

# Proactive Release

Date: 10 September 2019

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

***Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters:***

***(CAB-19-MIN 0391 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;
- 6(b): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs**

On 12 August 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Rt Hon Winston Peters under CAB-19-SUB-0391 on his travel, from 2 to 8 July 2019, to:

- 1        Santiago, Chile for a bilateral visit;
- 2        Lima, Peru to attend the Pacific Alliance Summit.

Martin Bell  
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair

Cabinet

**REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: CHILE AND PERU, FROM 2 – 8 JULY 2019**

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Chile and Peru from 2 – 8 July 2019.

**Report**

2 In early July, I travelled to Santiago, Chile for bilateral meetings with the Chilean Government (2 – 3 July) and then represented New Zealand at the Pacific Alliance summit in Lima, Peru (4 – 5 July). While in Peru, I also undertook several bilateral meetings with counterparts from Latin American partners. Overall, the visit was successful in that we tangibly demonstrated New Zealand's commitment to our relationship with Chile, the Pacific Alliance (which consists of Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru), and Latin America more broadly. We met our objectives of underscoring New Zealand's serious commitment to concluding a high-quality and mutually beneficial free trade agreement with the Pacific Alliance, as well deepening political links with likeminded partners in our broader Asia-Pacific region.

*Chile*

3 During our short visit to Chile, I met with the President of the Republic, Sebastián Piñera, the newly-appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, Teodoro Ribera, as well as the Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Walker. In all three meetings we reaffirmed that New Zealand is stable, long-established democracy that is committed to a strong, strategic relationship with Chile. We confirmed that New Zealand is a

natural partner for Chile, given that we share many interests and values, and <sup>s6(a)</sup>

4 In our meeting, President Piñera reaffirmed the strength of our bilateral relationship and expressed Chile's firm commitment to New Zealand joining the Pacific Alliance as an Associate Member. Chile remained committed, the President said, <sup>s9(2)(i)</sup>

and underscored Chile's commitment to work with the other Pacific Alliance countries towards getting an agreement concluded by the end of 2019. We reiterated New Zealand's support for Chile as host of both APEC Leaders' Week and the Climate Change Conference (COP25) later this year.

#### *Peru*

5 The Pacific Alliance summit in Lima enabled us to clearly and prominently outline at a high level the mutual benefits of closer cooperation between New Zealand and the four Alliance countries, and specifically the shared value of a free trade agreement. At the Pacific Alliance Council of Ministers, Peru's Trade Minister – who spoke on behalf of the Pacific Alliance Foreign and Trade Ministers – expressed a strong commitment to concluding FTA negotiations with the current four Candidate Associate States (New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Singapore) by the end of 2019. This was a welcome message.

6 Speaking in response, we outlined to the Pacific Alliance Ministers the strategic reasons for New Zealand's close interest in the Pacific Alliance, and emphasised that countries like ours that support the international rules-based system must actively work together to defend it. As food producing nations, we all stood to benefit from maximising sustainable productivity and exporting within a predictable framework. We welcomed the resumption of negotiations and acknowledged that every country must take account of sensitive domestic considerations. We assured the Pacific Alliance ministers that New Zealand negotiators would be flexible and pragmatic in seeking to conclude the negotiations.

7 In the margins of the summit, we took the opportunity to meet bilaterally with the foreign ministers of Peru, Colombia, Mexico and Ecuador (having already met with the Chilean Foreign Minister in Santiago in the days prior).

8 s9(2)(j)

we had a timely and positive meeting with Colombian foreign minister, Carlos Trujillo, to directly make New Zealand's case for the conclusion of mutually beneficial FTA with the Pacific Alliance. s6(b)

9 We noted that New Zealand, of course, also had our domestic concerns. But that should not preclude us from finding common ground in the interests of advancing regional integration and supporting the international rules-based system that served the wider interests of countries such as our own. s6(b)

We welcomed the Minister's stated intention to visit New Zealand later this year, and since that meeting and a following up discussion in Washington DC the following week we have formally invited Minister Trujillo.

10 Our meeting with the Foreign Minister of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard, was also a fruitful and noteworthy exchange. He congratulated New Zealand on our presentation to the Pacific Alliance Ministers the previous day and the clarity of our message. s6(b)

s9(2)(j)

In addition to discussing next steps on the FTA negotiations, we canvassed areas of mutual

interest, including the significant regional crisis unfolding in Venezuela where  
s6(a)

### *Comment*

11 This first visit to Latin America in my capacity as Minister of Foreign Affairs during the current Parliamentary term was timely and productive. Following the recent re-start of FTA negotiations with the four Pacific Alliance countries, the exchanges with both foreign and trade ministers enabled us to make a strong case for why closer integration with the Asia-Pacific served our mutual economic interests. But it also allowed us to have a broader conversation about how closer regional integration served our wider political interests as countries that had a serious stake in a well-functioning international system based on rules. s6(a)

We have followed up with him on his interest in visiting New Zealand. s9(2)(j)

12 Finally, the short visit to Chile, including the collegial meeting with President Pinera, ensured that our relationship with Chile remains in excellent shape following Prime Minister Ardern's hosting of the President last November.

### **Proactive Release**

13 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**

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

### **Approved for lodgement**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs