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MINUTE BY THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE AT MEETING
ON THURSDAY, 23RD APRIL, 1964

QAR: PA

PRESENT

E.W. Hicks, CBE
Secretary, Department of Defence
(Chairman)

Air Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger,
KBE CB DSO AFC
Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee

Sir John Bunting, CBE
Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department

Air Marshal Sir Valston Hancock,
KBE CB DFC
Chief of the Air Staff

C.L.S. Hewitt, OBE
Representing Secretary to
the Treasury

Vice Admiral Sir Hastings Harrington,
KBE CB DSO
Chief of the Naval Staff

J.K. Waller, CBE
Representing Secretary,
Department of External Affairs

Lieutenant General Sir John Wilton,
KBE CB DSO
Chief of the General Staff

R.N. Thompson, MBE, Director Defence
Signals Division, was also present.



WITHOUT
AGENDUM

NO. 2(S)/1964: REQUEST BY G.C.H.Q. FOR AUSTRALIAN
TACTICAL SIGINT SUPPORT IN BORNEO

The Committee considered a request by G.C.H.Q. that Australian Army personnel from 201 Squadron, Singapore, be made available for tactical Sigint duties in Borneo.

2. The Director D.S.D. advised the Committee that more effort is needed in Borneo to take advantage of the increased tactical traffic available from Indonesian infiltration. There has been some loss of strategic signals intelligence from the area as directives, plans etc. formerly signalled to the Indonesian are now being sent by safe hand methods. However, if Australia were to provide the additional personnel required from our Singapore resources without replacement

This could be avoided if they could be replaced by additional British personnel, either Army or civilian, from outside the theatre. Improved tactical returns would also be obtained as 201 Squadron personnel are experienced in Indonesian tasks. Further, if more staff were added to the overall theatre resources now, it would be less difficult for Australia to arrange the return of the 201 Squadron personnel at a later stage when the Borneo emergency is over.

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2.

3. The Defence Committee concluded:-

- (a) that, as a first step, the Director D.S.D. should advise G.C.H.Q. that Australian personnel can not be made available in Borneo without leaving a very serious gap and suggest allocation to the area of more British resources.
- (b) that, if Britain agrees to provide sufficient extra theatre personnel in Singapore approval be sought for the deployment of some 201 Squadron personnel for tactical Sigint duties in Borneo.
- (c) that, if Britain is unable to provide extra-theatre staff, the Director D.S.D. is to submit for the Committee's consideration a report on alternative methods of meeting the additional tactical requirement in Borneo.

J.J. CORRIGAN
Secretary
DEFENCE COMMITTEE
28th April, 1964

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