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JIC(82) 23rd Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 215, Cabinet Office on
THURSDAY 6 MAY 1982 at 2.30 pm

PRESENT

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

Mr R P Flower
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday
Ministry of Defence

Mr J L Jones
Security Service

'C'

Sir Antony Duff
Cabinet Office

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Mr J A Johnson
Government Communications Headquarters

Mr C O Spencer
Canadian High Commission
(Items 1 - 3)

Mr B S Gorman
Australian High Commission
(Items 1 - 3)

Mr R J O'Neill
Assessments Staff

Mr P G Wallis
Assessments Staff

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Brigadier A B D Gurdon
Assessments Staff

Mr A J Colquhoun
Assessments Staff

Mr A Heath
Assessments Staff
(Item 1)

Miss A W Lewis
Assessments Staff
(Items 1 - 4)

Wing Commander D I Scott
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
Mr D J Kiernan
Mr P R Lakey

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1. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS

The Committee had before them the following current assessments -

- a. Part II of the draft Weekly Survey of Intelligence (JIC(82)(WSI) 18) which consisted of items entitled "Ghana", "Iran/Iraq War" and "Poland".
- b. A draft Note entitled "Poland: Economic Update" (JIC(82)(N) 45).
- c. Daily assessments on the Falkland Islands, circulated since the previous meeting (JIC(82)(IA)s 59 to 61).

After a detailed discussion,

The Committee -

1. Approved Part II of JIC(82)(WSI) 18 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion, instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form and agreed that the items on Iran/Iraq War and Poland should be edited for release to NATO.
2. Approved JIC(82)(N) 45 (DRAFT) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form with the revised title "Poland: Economic Situation", and agreed that the text should be released to NATO.
3. Took note of Daily Assessments JIC(82)(IA)s 59 to 61.

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2. SOVIET LONG-TERM INTEREST IN ARGENTINA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Committee had before them a draft Note on the above subject, JIC(82)(N) 38, whose title was to be amended to include the Dependencies.

During the discussion it was noted that further consideration should be given to the possibility of the Soviet Union increasing their strategic options in the South Atlantic. There would be advantage

in redrafting more precisely the arguments in the section dealing with Soviet naval aspects, in particular with regard to the question of support facilities and including the subject of intelligence-gathering. It would be helpful to the Assessments Staff if the Defence Intelligence Staff could arrange for the Commodore (Intelligence) to attend the relevant CIG.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up, said that the Committee would wish to agree that the Assessments Staff should prepare a further draft for consideration at their meeting on Thursday 13 May, which should reflect more clearly the naval aspect of possible Soviet strategic options in the South Atlantic. Departments and Agencies should ensure that their views were passed to the Assessments Staff in good time and that they provided appropriate representation for the CIG.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Instructed the Assessments Staff, Departments and Agencies to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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3. IMPLICATIONS FOR SOVIET FOREIGN AND DEFENCE POLICY OF DECLINING ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Committee had before them a draft Note on the above subject JIC(82)(N) 39.

During a brief discussion the Committee noted that there had been insufficient time for Departments, Agencies and the Intelligence Allies to study the subject in detail. The paper was primarily intended for use by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in briefings for the Versailles Summit due to take place in the last week of May; its issue could therefore be delayed by one week.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee would wish to agree that in view of the nature of the topic and the impact the paper would have, it was important that it should receive the fullest consideration by Departments, Agencies and Allies. Comments on the present draft should be passed to the Assessments Staff by midday Friday 7 May to expedite the preparation of a revised draft for consideration by the Committee at their meeting on Thursday 13 May.

The Committee -

1. Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Instructed Departments and Agencies to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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4. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS: ITEMS BEARING A NATIONAL CAVEAT

The Committee had before them the following current assessments bearing a national caveat -

- a. "Argentina - Chile: the Prospect of Conflict", a draft Note circulated under a UK/US Eyes Only caveat (JIC(82)(N) 43).
- b. "Syrian Involvement in Terrorism", a draft Note circulated under a UK Eyes Only caveat (JIC(82)(N) 44).
- c. A daily assessment on the Falkland Islands circulated under a UK Eyes Only caveat on 4 May (JIC(82)(IA) 58).

After a detailed discussion,

The Committee -

1. Approved JIC(82)(N) 43(Draft) and JIC(82)(N) 44(Draft) as amended by their discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue them in final form.

2. Took note of JIC(82)(IA) 58.

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5. FALKLAND ISLANDS: INTELLIGENCE LIAISON

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7 May 1982