

OPS

cc ~~Copy~~ ^{Copy} ~~Marius~~ + For. Pol.: 3rd UN Law of the Sea Conference May 1980

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. ^{T 1912182} THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Original of text
received earlier.

p.a.
MR 26
6

October 10, 1982

Dear Margaret,

The Law of the Sea treaty adopted by the United Nations Conference last April raises many fundamental concerns for the United States. In July, as you know, I concluded that signing that treaty will not serve the national interest.

I recognize that the treaty deals with a wide variety of areas and issues. Indeed, my July statement noted that most provisions of the treaty are consistent with the interests of the United States and other countries. Based on a review of significant interests, such as those with respect to military and commercial navigation, I am confident that they can be fully protected without signing or ratifying the treaty.

At the same time, I also believe that the deep seabed mining provisions of the treaty would be detrimental to the interests of a number of countries, including the United States and our close friends and allies. Development of deep seabed resources on an economic basis would be very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve under the treaty. In broader terms, the treaty would create precedents that are contrary to a range of important interests and that would adversely affect the positions of advanced countries in the future development of international institution-building generally.

These problems are of deep concern to the United States and to me personally. I believe it is very important that we work together to have a clear understanding of the consequences of the Law of the Sea treaty and to coordinate our efforts in a way that will serve our common interests.

For this reason, I have asked Don Rumsfeld to serve as a special emissary to discuss these matters with you and with other key allies. He has my fullest confidence and I trust that you will consider him to be my personal emissary in regard to the matters I have asked him to raise with you.

Finally, let me say that while Law of the Sea is the issue which has led me to propose Don's mission, I view it within the context of our broader relationship as allies faced with a number of problems. While each of them has its complexities, I believe deeply that we are capable now, as perhaps never before, of solving them and of demonstrating a degree of allied cohesion unparalleled in the past generation. For this reason, Don will be receptive to listening to other elements of our common agenda. Needless to say, I will value your thoughts greatly and very much look forward to receiving Don's report.

With warm personal regards,

Ron

The Right Honorable Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister
London