

20 February 2025

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OIA 29911

Thank you for your email of 26 January 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*"I am writing to enquire as to whether the New Zealand government is of the opinion that, despite the defunct nature of the South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), the underlying Southeast Asia Collective Defence Treaty remains in effect and binds the parties to collective defence?"*

Please note that the OIA does not require an agency to form an opinion in order to respond to a request. You may wish to refer to the Ombudsman's guide "*Making official information requests: A guide for requestors*" for guidance on what constitutes a request under the OIA (page 7 refers):

<https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/making-official-information-requests-guide-requesters>

The New Zealand Treaties Online website provides an official record of the international treaties that New Zealand has entered into and their status. The Southeast Asia Collective Defence Treaty remains in force and may be viewed at:

<https://www.treaties.mfat.govt.nz/search/details/t/799/2870>.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade