

MASTER

OPS

For Pol: Land & Sea: Pt 2



CC FCO

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T.208A/84 10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

10 December, 1984

Dear Ron.

Thank you for your message about the UN Law of the Sea Convention.

As you know, we have always found the Convention's proposed mining regime unacceptable and have clearly indicated that, although some other parts might be of benefit to us, we would not be able to ratify or accede to the Convention unless the mining regime were changed.

We have recently reviewed our policy and have found no reason to change our decision of two years ago not to sign. We accordingly announced in Parliament on 6 December that the UK would not sign the Convention.

We also announced that we would not stand in the way of signature of the Convention by the European Community, whose competence as regards the Convention is very limited. (We have naturally insisted that the limits of this competence and therefore of the Community's acceptance of the Convention, should be carefully spelled out in declarations on signature). As you know, the Federal Republic of Germany took a similar decision.

We now have a situation in which three of the countries most likely to be involved in deep sea bed mining have decided not to sign the Convention. Other industrialised

CC

countries have made their reservations clear. There should therefore be a strong incentive for the international community as a whole to accept the need for improvements of the sort both our countries have worked for in the past. I agree that we should continue to co-operate on this subject in the future.

Y
Lansing
Rogers

The President of the United States of America