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29

Prime Minister
Agree that officials
should crawl over the
details? (They would
have to be told to make
it a factual analysis -
judgements are for Ministers)
CD
to be

Yes
no

PRIME MINISTER

UK PARTICIPATION IN THE SDI

Michael Heseltine copied to me his minute to you of 31 October about the terms in which the UK might participate in the Strategic Defence Initiative.

2 The draft Memorandum of Understanding was discussed at OD on Monday, 25 October. It was agreed that, while good progress had been made towards a satisfactory understanding, the draft did not cover adequately two key points: the total scale of the UK participation and the intellectual property rights of participants. It is important not to divert scarce human resources unless we can be sure of using the results of their work.

3 I am pleased to see that Michael Heseltine made further progress in his discussions with Mr Weinberger but we have still to see the details of what was agreed. Since we do not anticipate making an announcement on our participation until 14 November, we have time to examine whether the proposed agreement fully meets our requirements. I still have considerable anxieties about this. I suggest that officials on MISC 117 be asked to examine the current version of the proposed agreement and report back to OD by 8 November.

JF5AMX



4 I am copying this minute to members of OD, Sir Keith Joseph and Sir Robert Armstrong.

L.B.

L B
4 November 1985

Department of Trade and Industry

JF5AMX

Reference: SDI PE 3

