

Proactive Release

Published on: 27 January 2025

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 – October 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0446
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – Thailand and Indonesia – 18-21 October 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; and,
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.



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 – October 2024

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 18 November 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-24-SUB-0446 on his travel, from 18 to 21 October 2024, to:

- 1 Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand for a bilateral visit;
- 2 Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia to attend the inauguration of President Prabowo Subianto, and for bilateral meetings.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – Thailand and Indonesia – 18-21 October 2024

This paper recommends that Cabinet note this report on travel to the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Indonesia from Friday 18 October to Monday 21 October 2024 (inclusive).

Report

1. The purpose of the travel was to continue the uplift of two of our six priority South East Asia relationships. The visit to Bangkok from 18-19 October 2024 drove progress towards New Zealand's elevation of our relationship with Thailand to a Strategic Partnership, and provided opportunities to highlight and strengthen existing government, business, and people-to-people links s6(a)

The visit to Jakarta for the inauguration of President Prabowo Subianto demonstrated the importance New Zealand places on its Comprehensive Partnership with Indonesia and set New Zealand in good stead with Indonesia's new government.

Bangkok

2. The travel to the Kingdom of Thailand from 18-19 October 2024 was the first official visit to Thailand since the formation of the current Thai Government in September. The visit enabled engagement with key Government counterparts including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, Anutin Charnvirakul; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Maris Sangiampongsa; and Leader of the Opposition, Natthaphon Ruengpanyawut.
3. Meetings focused on the work to establish a Thailand-New Zealand Strategic Partnership that demonstrates our firm commitment to strengthening the bilateral relationship with Thailand. The visit made clear that delivering meaningfully on the Strategic Partnership will require New Zealand to think holistically across the tools available to us, including cross-agency coordination and a deliberate focus on how New Zealand's International Development Cooperation contributes to our shared goals in the Mekong sub-region.
4. In the meeting with Foreign Minister Maris, it was agreed that work on the upgrade of our relationship should be progressed without delay and that the next step would be to finalise a Roadmap to the Strategic Partnership during

Maris' December visit to New Zealand. s6(b)(i)

Challenges that lie ahead for achieving the ambition of tripling two-way trade by 2045 were discussed, noting that it will require harnessing all 'layers' of our relationship. s6(b)(i)

5. Two other engagements in Bangkok enabled progress towards strengthening business linkages. This included a site visit to One Bangkok, a major infrastructure development project involving New Zealand engineering consulting firm, Beca Group Limited, and the signing of three Memoranda of Understanding between New Zealand firms and Thai counterparts.

Jakarta - Inauguration of Indonesian President, Prabowo Subianto

6. The visit to Jakarta was centred around the inauguration of Indonesia's eighth President, Prabowo Subianto. The inauguration was s6(a) attended by an impressive list of international leaders, where New Zealand was invited as one of twenty VVIPs. In his speech, President Prabowo s6(a) focused on being "brave" enough to realise Indonesia's ambitions and ensuring the benefits of Indonesia's hard-fought independence were enjoyed by all. He vowed to achieve food and energy self-sufficiency – areas where New Zealand can add value. Prabowo also reaffirmed Indonesia's free, active, and non-aligned foreign policy, reiterating his intention to be "friends to all, enemies to none."
7. As a VVIP, New Zealand was one of nine countries to meet President Prabowo on Inauguration Day for a courtesy call at the Presidential Palace. President Prabowo was accompanied by newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs Sugiono and Director General for Asia-Pacific and African Affairs s6(a). The meeting enabled us to position New Zealand as a trusted partner for Indonesia and the Indo-Pacific. President Prabowo expressed thanks for the great honour of New Zealand's attendance. s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

Gratitude was conveyed to the President for Indonesia's support to the safe release of New Zealand citizen, Phillip Mehrtens, on 21 September 2024 after being held hostage for 19 months in Papua.

8. The inauguration was also a chance to engage with a number of foreign leaders, including: s6(a)

s6(a)

9. The final engagement in Jakarta was a reception with New Zealand Embassy staff and families at the New Zealand Official Residence to express thanks for their contribution to the successful outcome to the Papua hostage case and safe release of Phillip Mehrstens.

Proactive release

This Cabinet paper would 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 redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

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