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Meeting 1st (UK) Armd Div/NCC/PJHQ/102 Log BDE

2nd April 2003

1. In attendance, 1st (UK) Armoured Div - Lt Col N J Mercer AGC (ALS), Lt Col P Baillie AGC (RMP), Capt C Heron AGC (ALS), PJHQ (representing NCC) Lt Col N Clapham AGC (ALS), 102 Log Bde LO - Maj W Bye AGC (SPS).

2. The first item on the agenda was PW's. Lt Col Mercer explained that the current number of PW's at the Div Collection Point was now over 3000 and over one third claimed that they were civilians. He said that three of his officers were currently working with the PWHO to do an initial assessment on the so called civilians and that, where there was doubt, the person remained a PW. Lt Col Mercer further raised the problem of holding Article 5 Tribunals in the near future and also investigating who we might wish to intern at the end of hostilities. Lt Col Baillie agreed that he would provide between 4-6 members of 5 Regt RMP (headed up by the SIB) to start drawing together evidence in relation to UK PW's.

3. The second item on the agenda was the issue of internment. Internment was recognised as having potential strategic importance and was already an issue given the arrests that were being made by the Coalition Forces. As far as the real estate for internment was concerned, it was hoped that the US Theatre Internment Centre (TIC) would shortly be available and that all internees, detainees and PW's could be transferred accordingly. Lt Col Mercer agreed to raise this matter with the NCC and Maj Bye said that he would raise this with 102 Log Bde/JFLOGC who should have the lead as far as real estate was concerned for these prisoners. It was acknowledged that, if the TIC facility was not available and/or a temporary facility was not available then 102 Log Bde must take the lead in providing real estate

4. At the same time the administration and review of the internees and detainees was discussed and it was clear that the idea of a Detainee and Internee Management Unit (DIMU) had general support. The structure and tests to be applied during the review procedure were also discussed and it was agreed that 1 Div would provide a further outline of the proposed procedures for further discussion/improvement. Concern was raised over the Reviewing Authority but this was recognised as being the intent of GOC 1 Div. Lt Col Mercer agreed to produce a further outline of law and order procedures and email them to PJHQ/NCC by the weekend.

5. Law and order was the next item on the agenda and Lt Col Mercer produced a simplified outline of powers available for Law and Order both for the troops on the ground and for The Royal Military Police. This met with general approval and was seen as being workable on the ground. Lt Col Baillie said that the RMP was in a position to attend the scene of a crime if a person was temporarily detained by the Brigades and hoped to have Police stations in each Bde AO shortly. The issue of trials for those who had committed a criminal offence was discussed and it was recognised that Court-Martial was an option but that there might be political sensitivities. Lt Col Mercer said that he could not make a call on this issue and would wait for further direction on the matter of trials.

6. The next item was Boards of Inquiry and a brief discussion ensued in which Lt Col Baillie said that 5 Regt RMP was dealing with the Inquiries and that they were dealing as sympathetically as they could and were not interviewing the principal but rather gaining evidence from witnesses instead. Lt Col Mercer explained that a balance had to be struck between maintaining the integrity of the investigation and, at the same time, not sending the wrong message to soldiers who were still involved in fighting the war. Maj Kay Roberts SIB dealing.

7. The final item on the agenda was claims and it was not known if any claim procedures had been put in place for OP TELIC. The NCC were to be advised of this issue and there is currently a Civil Secretary in Theatre.