

SUBJECT
PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. *T191C182* THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*cc Mrs
om.*

*Original of text
received earlier.*

*h.a.
MR 26/10*

October 10, 1982

Dear Margaret,

The Law of the Sea treaty adopted by the United Nations Conference last April raises many fundamental concerns for the United States. In July, as you know, I concluded that signing that treaty will not serve the national interest.

I recognize that the treaty deals with a wide variety of areas and issues. Indeed, my July statement noted that most provisions of the treaty are consistent with the interests of the United States and other countries. Based on a review of significant interests, such as those with respect to military and commercial navigation, I am confident that they can be fully protected without signing or ratifying the treaty.

At the same time, I also believe that the deep seabed mining provisions of the treaty would be detrimental to the interests of a number of countries, including the United States and our close friends and allies. Development of deep seabed resources on an economic basis would be very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve under the treaty. In broader terms, the treaty would create precedents that are contrary to a range of important interests and that would adversely affect the positions of advanced countries in the future development of international institution-building generally.

These problems are of deep concern to the United States and to me personally. I believe it is very important that we work together to have a clear understanding of the consequences of the Law of the Sea treaty and to coordinate our efforts in a way that will serve our common interests.

For this reason, I have asked Don Rumsfeld to serve as a special emissary to discuss these matters with you and with other key allies. He has my fullest confidence and I trust that you will consider him to be my personal emissary in regard to the matters I have asked him to raise with you.

Finally, let me say that while Law of the Sea is the issue which has led me to propose Don's mission, I view it within the context of our broader relationship as allies faced with a number of problems. While each of them has its complexities, I believe deeply that we are capable now, as perhaps never before, of solving them and of demonstrating a degree of allied cohesion unparalleled in the past generation. For this reason, Don will be receptive to listening to other elements of our common agenda. Needless to say, I will value your thoughts greatly and very much look forward to receiving Don's report.

With warm personal regards,

Ron

The Right Honorable Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
London

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File

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 October 1982

LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION

Would you please refer to my letter of 15 October. The Prime Minister has sent a short message to President Reagan saying that she will be delighted to see his Special Emissary, Mr. Don Rumsfeld. I now enclose the signed version of this letter and should be grateful if you would arrange for its delivery.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

Duty Clock

pl send this message on
the hot line.

A.S.C. ^{19.}/₁₀

9.47 will be sent

immediately as no backlog.

SUBJECT

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T 196/82



file JR

or two

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 October 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 196/82

Dear Ron,

Thank you very much for your letter about Don Rumsfeld's visit to discuss the Law of the Sea Convention. I shall, of course, be delighted to see him. Arrangements are being made through the usual channels.

Every good wish.

Yours

Raymond

The President of the United States of America

CONFIDENTIAL

LB

PP WHITE HOUSE
GRS55
P 190850Z OCT
FM PRIME MINISTER
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
C O N F I D E N T I A L

DEAR RON,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER ABOUT DON RUMSFELD'S
VISIT TO DISCUSS THE LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION.

I SHALL, OF COURSE, BE DELIGHTED TO SEE HIM.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING MADE THROUGH THE USUAL CHANNELS.

EVERY GOOD WISH,

YOURS EVER,

MARGARET

NNNN



2

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 October 1982

Dear John,

LAW OF THE SEA

Thank you for your letter of 14 October enclosing a letter to the Prime Minister from President Reagan which asks Mrs. Thatcher to receive the President's Special Emissary on Law of the Sea matters, Mr. Don Rumsfeld.

The Prime Minister could see Mr. Rumsfeld from 1730 to 1815 on 25 October. She would propose to be accompanied only by a Private Secretary.— Perhaps the Americans would restrict their numbers accordingly.

The Prime Minister will be replying to the President but, in view of the imminence of Mr. Rumsfeld's visit, perhaps you could kindly convey the above to the American Embassy.

A. J. COLES

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Prime Minister

1. Agree to see him from Foreign and Commonwealth Office
5.30 to 6.15 on 25 October
(after Frank; before the general reception)?

London SW1A 2AH

14 October 1982

2. Agree that only private secretaries should be present?

Yes - it would

Dear John,

A.F.C. $\frac{14}{10}$

be advised to

Law of the Sea

our ministers to sign this agreement

I enclose a letter from President Reagan to the Prime Minister which has been delivered by the American Embassy in London.

We understand that the American Administration have been trying for some time to organise a high-level mission to persuade us to join them in not signing the Law of the Sea Convention. The first two candidates for this job turned it down, but Mr Rumsfeld (President Ford's Secretary of Defence) is a senior Republican of considerable standing. In view of President Reagan's personal plea and his reference to transatlantic relations, we recommend that the Prime Minister agree to see Mr Rumsfeld if at all possible on 25 October. Since we may need to sign a reciprocating states agreement with the Americans in order to protect our deep sea mining interests, we have an interest in maintaining good relations with them in this area.

The American Embassy have asked if the Prime Minister would be willing to see Mr Rumsfeld on a one-to-one basis, at least initially. We do not think it necessary to agree to this condition, unless the Prime Minister would particularly wish to do so. By agreeing to a meeting we would already be indicating greater awareness of US sensitivities than the Americans have shown towards us. We were not for instance consulted before President Reagan's announcement of his decision on 9 July that the USA would not sign the Convention, although Mr Haig had earlier promised such consultations.

US pressure not to sign the Convention is likely to be matched by pressure in the opposite direction from several quarters. The French have already said in public that they will sign the Convention and we expect the Japanese, Canadians and Australians to follow suit. Indeed there has already been some discreet pressure from the Old Commonwealth and Japan on us to sign.

/If the

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If the Prime Minister is willing to see Mr Rumsfeld we will - if you wish - let Mr Steator know. Briefing for the meeting will be prepared in conjunction with the other Departments involved. We will also consider whether the call could usefully cover matters other than Law of the Sea and include these in the briefing if appropriate.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of the Secretaries of State for Trade, Industry, Energy, Defence, Environment and Scotland and the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Yours ever

for Holmes

(J E Holmes)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

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