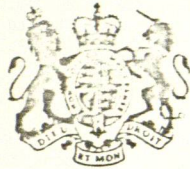


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For For: Law of the Sea: R2



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THE PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T2096^A/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

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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 Stalder

His Excellency Dr. Ruud F.M. Lubbers