



SC 25

(2)

Prime Minute

if confirmed, disappointing.

MO 11/14

mt

A-7 C. 1/3.

PRIME MINISTERCHINA - PROJECT 051

With my minute of 16th February I enclosed a copy of a personal message that I had sent to the Chinese Defence Minister on the 051 Project. I have not received any formal reply from Peking, but during the last two days both British Aerospace and Vosper Thorneycroft have been informed by the Chinese authorities that they have decided not to ratify the two contracts concerned. To date our Ambassador in Peking has not been informed of the decision either.

2. My officials are discussing the situation with the two contractors concerned, after which I will be considering whether there is any useful approach we can make at this stage to the Chinese Government. I will, of course, keep you informed.

3. I am copying this to Francis Pym, Patrick Jenkin and Arthur Cockfield.

Wright

Ministry of Defence

25th February 1983

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11 MAR 1983

11 MAR 1983
11 00 AM '83
11 00 AM '83



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File

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2 March 1983

CHINA-- PROJECT 051

The Prime Minister has noted the contents of Mr. Heseline's minute of 25 February conveying the information that both British Aerospace and Vosper-Thorneycroft have been informed by the Chinese authorities that they have decided not to ratify the two contracts involved in the above project.

A. J. COLES

Richard Mottram, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence.

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