

Proactive Release

Date: 13 June 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 [Turkey] CAB 19-MIN-0108 refers

Proposed Overseas Travel: Turkey 21 – 24 March 2019 [CAB 19-MIN-0070] Refers - (70 refers as it was an add on to Indonesia)

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters [Indonesia and Turkey] CAB-19-MIN-0183 refers

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters [Indonesia and Turkey] CAB-19-SUB-0183 refers

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 international relations of the New Zealand Government;

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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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 25 March 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that on 11 March 2019, Cabinet approved the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 19 to 24 March 2019, to travel to Jakarta, Indonesia, to attend an ASEAN dialogue [CAB-19-MIN-0070];
- 2 **noted** that the Prime Minister subsequently approved in principle his travel to Istanbul, Turkey to attend an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation relating to the Christchurch mosques terror attack;
- 3 **authorised**, retrospectively, his absence from New Zealand, from 21 to 24 March 2019, to travel to Istanbul, Turkey to attend the emergency meeting noted in paragraph 2 above;
- 4 **noted** that he was accompanied by two members of staff;
- 5 **approved**, retrospectively, the estimated expenditure of up to \$48,109 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party to Indonesia and Turkey as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 6 **noted** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon David Parker acted as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
 - 6.2 Hon Tracey Martin acted as Minister for Racing;
 - 6.3 Hon David Clark acted as Minister for State Owned Enterprises;
- 7 **noted** that the House did not sit during his absence.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: TURKEY 21 – 24 MARCH 2019

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Turkey between 22 and 24 March 2019. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle. This travel would be in addition to a visit to Indonesia (20 – 21 March) that was previously approved by Cabinet, [CAB-19-MIN-0070 Minute] refers.

Travel Objectives: Turkey (22 – 23 March)

2 The Vice President of Turkey, Fuat Oktay, has invited me to attend an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) which will take place in Istanbul on Friday 22 March. The meeting will be focused on the terrorist attack in Christchurch.

3 Objectives for the travel to Turkey are:

- Personally offer OIC partners our condolences for any of their nationals killed or injured in the attack;
- Emphasise to our Islamic partners that the beliefs and actions of a foreign national who has committed terrible crimes in our country do not reflect the core beliefs that New Zealand stands for including religious tolerance, compassion and support for diversity.

Travel

4 On the evening of Thursday 21 March, I propose to depart Jakarta, Indonesia for Istanbul, Turkey – with an expected arrival time of 5:55 am on Friday 22 March. I

will then depart Istanbul, Turkey for New Zealand at 1:55am on Saturday 23 March, arriving back into Auckland at 9:30am on Sunday 24 March.

Ministerial Party

5 I would be accompanied by my Chief Press Secretary and a Foreign Affairs Private Secretary from my office. I would also be joined by Minister Jenny Salesa and an adviser from her office. Minister Salesa will submit a separate Cabinet paper seeking approval for her travel.

Acting Ministers

6 If Cabinet approves my travel, Hon Martin will act in my Racing portfolio, Hon Dr Clark will act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio and Hon Parker will act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios.

Costs of Travel

7 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party **to both Indonesia and Turkey** are:

Airfares	\$38,109
Accommodation and other expenses:	\$6,500
Hospitality and gifts:	\$1,000
Contingency	\$2,500
Total	\$48,109

8 If approved, the above total figure would **supersede** the amount of \$16,500 previously approved by Cabinet for costs associated with visiting Indonesia over the period 20 – 21 March. The above figure also reflects the likelihood that the Government of Turkey will meet some of the on the ground costs (i.e. accommodation) of my delegation.

Proactive Release

9 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

10 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Turkey between 21 to 24 March 2019;
- b) **note** that my travel to Jakarta, Indonesia, between 20 – 21 March has previously been approved by Cabinet, [CAB-19-MIN-0070 Minute] refers;
- c) **note** that I will be accompanied by two staff members from my office (my chief press secretary and a foreign affairs private secretary);
- d) **note** that I will be joined by Minister Jenny Salesa and one staff member from her office (to be approved by Cabinet through a separate paper)
- e) **approve** expenditure of up to \$48,109 for travel expenses for Indonesia and Turkey for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- f) **agree** that Hon David Parker act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Tracey Martin act in my Racing portfolio, and Hon David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio from 21 to 24 March 2019;

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs



Cabinet

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Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 29 April 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-19-SUB-0183 on his travel from 20 to 24 March 2019:

- 1 Indonesia, to attend a High Level Dialogue on Indo Pacific Cooperation and undertake bilateral meetings;
- 2 Turkey, with Hon Jenny Salesa, to attend an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation relating to the Christchurch mosques terror attack.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair

Cabinet

REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: INDONESIA AND TURKEY: 20 – 24 MARCH 2019

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on travel to Indonesia and Turkey between 20 and 24 March 2019. Although submitted under my name, this report also covers Minister Salesa who accompanied me in Istanbul.

Report

2 **Indonesia** (20 – 21 March): My decision to continue with a visit Jakarta was based on the serious importance of communicating directly to partner countries on how New Zealand was responding following the Christchurch terror attacks. This outreach was successful with both the Indonesian Government and media noting that Indonesia stood in solidarity with New Zealand.

