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BLAKERS FROM THOMPSON.  
CORRIGANS 052330.

1. THE PROPOSALS MADE IN THE DSD MEMO FOLLOW THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE CONCLUSION RECORDED IN SUB-PARA. 3(B) OF MINUTE 2(S)/1964. THE BRITISH OFFER IS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND IT IS FELT THAT CONSIDERABLE PRIORITY SHOULD NOW BE GIVEN, BY BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH AUTHORITIES, TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF SIGINT COLLECTION IN BORNEO TO HELP MEET ACKNOWLEDGED INTELLIGENCE DEFICIENCIES. DSD HAS ALREADY EMPHASISED TO GCHQ THE NEED FOR URGENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRITISH ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSAL.
2. THE DIRECTORS MEMO SETS OUT THE PRINCIPLES UNDER WHICH IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE INTEGRATED UNIT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND OPERATE. MUCH OF THE DETAIL HAS YET TO BE AGREED, BUT THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE WILL PRESUMABLY BE CONTENT TO LEAVE THIS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ARMY, DSD, AND THE VARIOUS TECHNICAL AUTHORITIES CONCERNED. HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CGS MAY RAISE CERTAIN MATTERS OF DETAIL AT THE MEETING (E.G. HE MAY CONSIDER THAT THE AMF ELEMENT OF THE INTEGRATED UNIT SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED AT LABUAN, RATHER THAN DIVIDED BETWEEN THAT SITE AND KUCHING= AND THAT THE TIMING OF THE AMF MOVEMENT INTO BORNEO SHOULD BE DETERMINED PRIMARILY BY THE DATE OF ARRIVAL OF BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS). THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH WOULD BEST BE LEFT FOR DETAILED AGREEMENT BETWEEN DSD AND ARMY IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME, AND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT, IF PRACTICABLE, FIRM COMMITMENT SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT THIS STAGE.
3. THE AMF STRENGTH FIGURES QUOTED IN THE SUBMISSION ARE AS AGREED WITH ARMY ON 5TH MAY. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT SUBSEQUENT ARMY REVISION HAS MADE IT NECESSARY TO INCREASE THE NUMBERS BY ABOUT 6, TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. DSD WOULD ENDORSE AN INCREASE OF THIS ORDER IF IT IS PROPOSED BY CGS.



4. THE DSD SUBMISSION DOES NOT PROPOSE ANY TIME LIMIT FOR THE BORNEO DEPLOYMENT, BUT RATHER ENVISAGES THAT THE REQUIREMENT FOR AMF INVOLVEMENT WILL CONTINUE FOR THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE. WHILE THIS IS THOUGHT TO BE A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT, IT MAY BE ADVISABLE, IN AGREEING TO THE BRITISH APPROACH, TO STATE THAT CONTINUATION OF THE AMF COMMITMENT IN BORNEO WILL BE SUBJECT TO PERIODICAL REVIEW AND CONFIRMATION, AND THAT THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE STRENGTH NOW ENVISAGED WILL DEPEND ON THE NATURE AND PRIORITY OF OTHER COMMITMENTS AT THE TIME.

5. AGREEMENT TO THE BRITISH REQUEST, ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED, WOULD ENABLE US TO MAKE A VERY SIGNIFICANT AND UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING INTELLIGENCE NEEDS WHICH ARE PROBABLY AS IMPORTANT TO AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES AS THEY ARE TO THE BRITISH (AND MALAYSIANS) AT THIS STAGE.

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*(Draft briefing note for Ch. DC)*

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6 MAY 64

26/3/21



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