

OPS a MASTER

SUBJECT: FOREIGN POLICY
Law of the Sea
Pt 2



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 December 1984

**PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 210 AB/84**

Dear General

Thank you for your letter of 12 November about the UN Law of the Sea Convention.

It was good of you to set out your views so fully. I can assure you that we thought very carefully about the points you made. But after full consideration we decided that we could not sign the Convention. This decision was announced in Parliament on 6 December. As you well 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 amount of time for further negotiations before commercial deep seabed mining becomes viable. I hope that we can continue to work together, and through the Community to the extent that it has competence, to resolve the remaining problems.

Yours
Linn

Raymond

Dr. Garret FitzGerald, TD.