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JIC(82) 25th Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
Room 215, Cabinet Office on
THURSDAY 13 MAY 1982 at 11.00 am

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

'C'

Sir Brian Tovey
Government Communications
Headquarters

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Sir Anthony Duff
Cabinet Office

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Mr J A Cradock
Security Service

Mr C O Spencer
Canadian High Commission
(Items 1-4)

New Zealand High Commission
(Items 1-4)

Mr P G Wallis
Assessments Staff

Mr B S Gorman
Australian High Commission
(Items 1-4)

Mr R J O'Neill
Assessments Staff

Captain N L Browne
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-5)

Mr A J Colquhoun
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-4)

Mr A Heath
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-5)

Mr D I Miller
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-5)

Mr A R Sowerbutts
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-5)

Mrs J P Hamilton-Eddy
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-5)

Miss A W Lewis
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-5)

Wing Commander D I Scott
Assessments Staff
Items (1-6)

Mr K Sullivan
Assessments Staff
(Items 1-5)

SECRETARIAT

Mr T W Savage
Commander A H R York
Mr F J Wilson
Mr D J Kiernan
Mr R Hall

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1. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

THE CHAIRMAN said that as this would be the last meeting of the Committee to be attended by Ann Lewis of the Assessments Staff before she took up her duties as Head of Chancery in the British Embassy in East Berlin, he would like on their behalf to thank her for the excellence of her contributions over the past three years and wish her well in her new appointment. At the same time, he welcomed her successor, David Miller, who until recently had been Head of Chancery in Belgrade.

The Committee -

Took note, with approval.

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2. CURRENT ASSESSMENTS

The Committee had before them the following current assessments -

- a. Part II of the Draft Weekly Survey of Intelligence (JIC(82)(WSI) 19) which contained items entitled "Poland", "Cambodia" and "Chad".
- b. Three draft Notes entitled "Implications for Soviet Foreign and Defence Policy of Declining Economic Growth" (JIC(82)(N) 39) "Zimbabwe" (JIC(82)(N) 47) and "China: Internal Developments" (JIC(82)(N) 49).

After a detailed discussion on each of the above items

The Committee -

1. Approved Part II of JIC(82)(WSI) 19 as amended by their discussion, instructed the Secretary to issue it in final form and agreed that the items on Poland and Chad should be edited for release to NATO.

2. Approved JIC(82)(N) 39 (2nd Revised Draft), JIC(82)(N) 47(Draft) and JIC(82)(N) 49(Draft) as amended by their discussion, instructed the Secretary to issue them in final form, agreed that the Note entitled "Implications for Soviet Foreign and Defence Policy of Declining Economic Growth" should be released to NATO and that the Note entitled "China: Internal Developments" should be edited for release to NATO.

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3. IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENTS

The Committee took note of the following Immediate Assessments -

1. ISRAEL/LEBANON
(JIC(82)(IA) 66 issued on 10 May 1982)
2. IRAN/IRAQ WAR
(JIC(82)(IA) 67 issued on 10 May 1982)

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4. FALKLAND ISLANDS: CURRENT INTELLIGENCE

The Committee had before them JIC(82)(N) 38, a draft Note on Soviet Long-Term Interest in Argentina, the Falkland Islands and Dependencies, and JIC(82)(IA)s 62, 63, 64, 65 and 68 daily assessments on the above subject. After a detailed discussion;

The Committee -

1. Took note of JIC(82)(IA)s 62, 63, 64, 65 and 68.
2. Approved JIC(82)(N) 38 as amended in discussion and instructed the Secretary to issue it.

5. FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Committee had before them JIC(82)(IA) 69, a daily assessment circulated with a UK EYES A CAVEAT. During a general discussion on the Falkland Islands crisis the Committee -

a. noted that the arrangements for the preparation of Daily Assessments of the crisis continued to work efficiently, and enabled copies of the assessments to be made available to senior United Kingdom and United States officials in Washington and New York early in their working day.

b. noted that the emergency arrangements made by Departments and Agencies to manage the crisis were being sustained and that this would continue to be the case for the foreseeable future.

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In this connection, the Ministry of Defence had established a unit to monitor military sales round the clock. Information originating in this unit or elsewhere should be made available to the Assessments Staff as quickly as possible;

c. noted that in response to a request from the Secretaries of the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee, Sub-Committee on the Falkland Islands and the South Atlantic (OD(SA)), an updated version of the Committee's note on The Vulnerability of the Argentine Economy (JIC(82)(N) 32) was being prepared and would be cleared out of Committee by Noon, Friday 14 May;

d. agreed, with regard to their Note on The Strategic Options Open to Argentina (JIC(82)(N) 48), that the text should be passed to the United States authorities through JIC Rep Washington and that the Americans should be invited to comment on the paper. (The Note would be taken, as a relevant paper, by OD(SA) at their meeting on Friday 14 May).

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The Committee -

1. Took note of JIC(S2)(IA) 69
2. Invited Departments and Agencies to proceed in the light of their discussion;
3. Instructed the Secretary to proceed in the light of their discussion.

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6. FALKLAND ISLANDS: INTELLIGENCE LIAISON

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8. COMMITTEE'S FUTURE WORK

MR O'NEILL said that following their previous discussion, (JIC(82) 14th Meeting Minute 4 refers), the Committee would wish to be aware of the topics currently being considered by the Assessments Staff.

During a brief discussion the Committee noted that

- a. A CIG had been held to review the latest assessments on the Spanish/Gibraltar situation (JIC(82)(WSI) 17 Part III and JIC(82)(N) 31) and the Gibraltar Local Intelligence Committee's own assessment of the threat had been taken into account. It was agreed that there was no immediate need to reassess the situation but a lack of knowledge of the Spanish Armed Forces had been revealed and the Defence Intelligence Staff had been asked for more information. The Assessments Staff would keep the subject under review and would give thought at a future CIG to what changes might be necessary in the current requirements for intelligence in this subject;
- b. work was in hand on the production of a paper on Yugoslavia which would be presented in time for the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's visit to that country, provisionally planned for early July.

c. The situation in Central America was under close review, particularly with regard to Belize/Guatemala and Venezuela/Guyana.

d. With regard to the Middle East, a CIG was planned to look at the rapidly changing Israel/Lebanon situation; an Immediate Assessment would be issued if necessary. Following recent developments in the Iran/Iraq war the Assessments Staff were planning papers which would cover Inter-Arab relationships, the possible consequences of military defeat on Iraq's internal situation, Egyptian and Syrian involvement in the Gulf Area and possibilities for the destabilizing of moderate states there. Papers were also on hand to study Israel's perception of her problems following the return of Sinai to Egypt and the PLO's view of the current situation.

e. The Assessments Staff would continue to keep the Polish situation under review.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up, said that the Committee would wish to thank the Chief of the Assessments Staff for his report on current work and agree that it would be valuable for them to review the position similarly from week to week. The Secretary should place a standing item on the agenda accordingly.

The Committee -

Took note, with approval, of the Chairman's summing up.

Cabinet Office
14 May 1982