force on the mainland; assessed the effect of political, military, morale, equipment and leadership factors; reviewed their possible courses of action in the light of the need to counter the threat from Chile; and concluded that the Argentine Air Force was likely to continue to mount periodic coordinated attacks, but on an increasingly selective basis. He went on to assess the likely internal situation in Argentina following the fall of Port Stanley, and said a JIC note on this subject would be available early the following week.
3. Turning to the situation in the Falkland Islands themselves, LIEUTENANT GENERAL GLOVER reviewed the latest deployment of Argentine forces, and outlined a possible Argentine view of our intentions following the attacks at Fitzroy and Bluff Cove. Finally, he said that the Argentine Navy appeared to be gaining significant intelligence from the interception of Task Force HF voice communications; he would report early the next week on the use to which the Argentines were putting this intelligence.

Note:

1. INTSUM No 136, 110600Z June 1982.

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ITEM 2. OWN FORCES

4. REAR-ADMIRAL BROWN (Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Operations)) outlined the current deployment and operations of the Task Force.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. MR McDONALD (Deputy Chief of Public Relations) reported on press coverage.

ITEM 4. ACTIONS AND DECISIONS REQUIRED

6. The Committee noted the summary of actions in hand (2).

ITEM 5. PRISONERS OF WAR

7. SIR TERENCE LEWIN said he had raised the subject of Prisoners of War (PW) in OD(SA) that morning, and it had been agreed in principle that PW who might be of value to Argentina should not be repatriated immediately. OD(SA) had noted the Task Force Commander's worries about the probable large number of rank and file PW, and while no decision had been reached it was likely that arrangements would be made to repatriate these as quickly as possible, possibly using US C130 aircraft.

ITEM 6. SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

8. SIR TERENCE LEWIN informed the Committee that the Task Force Commander (3) had made a preliminary assessment that troops to re-take Southern Thule could be found from the Royal Marine Company in South Georgia, but that such an operation would require the support of RFA ENGADINE, a tanker, two troop-carrying helicopters and one gunship. He could not detach these before Port Stanley had been retaken, after which he would reassess the situation.

ITEM 7. FITTING OF HARPOON TO NIMROD AIRCRAFT

9. The Committee discussed briefly a minute (4) by the Chief of the Air Staff proposing the purchase of Harpoon missiles from the US, to be fitted to Nimrod aircraft.

Notes:

2. Annex A to COS 72nd Meeting/82.
3. COS 69th Meeting/82, Item 6.
4. CAS 91254 dated 10 June 1982.

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10. Summing up, SIR TERENCE LEWIN said they would wish to agree that Harpoon should be purchased for Nimrod aircraft, as a charge against Operation Corporate, and that they would wish to invite the Air Force Department to seek Ministerial approval for the purchase.

Annex:

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

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	COS (Misc) 256/ 742/1 dated 3 Jun 82
0091	54/82 Item 5	Contingency Studies	ACDS (Pol)	ACDS (Pol)	62/82 Item 5	COS (Misc) 255/ 742/1 dated 3 Jun 82
0092	59/82 Item 6	Future Force Levels (formerly Future Garrison Studies)	CDS	ACDS (Pol)	71/82 Item 2	For COS 22 Jun
0093	61/82 Item 6	Rules of Engagement	ACDS (Ops)	OD(SA)	OD(SA) 28 May	Periodic Review by OD(SA)
0095	67/82 Item 1	Replacement of Stores and Equipment	DCDS (OR)/ DUS (P)	OD Jul 82		
0096	68/82 Item 7	Garrison Command and Control Arrangements	CDS	ACDS (Pol)	71/82 Item 2	Dependent on 0092 and 0099
0097	69/82 Item 5	Provision of Press facilities	PUS	CPR/AUS (D Staff)		
0098	69/82 Item 6	South Sandwich Islands	CDS	CINCFLEET	73/82 Item 6	
0099	71/82 Item 2	Military Appreciation - Operations after Repossession	CDS	ACDS (Pol)		For COS 24 Jun
0100	72/82 Item 5	Prisoners of War	AD	AD		