

0/8

PK  
re Harris

for Pol: 3rd Law of Sea 5/80



PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

REF ID: T221/82

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17 November 1982

Mr J. D. Anthony

Thank you for your message about the Law of the Sea Convention.

We much regret that the negotiations did not result in a Convention which could be accepted by all countries. We are now looking closely at the text in the light of all our national interests and the views of our allies. While some of the provisions are satisfactory, the deep sea mining provisions contain elements which are highly disadvantageous to the industrialised countries and this makes our decision a very difficult one. As you know, the Convention will remain open for signature for two years and we wish to look very carefully at the balance of advantages and disadvantages before reaching a decision.

You mentioned the communiques of the South Pacific Forum meeting and the recent CHOGRM. You may be assured that we will take your concerns, and those of our other friends in the Pacific, fully into account in considering the question of signature of the Convention.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. J. D. Anthony, C.H., M.P.