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JIC(82) 30th Meeting

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CABINET

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in  
Room 215, Cabinet Office on  
TUESDAY 1 JUNE 1982 at 3.30 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

Sir Brian Tovey  
Government Communications Headquarters

Sir Antony Duff  
Cabinet Office

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Mr R J O'Neill  
Assessments Staff

Mr J A Cradock  
Security Service

Brigadier A B D Gurdon  
Assessments Staff

Mr P G Wallis  
Assessments Staff

Mr A J Colquhoun  
Assessments Staff  
(Item 1)

Captain N L Browne  
Assessments Staff  
(Item 1)

Captain J J R Tod  
Assessments Staff  
(Item 1)

SECRETARIAT

Commander A H R York  
Mr F J Wilson

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1. FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Committee had before them JIC(82)(IA)s 94, 96, 98, 100, 102 and 104, Falkland Islands Daily Assessments issued since Tuesday 27 May. During a brief discussion the Committee -

- a. noted that the Assessments Staff were still in need of more information on events inside Argentina itself. In this regard, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Posts had been asked to seek the assistance of European Community governments but this had so far produced little of substance.
- b. noted that in view of recurring references to the numbers of Exocet missiles held by Argentina and to possible supplies from other countries there would be advantage in the Assessments Staff clarifying the situation, as far as possible, in the next Daily Assessment.

The Committee -

1. Took note of JIC(82)(IA)s 94, 96, 98, 100, 102 and 104.
2. Invited the Chief of the Assessments Staff to proceed in accordance with their discussion.

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2. THE UNITED KINGDOM'S INTELLIGENCE PRIORITIES, 1982-1984

The Committee had before them JIC(82) 7, a draft report on this subject.

SIR ANTONY DUFF, introducing the report, said that it provided the foundation for the Committee's annual cycles of work by which the direction and details of the United Kingdom's intelligence collection effort were defined. It was particularly important because it was the only element of this work which carried the approval and thus the authority of Ministers, the Chiefs of Staff, and Permanent Secretaries. The paper was intended to help the intelligence Agencies to decide how to allocate their resources, and to serve as a constant reference paper during the detailed requirements work over the next two years. Its aim was to

offer sufficient flexibility to allow this process to take full account of changing circumstances. To facilitate ease of reference, the present text was shorter than its predecessors and adopted a different format.

During a detailed discussion of the paper the following points were made -

- a. the report provided a very satisfactory framework for the subsequent requirements discussions, and would be an effective work of reference for Departments and Agencies;
- b. the draft should be amended to reflect the fact that the future success of the United Kingdom's intelligence relationship with the United States depended crucially on our continuing ability to assess events worldwide.

THE CHAIRMAN, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee would wish to approve the report as amended by their discussion, to invite Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday, in consultation with the Secretary, to submit the report for approval to the Chiefs of Staff and to instruct the Secretary to submit it to the Secretary of the Cabinet recommending its circulation for approval to the Permanent Secretaries Committee on Intelligence Services.

The Committee -

1. Took note with approval of the Chairman's summing up.
2. Invited Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.
3. Instructed the Secretary to proceed in accordance with the Chairman's summing up.

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3. DISCLOSURE OF UNITED KINGDOM INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY

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4. DISCLOSURE OF SECRET INTELLIGENCE IN THE PRESS

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5. ASSESSMENTS FORECAST

During a detailed review of proposed work for the immediate future the Committee -

- a. noted that the Assessments Staff were preparing papers for the coming week on: the Internal Situation in Iraq, Soviet Grain Purchases, Soviet relations with Syria.
- b. agreed that the Assessments Staff should, within the next week, examine the Spain/Gibraltar situation, Afghanistan, El Salvador, Soviet Agriculture, and the Opposition Movement in Poland.
- c. agreed that the Assessments Staff should include in their programme of work over the next few weeks: the Yemens, and Northern Ireland.
- d. agreed that work should be set in hand to produce a paper on Hong Kong and China in time for the Prime Minister's visit planned for late September.
- e. agreed that because of the heavy involvement of Ministers and senior officials in the series of Summit meetings over the forthcoming weeks special attention should be paid to ensuring that assessments over this period were as succinct as possible. It was noted particularly in this respect that the summaries currently provided in the WSI were of great value to the senior readership.

The Committee -

Invited the Chief of the Assessments Staff to proceed in accordance with their discussion.

Cabinet Office

2 June 1982