

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## DEFENCE OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in  
Room 5301, Ministry of Defence,  
Main Building, Whitehall, on  
THURSDAY 1 APRIL 1982 at 3.00 pm



343/5

ITEM 1. ACTION RESULTING FROM OD MEETING

1. The Executive were informed of the results of the OD meeting. No Surface Force was to be sent to the area, although it had been agreed to the dispatch of 3 x SSNs. The Royal Marine company group was not to be sent at present to the Ascencion Islands and that any airlift was to be limited to 4 - 5 Hercules. VC10s are not to be used and the Blowpipe troop required for air defence should be limited to a maximum of 50 men.

2. After discussion the Executive agreed that they would seek the approval of individual Chiefs of Staff and that the Secretary of State for Defence should be asked to approve (1) the following measures:

a. Troops and Stores to Falkland Islands via Ascencion Island (Hercules/RFA FORT AUSTIN).

- |     |                  |                           |
|-----|------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) | 8 x Blowpipe     | 30 Royal Marines          |
| (2) | SATCON           | 6 Soldiers + 3,000 lbs    |
| (3) | 2 x Lynx         | 4 RN Officers, 14 Ratings |
| (4) | TACAN            | 7 Airmen                  |
| (5) | Pumping Party    | 8 Airmen                  |
| (6) | Public Relations | 2 men                     |

b. Stores to Falkland Islands via Gibraltar (Hercules/Tanker RFA APPLE LEAF which sails no later than 021800Z).

- |     |                   |            |
|-----|-------------------|------------|
| (1) | TACAN             | 10,000 lbs |
| (2) | Pumping Equipment | 10,500 lbs |

## Note:

1. CDS 2038/2 dated 1 April 1982.

ITEM 2. FUTURE PLANNING OPTIONS

3. The Executive discussed the way ahead and it was agreed that planning should be based on the answers to three major questions;
- a. What could the local forces do in the event of an Argentinian invasion?
  - b. What are our wider options over the period of the next two weeks in the event of an invasion?
  - c. In the event of an invasion and Argentinian reinforcement what action can we take to either blockade or evict her aggressive forces from the Islands.
4. It was agreed by the Executive that although some work had already been done to answer these questions, further work was needed, and that every possibility should be explored (for example the return of HMS NORFOLK) even though a number might be discarded. They invited ACDS(Ops) in conjunction with single Services to provide inputs to their Secretary by 2100 tonight. A draft paper would then be prepared by their Secretary, in conjunction with ACDS(Ops) and DS 11 to be available to Acting CDS for his use in the event of the Argentinians escalating the present situation.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC RELATIONS

5. The Executive agreed that a defensive PR brief was required and they invited AUS(D Staff) to coordinate such a brief in conjunction with the FCO.

ITEM 4. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

6. The Navy Department had prepared a signal covering rules of engagement for HMS ENDURANCE.  
(Secretary's note: CNS was obtaining the Secretary of State's agreement).

ITEM 5. FUTURE MEETINGS AND MANNING LEVELS

7. The Executive agreed that the Committee should be placed on 2 hours notice to meet and that the DSC should be manned at Stage 2 level (2) from 0900 2 April.

## Note:

2. Loose Minute D Ops Staff 1/4/2/2 dated 1 April 1982.

DOE 3rd Meeting/82  
1 April 1982

## Distribution:

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## Those attending the meeting:

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DS Int (represented by Air Cdre (Int))	18
ACDS(P&L)	19
Director DOMS (represented by Deputy Director)	20
DMPS	21
AUS (D Staff)	22
DS 5	23
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DCPR (represented by DPR(N))	25
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