Bilateral Meetings with Indonesia

3 My programme included a meeting with Vice President Jusuf Kalla. ^{s6(a)}

4 After discussing New Zealand's response to the Christchurch terror attack, we passed on New Zealand's condolences for the floods in Papua Province, the casualties and the displaced. The conversation then moved on to other topics such

as the Indo Pacific meeting, the Indonesian elections, earthquakes, Lombok and economic affairs. We concluded by saying New Zealand seriously valued its relationship with Indonesia, a sentiment Vice President Kalla reciprocated.

5 A very cordial meeting was also held with Foreign Minister Marsudi. Minister Marsudi expressed her condolences to New Zealand; she said Indonesia had appreciated New Zealand's response to the tragedy.

High Level Dialogue on Indo Pacific Cooperation

6 This was a fairly quickly arranged Indonesian initiative. All East Asia Summit (EAS) members attended. The interventions were rather uniform, stressing inclusivity and the centrality of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). There was emphasis on improving connectivity in the region, but overall the meeting^{s6(a)} did not venture into discussions of new regional architecture. Those who spoke about architecture stressed the need to build on the existing EAS, ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus. Almost uniformly delegates offered condolences to New Zealand, some such as the Philippines quite heart-felt.

Bilateral Meeting with Australia Foreign Minister Marise Payne

7 Immediately following the High Level Dialogue, we met with Australian Foreign Minister Payne. During the meeting the Christchurch attack was discussed and Minister Payne reiterated that Australia stood ready to provide New Zealand with further support. Minister Payne also registered her interest in visiting Christchurch at a convenient time.^{s6(a)}

Other Bilateral Meetings

8 I also held bilateral meetings with the United States (Patrick Murphy, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary), Japan (Kentaro Sonoura, Special Adviser to the Prime

Minister) and the Republic of Korea (Lee Taeho, Second Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs).

9 **Turkey** (22 – 23 March): Set against the backdrop of uncertainty about how the Muslim World would respond collectively to the Christchurch terror attacks, we travelled overnight from Jakarta to Istanbul to attend an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). New Zealand's presence at the meeting was effective in engaging all 57 OIC member countries on our response to the attacks.

10 The atmospherics of the meeting were very positive throughout, with most speakers highlighting New Zealand's response as a model for others to learn from. Many were effusive in their praise of the Prime Minister's leadership, and of the solidarity and inclusiveness displayed by all New Zealanders, usually set against a concern about alleged rising international Islamophobia.

11 OIC Secretary-General HE Mr Yousef Al Othaimen opened the emergency session by condemning in "all possible terms" the violent event which had taken place in Christchurch the previous Friday: "Muslim or non-Muslim, there is no difference, and there is no excuse whatsoever for any form of terrorist action". He offered condolences to the people of New Zealand and, in particular, to those affected directly by the terror attacks.

12 The Secretary-General praised New Zealand for its "quick, clear and unequivocal reaction" to what had happened, a reaction which had been so well received in the Muslim World. He also noted very positively the fast action taken on an automatic weapons ban.

13 Turkish Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu opened with a focus on his recent visit to New Zealand and the warm welcome he had received. He offered condolences to the affected families in New Zealand, and to the whole country. He said that he had been struck by the huge emotional impact the event had had, not only on the victims and their families, but on the entire country. He thanked us for attending the meeting, saying that New Zealand had provided a "model response" to the situation

which had been greatly appreciated. Seeing the embrace of the Islamic community and the links between the Islamic community and the other religions had been very striking.

14 President Erdoğan offered his sympathy to “the brothers and sisters in New Zealand who have been subjected to the ravages of the terrorist attack” as well as their families. Erdoğan went on to praise the New Zealand Government for showing a high level of sensitivity and standing firm in the face of what was wrong.

15 Most other delegations present made interventions of a broadly similar nature which condemned the Christchurch attack, offered condolences and praised the quick and compassionate response of New Zealand’s leadership and all New Zealanders.

16 I delivered a statement to the meeting, against a backdrop (for the final segment) of a video compilation of footage showing New Zealand’s reaction to the Christchurch shootings. The video, showing the outpouring of grief throughout the country, was very well received, with many OIC Ministers and delegation members responding emotionally.

17 A draft Communiqué was agreed by OIC members present. Relevant sections are noted below:

- *“**Appreciates** the Government of New Zealand for its unequivocal condemnation of the terrorist attacks, in particular the firm and clear stance of the Prime Minister of New Zealand, who embraced the Muslim community and shared their grief and **commends** also the outpouring of sympathy and solidarity from all segments of the society of New Zealand;”*
- *“**Supports fully** the Government of New Zealand in its commitment for a thorough and fully transparent investigation into the terrorist attacks...”*
- *“**Expresses** its deepest condolences to the families of the innocent Muslim victims and the people and Government of New Zealand and strongly hopes*

that the families will be consoled and satisfied by ensuring full justice and accountability for all the horrendous crimes committed by the terrorist.”

18 While in Istanbul we also had bilateral meetings with President Erdoğan, Turkish Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu and Pakistan Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

19 Having Minister Salesa accompany the delegation was a very visual demonstration of New Zealand political representation and the level of empathy with the victims and families.

Proactive Release

20 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

21 I recommend that Cabinet **note** this report.

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs