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JIC(82) 17th Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 215, Cabinet Office on
TUESDAY 13 APRIL 1982 at 4.30 pm

PRESENT

Mr P R H Wright
Foreign and Commonwealth
Office (In the Chair)

Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday
Ministry of Defence

'C'

Sir Brian Tovey
Government Communications
Headquarters

Sir Antony Duff
Cabinet Office

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Mr H Warren-Gash
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr J A Cradock
Security Service

Mr R J O'Neill
Assessments Staff

Mr P G Wallis
Assessments Staff

Brigadier A B D Gurdon
Assessments Staff

Captain N L Browne
Assessments Staff

Mr M C Clements
Assessments Staff

Mr A J Colquhoun
Assessments Staff

Mr A Heath
Assessments Staff

Captain J J R Tod
Assessments Staff

SECRETARIAT

Mr T W Savage
Commander A H R York
Mr F J Wilson
Mr P J Bulstrode

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1. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS

The Committee -

Took note of the following current assessments issued since their previous meeting -

1. Falkland Islands. Daily Immediate Assessments since 7 April 1982 (JIC(82)(IA) numbers 15 to 19, 21 and 23)
2. Belize - The Threat from Guatemala. Immediate Assessment dated 11 April 1982 (JIC(82)(IA) 20)
3. Israel/Lebanon. Immediate Assessments issued on 6 and 12 April 1982. (JIC(82)(IA) numbers 14 and 22)
4. The Spanish Military Threat to Gibraltar. A Note dated 8 April 1982. (JIC(82)(N) 31).

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2. FALKLAND ISLANDS: INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT

THE CHAIRMAN said that there would be value in the Committee discussing the ways in which the JIC machinery had coped with the Falkland Islands crisis to date and whether the Immediate Assessments produced over the past ten days were meeting the needs of Ministers and Officials.

During the discussion it was noted that some Ministers and senior officials had expressed a wish for more timely information on the latest situation, particularly early in the day. This requirement might best be met by providing them with the daily summaries produced for Departmental use by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The Defence Intelligence Staff's Intelligence Summary was a factual report on the military situation produced each day at 0600 whilst the FCO Falkland Islands Emergency Unit's Situation Report was produced at 0730. Both reports drew on only a limited amount of covert intelligence and were designed for a wider readership.

The JIC Assessments Staff was organised and manned to work through the CIG machinery; it existed to bring together representatives of the Intelligence Agencies and Departments to consider and assess all the relevant information including all covert intelligence. It could not therefore reasonably produce its assessments much before noon each day unless specifically directed to meet a deadline. In view of the considerable assistance provided for HMG in the political and diplomatic as well as the intelligence fields by our Intelligence Allies, it was vital that they should be involved as much as possible. The CIG machinery offered an excellent forum for including them in our deliberations on the Falkland Islands, providing that national caveats, particularly with regard to the United States, were not ignored.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said the Committee would wish to agree that the FCO and MOD should look into the possibility of providing a wider distribution (which could include all JIC members) for their existing product. The Assessments Staff should continue to call daily CIGs to produce Immediate Assessments with Ministerial readership very much in mind. In conjunction with the Secretariat the Assessments Staff should ensure that assessments were circulated as early as practicable each afternoon. It was important that the Allies should be included where possible in discussions. If national caveats could not be removed then the Chief of the Assessments Staff should continue to arrange oral briefings for the Allied representatives in London. There was a need to be particularly careful about the use of US/UK EYES ONLY material and the Chief of the Assessments Staff and 'C' should consult on how best to ensure that the Americans were content with current practice.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.
3. Instructed the Chief of the Assessments Staff and Secretariat to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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3. FORTHCOMING VISIT BY THE DGI TO THE UNITED STATES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR ROY HALLIDAY said that the Committee would wish to know that as a result of recent Ministerial discussions he had been asked to visit the United States to ascertain whether there was any possibility of increasing the range of timely intelligence on the Falkland Islands situation which might be made available to us.

During

his visit he hoped to meet Admiral Inman (Deputy Director of Central Intelligence), General Williams (Director of the Defence Intelligence Agency) and General Faurer (Director of NSA).

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up a brief discussion, said the Committee would wish to agree that Vice-Admiral Halliday should take the opportunity to have as wide ranging discussions as possible. The Committee would also wish to agree that he should pass to all those concerned in Washington the appreciation of the Prime Minister and other senior Ministers and Officials of the efforts being made by the United States on all fronts concerning the Falklands Islands crisis.

The Committee -

Took note, with approval.

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4. DISCLOSURE OF UNITED KINGDOM INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY

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5. REVIEW OF INTELLIGENCE: FALKLAND ISLANDS

[Previous Reference JIC(82) 16th Meeting Minute 4)

SIR ANTONY DUFF informed the Committee that, in connection with Mr D R Nicoll's review of the intelligence available on the Falklands Islands crisis and the use made of it in assessments, he had asked the United States

authorities if they would provide summaries of their own assessments on the events leading up to the Argentine invasion. He was pleased to report that the United States had made this information available through the JIC Representative in Washington. SIR ANTONY DUFF said he would pass copies of the information received to members and to Mr Nicoll in due course.

The Committee -

Took note, with approval.

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6. POLAND: FUTURE ASSESSMENTS

MR WARREN-GASH said that at an earlier Meeting (JIC(82) 13th Meeting, Minute 2 refers) it had been agreed there would be advantage in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office checking with particular Departments on their requirements for future assessments on Poland. He was able to report that they were content for assessments in future to be shorter and less frequent.

The Committee -

Took note.

14 April 1982