

Proactive Release

Date: 15 May 2023

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta	
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta - Minute of Decision	CAB-23-SUB-0115

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 3 April 2023, Cabinet **noted the report from Hon Nanaia Mahuta under CAB-23-SUB-0115 on her travel, from 26 February to 3 March 2023, to:**

- 1 Tokyo, Japan for bilateral discussions;
- 2 Singapore to attend the Asia New Zealand Foundation's Honorary Advisers meeting, and bilateral meetings.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Cabinet

Report to Cabinet: Minister of Foreign Affairs' Visit to Japan and Singapore, 26 February – 3 March.

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Japan and Singapore, 26 February – 3 March.

Report

- 2 My visit to Japan and Singapore included two days in Tokyo and one day in Singapore.

Japan

- 3 The trip to Japan met the objectives outlined in the Cabinet paper seeking approval for the visit - as set out below - s6(a)
- 4 The objectives for my visit were to:
 - Strengthen dialogue on shared strategic interests in the Pacific, Indo-Pacific and globally;
 - Refresh the 2019 Japan-New Zealand Declaration on Pacific Cooperation;
 - Promote early conclusion of the Japan-New Zealand Information Sharing Agreement (ISA), which our Prime Ministers have agreed to negotiate;
 - Establish new Japan-New Zealand working-level talks on disarmament and non-proliferation s6(a) ;
 - Highlight and strengthen Māori links with Japan.
- 5 In Tokyo I was accompanied by a Māori delegation (Te Hurumanu) which included Ngahiwi Tomoana (Pōkai Ao Lead, Te Pou Tahua of National Iwi Chairs Forum, Te Aratini Kaihautū), Charlie Rahiri (Tikanga Adviser), Jacqui Caine (Group Head Strategy & Environment, Ngāi Tahu), and Hoki-mai Chong (Chief Adviser, New Zealand Māori Tourism). We held joint activities including a Japan-New Zealand Business Roundtable; a meeting with New Zealand Honorary Consuls; an Education New Zealand promotional event and two receptions at the New Zealand Embassy.
- 6 The centrepiece of my visit was my meeting with Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi. I also met LDP Secretary General Toshimitsu Motegi, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Shunsuke Takei and had a breakfast meeting with members of the Japan-New Zealand Parliamentary Friendship League.

- 7 Detailed reporting has been produced by the diplomatic post in Tokyo and circulated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade's formal message system.

Bilateral cooperation

- 8 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

We stressed the importance and early conclusion of the Information Security Agreement (ISA) as a priority, s6(a), s6(b)(i)

- 9 We agreed to establish and hold disarmament and non-proliferation talks in 2023 at officials-level. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

- 10 We noted that bilateral trade had rebounded well following the reopening of our borders. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Pacific

- 11 We discussed geo-strategic competition in the Pacific s6(a), s6(b)(i)

I welcomed Japan's and the US's increased engagement in the Pacific, s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Aotearoa New Zealand encouraged partners to strengthen the Pacific regional architecture, and respond to priorities as expressed by the Pacific, as a key means to building Pacific regional security and resilience. We agreed to increase our development cooperation in the region, and that the refreshed Pacific Declaration provides a useful framework for this, in line with Pacific priorities.

- 12 We discussed the Fukushima treated water issue s6(a), s6(b)(i)

I emphasised that Aotearoa New Zealand would continue to support the role of the IAEA, and the evidential threshold the IAEA applied. However, it remained important that Japan maintain dialogue with Pacific countries to help build their trust and confidence that Japan respected the health of the marine environment.

Global and Indo-Pacific issues

- 13 We exchanged views on a number of issues including Russia/Ukraine, DPRK and our respective bilateral relationships with China. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

14

Singapore

- 15 On my return home from Tokyo I stopped off for a day in Singapore from 1 – 2 March to attend a meeting of Asia New Zealand Foundation Honorary Advisers. Both the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Timor-Leste and Minister of Defence for Singapore are Honorary Advisers, so the meeting provided opportunities for bilateral engagement with both. This included the signing of the New Zealand-Timor-Leste Statement of Partnership.
- 16 Detailed reporting has been produced by the diplomatic post in Tokyo and circulated through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade's formal message system.

Proactive Release

- 17 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18)4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that Cabinet:

- 1 note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minita Take Aorere / Minister of Foreign Affairs