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CBS  
Tel No: Law of the Sea: Pt 2



PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
10 DOWNING STREET  
SERIAL No. T209B/84

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 December 1984

My dear Prime Minister.

In my letter of 2 November about the UN Law of the Sea Convention, I promised to let you know our decision.

I can assure you that we thought carefully about the points you made in your message of 24 October. But after full consideration we decided that we should not sign the Convention. This decision was announced in Parliament on 6 December. As you will know, we also decided that it would be right for us to clear the way for signature of the Community.

We have long considered that the deep seabed mining regime was unacceptable in its present form. We worked hard in the Preparatory Commission to secure improvements. But there has only been a limited response to a few of the technical proposals we put forward. In these circumstances it was not possible for us to sign the Convention.

We would, however, still like to see a maritime regime which could be accepted by consensus. We hope that as the difficulties of the mining regime become clear to a wider range of countries it may still be possible to achieve such a Convention. In any case there remains a considerable

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amount of time for further negotiations before commercial deep seabed mining becomes viable. I hope that we can continue to work together to resolve the remaining problems.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Thatcher

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The Honourable David Lange, MP.