

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 7 October 2024

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 14 to 20 July 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0316
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 14 to 20 July 2024–</i>	

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 OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA 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 OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – 14 to 20 July 2024

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 26 August 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-24-SUB-0316 on his travel, from 14 to 20 July 2024, to Seoul, Republic of Korea for bilateral meetings, and Tokyo, Japan to attend the 10th triennial Japan Pacific Island Leaders Meeting.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – July 2024

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to the Republic of Korea and Japan, from 14 to 20 July. The travel achieved a wide range of objectives, but primarily enabled us to:
- deepen New Zealand's bilateral relationships with the Republic of Korea and Japan;
 - represent New Zealand at Japan's 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 10); and
 - engage with a wide range of Pacific leaders attending PALM 10, ahead of upcoming the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

Visit to the Republic of Korea

- 2 We travelled to the Republic of Korea from 14 to 15 July for a short bilateral visit. The centrepiece of the visit was a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul. We also met with Korea's National Security Adviser Chang Ho-jin and Commander of the United Nations Command General Paul LaCamera.
- 3 The visit demonstrated the positive relationship between Korea and New Zealand, underpinned by Korea's ongoing appreciation for our contribution during the Korean war. We discussed important topics in the bilateral relationship, including trade; security (notably the threat posed by DPRK's nuclear programmes; and Korea's appreciation for New Zealand's offshore military deployments); and regional and global geopolitics.
- 4 Nearly ten years since our bilateral free trade agreement (KNZFTA) entered into force, our discussion on trade and economic issues focused on what more can be done to further strengthen this important aspect of the relationship. We also discussed ^{s6(a)} New Zealand's interest in an KNZFTA upgrade, in part to address our significant trade deficit.
- 5 On security cooperation, a thread that ran through our visit was New Zealand's contribution to the Korean War and our long-standing support for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. We spoke about the security situation, including the significant challenges posed by North Korea's nuclear programme and their newly enhanced military capabilities. We also discussed the growing Russia-DPRK relationship; ^{s6(a)} ^{s6(a)} and the importance of cooperating with, and supporting, regional institutions including the PIF.

Visit to Japan – Pacific elements

- 6 Following Korea, we travelled to Japan from 16 to 20 July. A key element of this leg was regional engagement focussed on our shared equities in the Pacific.
- 7 Pacific leaders overwhelmingly used PALM 10 to highlight the significant impact of climate change – particularly sea-level rise and the need for support around adaptation – but also the need for access to climate finance and increased support to the Pacific Resilience Facility.
- 8 Outside of climate change, leaders highlighted the issue of the ‘de-banking’ of the Pacific; the need to increase trade and labour mobility; the ongoing release of treated water from Fukushima; and Fiji Prime Minister Rabuka’s ‘Ocean of Peace’ concept.
- 9 During the separate PIF caucus meeting, leaders addressed the ongoing situation in New Caledonia. Pacific leaders agreed to a request from President Louis Mapou for the Pacific Islands Forum to lead a ‘fact-finding’ mission to New Caledonia to better understand the context on-the-ground.
- 10 In the Margins of PALM 10, we also held ten meetings with Forum counterparts that traversed a wide variety of bilateral issues, including meetings with:
 - President Hilda Heine of the Republic of Marshall Islands;
 - President Wesley Simina of Federated States of Micronesia;
 - Prime Minister Hu’akavameiliku of Tonga;
 - Prime Minister Charlot Salwai of Vanuatu;
 - Prime Minister Feleti Teo of Tuvalu;
 - Prime Minister Mark Brown of Cook Islands;
 - Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka of Fiji;
 - Prime Minister Fiamē Mata’afa of Samoa;
 - Prime Minister Moetai Brotherson of French Polynesia; and
 - Foreign Minister Penny Wong of Australia.

Visit to Japan – bilateral elements

- 11 The bilateral elements of our visit included engagements with Prime Minister Kishida; Defence Minister Kihara; and Chief Cabinet Secretary Hayashi. We also:
 - hosted an aquaculture promotion event at the New Zealand Embassy;
 - gave a foreign policy address at the International House of Japan;
 - held media interviews with local media organisations; and
 - met with Japanese politicians from New Zealand, Australian and Pacific Islands parliamentarians’ groups.
- 12 During our engagement with Prime Minister Kishida, we highlighted New Zealand’s commitment to strengthening our bilateral partnership with Japan. We also briefed the Prime Minister on New Zealand’s foreign policy reset, and our desire to work even more closely with Japan in the Pacific.

- 13 Our discussions with Defence Minister Kihara highlighted the recent step-up in senior political bilateral engagement. ^{s6(a)}

Indo-Pacific ^{s6(a)} a. We discussed key regional issues in the

- 14 Our discussion with Chief Cabinet Secretary Hayashi included regional challenges associated with enhanced strategic competition in the Pacific. We also exchanged views on North Korea, CPTPP, economic security, and welcomed the ^{s6(a)} Information Security Agreement (ISA). There was strong alignment between our worldviews on these issues.

Proactive release

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

Recommendation

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs