

MASSER  
OPS

FOR POL: Law of the Sea: R2

hie

JCR



cc FCO

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T2090/84 10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 December 1984

My dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 5 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 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 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

ECU

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 Stalder

---

His Excellency Dr. Ruud F.M. Lubbers



CCPC  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 December 1984

Dear Charles,

UN Law of the Sea Convention

///

I now enclose draft replies from the Prime Minister to letters of 24 October from the New Zealand Prime Minister, 5 November from the Netherlands Prime Minister and 29 November from the Rt Hon James Callaghan MP.

attached

Yours ever,

Peter Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM:

Reference

Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO:

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Netherlands Prime Minister

Copies to:

*APN*

PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

Thank you for your letter of 5 November about the UN Law of the Sea Convention.

CAVEAT.....

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 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.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

/We

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 to resolve the remaining problems.

EDR  
-