



OPS
cc Master

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T196c/82

ORIGINAL ATO

*Subject on Foreign Policy
Law of the Sea: May 1980*

20th October, 1982

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London,
UNITED KINGDOM.

Dear Prime Minister,

The Third Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting for Asia and Pacific was held in Suva from 14th to 18th October. Fifteen of the seventeen Heads personally attended. We were able to discuss global political and economic trends and their impact on the Asia-Pacific region, as well as review regional functional co-operation among the Commonwealth States within the region. Many of the areas of functional co-operation that were identified at the previous two CHOGPM have reached the stage of practical implementation and the meeting was able to give new impetus to this.

Among the matters of particular interest to all participants was the forthcoming signing of the Law of the Sea Convention in December this year.

Given the complexity and the diversity of the subject matter it was the general view that the Convention is the best that could be achieved. It was recognised that the treaty is of great significance to the international community. It is of course, of particular importance for the small island developing countries which look to the resources of the sea for their future development. While welcoming the adoption of the Convention after nine years of negotiations the Heads of Government noted with regret that some of our friends in the West, notably the United States, have indicated that they will not sign it. It is everyone's hope however, that the countries

.../2

of Western Europe, such as the United Kingdom which has a long history of maritime tradition, will find it possible to support the Convention by signing it. I therefore, convey this expectation of my colleagues at CHOGRM for your Government's consideration.

I take this opportunity of enclosing a copy of the CHOGRM Communique for your information.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

K. K. T. Mara

K.K.T. Mara
Prime Minister