

SUBJECT



CONFIDENTIAL

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JD

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 March 1983

UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION

Following an informal briefing meeting here today, the Prime Minister has considered further the minute of 22 February by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on the question of whether we should attend the preparatory commission opening in Jamaica on 15 March and, if so, what tactics we should employ there.

The Prime Minister agrees with Mr. Pym's recommendation that we should participate in the preparatory commission. She also agrees, broadly, that the basis of HMG's negotiating position should be as described in the minute under reference.

Further, the Prime Minister has read the Cabinet Office note, annexed to Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 23 February, on a Reciprocating States Agreement and has noted our current approach to this question and the fact that no Ministerial decisions are at present necessary.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of OD, the Secretaries of State for Industry, Energy, the Environment, the Minister of Agriculture, the Attorney General and Sir Robert Armstrong.

JC

John Holmes, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.