

Proactive Release

Date: 1 August 2019

The following Cabinet paper/s and related Cabinet minute/s have been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

***Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: United States of America:
(CAB-19-MIN-0330)***

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 1 July 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 15 to 20 July 2019, to travel to Washington DC, United States of America for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$33,603 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **agreed** that he also be accompanied by his Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control and Minister for Racing;
 - 5.2 Hon Dr Megan Woods act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United States from 15-20 July 2019. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle for this travel.

Travel Objectives

2 I propose to travel to Washington DC to undertake a bilateral visit, as well as to accept an invitation from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to attend the US-hosted Summit on Advancing Religious Freedom. New Zealand's relationship with the United States is of fundamental importance, in security, economic and people-to-people terms, and regular political-level engagement in Washington is an integral part of driving the relationship forward.

3 The objectives of my proposed travel are:

- a) Underscore New Zealand's value proposition in the United States, by engaging with a range of high-level members of the US Administration, as well as Members of Congress;
- b) Promote and advance the enhanced Pacific partnership with the United States that we have been pursuing under the Pacific Reset;
- c) Advance New Zealand's bilateral interests with the United States, including in the areas of visas, trade and people-to-people links;
- d) Promote and defend a range of New Zealand positions of foreign policy importance (especially with respect to the Asia-Pacific); and
- e) Tell New Zealand's story, post-Christchurch, by describing the Government's various responses to the 15 March terrorist attack at the Summit on Advancing Religious Freedom.

Travel

4 I propose to depart New Zealand on the evening of Monday 15 July, returning to New Zealand on the morning of Saturday 20 July. Factoring in travel time, this allows three business days on the ground in Washington: two for a bilateral programme, and one to attend the Summit on Advancing Religious Freedom. The proposed visit programme involves official calls and interaction with the New Zealand constituency in Washington DC as well as a speaking engagement at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. This travel takes place during the winter recess, and I will not miss any Cabinet meetings.

Ministerial Party

5 I will be accompanied by my Chief of Staff, with the travel costs of the official delegation a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel. Additionally, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will meet the travel costs of the MFAT Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser, seconded to my office, to accompany the official delegation.

Acting Ministers

6 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Shane Jones act in my Foreign Affairs, Disarmament and Racing portfolios and Hon Dr Megan Woods act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolios from 15-20 July 2019.

Costs of Travel

7 The projected costs of the proposed travel (including for one accompanying staff member) are:

Airfares:	\$26,560
Accommodation:	\$4,043
Meals:	\$1,500
Ground transportation:	\$0
Hospitality/gifts:	

	\$0
Contingency:	\$1,500
Total:	\$33,603

Proactive Release

8 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

9 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to the United States from 15-20 July 2019;
- b) **note** that I will be accompanied by my Chief of Staff, as well as my office's Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser (the latter's costs being covered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade);
- c) **approve** expenditure of up to \$33,603 for travel expenses for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- d) **agree** that Hon Shane Jones act in my Foreign Affairs, Racing and Disarmament portfolios and Hon Dr Megan Woods act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio from 15-20 July 2019.

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs