

CONFIDENTIAL



Prime Minister
Agree well

Ref. A088/1417

MR WICKS

FERB's recommendation

Yes - at least
it is a clear decision to cease work on this project and to cancel the Wednesday meeting?
and NOT now make Thyssen Collection
N.C.U 6.5.

attached

You will have seen the letter of 2 May from Baron Thyssen to the Secretary of State for the Environment. This appears to close off a bid from the UK for the collection. *Agreed.*

*Mr Coleridge
Simon de*

2. Mr Hanks-Drielsma called on me this evening at his request. I had expected that he would be coming to explain the Baron's letter, but he did not know of it. He was surprised and said that he would have a word with the Baron's solicitor here, but agreed that it appeared to have foreclosed the negotiations.

draft is below.

3. As you know, the submission for the Prime Minister's meeting next week is all but complete. However, barring further developments or instructions, I will not put it forward and will assume that the Prime Minister's meeting is cancelled. *- Agreed*

4. I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Minister for the Arts.

FERB.

6 May 1988

Write Pindley will need to reply to the letter clearly accepting the termination of negotiations

ROBIN BUTLER

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