



JEJ
TCO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

12 December 1984

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 210^{BB}/84

a MASTER OF

Dear Garet.

Thank you for your letter of 12 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 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 well 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

JK

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, and through the Community to the extent that it has competence, to resolve the remaining problems.

*Y
Linn*

Raymond

Dr. Garret FitzGerald, TD.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

10 December 1984

Dear Charles,

UN Law of Sea Convention

I enclose draft letters from the Prime Minister to the Irish and Australian Prime Ministers, who wrote on 12 and 8 November respectively in support of UK signature of the Convention.

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

Taoiseach

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

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PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

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CAVEAT.....

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Enclosures—flag(s).....

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GM

FOR POL: LAW OF THE SEA: RZ