Subject PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL MESSAGE SERIAL NO. 7183/84 10 DOWNING STREET 2 November THE PRIME MINISTER Ma Provi Mister Thank you for your message about the UN Law of the Sea Convention which your High Commissioner in London passed to me on 24 October. Your urged that the UK should sign the Convention before the final date for signature and draw attention to the advantages offered by it in areas other than seabed mining. We recognise that much in the Convention is helpful, particularly its provisions on navigation, pollution and the continental shelf. As you noted, however, the regime presently envisaged for seabed mining causes us considerable concern. We are aware of the significance of the final date for signautre, and we are reviewing the work carried out by the Preparatory Commission during the last two years and its implications for the future. I shall take fully into account the points which you have made and will let you know once we have taken a decision. lows simely I ayanit- , habiter The Honourable David Lange, M.P.

2 November 1984

Thank you for your letter of 24 October with which you passed to the Prime Minister a cabled message from the Prime Minister of New Zealand about the UN Law of the Sea Convention.

I should be most grateful if you would send to Mr. Lange the enclosed reply from Mrs. Thatcher.

From the Private Secretary

CHARLES POWELL

His Excellency The Honourable W. L. Young.

Co

Foreign and Commonwealth Office London SW1A 2AH 1 November 1984 Jean Charles, Please refer to your letter of 24 October to Colin Budd about the message from the Prime Minister of New Zealand to the Prime Minister about the UN Law of the Sea Convention. The question of whether the UK should sign the Convention is to be considered by Ministers at OD on 7 November, on the basis of a Memorandum from the Foreign Secretary. In view of this, we recommend a holding reply, offering to let Mr Lange know our decision once it has been made. I enclose a draft, which has been cleared with the DTI. Ye ens, Peto Zicketts (P F Ricketts) Private Secretary C D Powell Esq 10 Downing Street

DSR 41 (Revised)	DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note	TYPE: Draft/Final 1+
•	PS/No 10 DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:	Reference
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	TO:	Your Reference
Top Secret Secret Confidential Restricted Unclassified	HE The Hon W L Young High Commissioner New Zealand High Commission New Zealand House Haymarket LONDON SWIY 4TQ	Copies to:
PRIVACY MARKING	SUBJECT:	
CAVEAT	1. Thank you for your letter of 24 00 you passed to the Prime Minister a call the Prime Minister of New Zealand about the Sea Convention. 2. I should be most grateful if you was more than the enclosed reply from Mrs 2.	oled message from ut the UN Law of would send to
Enclosures—flag(s)		

DSR fi (Revised)		
DISK II (REVISER)	DRAFT: m	
*	FROM: The Prime	
	DEPARTMEN	
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	TO: The Hon Da Prime Mini	
Top Secret Secret		
Confidential Restricted		
Unclassified		
PRIVACY MARKING	SUBJECT:	
In Confidence	Thank	
CAVEAT	Sea Conven	
	passed to	
	You u	
	before the	
	to the adv	
	bed mining	
	helpful, p	
	pollution	
	however, t	
	mining cau	
	We a	
	for signat	

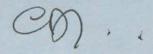
Enclosures-flag(s).....

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note	TYPE: Draft/Final 1+
FROM:	Reference
The Prime Minister	5 7
DEPARTMENT: TEL. NO:	
TO:	Your Reference
The Hon David Lange MP Prime Minister of New Zealand	
Filme Minister of New Zealand	Copies to:
SUBJECT:	

Thank you for your message about the UN Law of the Sea Convention which your High Commissioner in London passed to me on 24 October.

You urged that the UK should sign the Convention before the final date for signature and draw attention to the advantages offered by it in areas other than seabed mining. We recognise that much in the Convention is helpful, particularly its provisions on navigation, pollution and the continental shelf. As you noted, however, the regime presently envisaged for seabed mining causes us considerable concern.

We are aware of the significance of the final date for signature, and we are reviewing the work carried out by the Preparatory Commission during the last two years and its implications for the future. I shall take fully into account the points which you have made and will let you know once we have taken a decision.



Greign Por A-2 lawy no soa