

HON PEENI HENARE, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Ministerial Overseas Travel to Singapore and South Korea – June 2022

December 2022

This publication provides the Cabinet proposal and report back on Ministerial travel to Singapore and South Korea in June 2022, including the associated minutes of decision.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the May 2022 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Penni Henare* [CAB-22-SUB-0198 and CAB-22-MIN-0198]
- the September 2022 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decisions *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare* [CAB-22-SUB-0405 and CAB-22-MIN-0405].

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at:
www.defence.govt.nz/publications.



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: Hon Peeni Henare

Portfolio **Defence**

On 27 September 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Peeni Henare under CAB-22-SUB-0405 on his travel, from 8 to 16 June 2022, to:

- 1 Singapore to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies' Shangri-La Dialogue;
- 2 South Korea to visit New Zealand Defence Force personnel serving on the longest standing deployment in the Indo-Pacific region, and for bilateral discussions.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Singapore and South Korea from 8 to 16 June 2022.

Report

Singapore (8 – 12 June)

- 1 The purpose of my travel to Singapore was to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) hosted Shangri-La Dialogue. The Shangri-La Dialogue is the premier forum for Defence Ministers in the Indo-Pacific. This year's summit marked the relaunch of the Dialogue following its hiatus in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.
- 2 During the Dialogue's plenary sessions, I heard speeches from Ministers, senior officials, security experts and business leaders on topics ranging from geopolitical competition to developing new forms of security co-operation, and military modernisation.
- 3 Both the United States and China used their platform at the plenary session to outline their vision for the future of the Indo-Pacific and their place in it. Japan used the forum as an opportunity to demonstrate their increased proactivity in the Indo-Pacific and global affairs, and Australia announced a renewed focus on the security of the Pacific and climate change mitigation.
- 4 I delivered a speech as a member of the Climate Security and Green Defence panel which also included representatives from Germany, the Maldives and the United Kingdom. My speech emphasised the importance New Zealand places on responding, adapting, mitigating and engaging with Defence Forces of the Indo-Pacific region as a trusted partner on climate change.
- 5 At the Shangri-La Dialogue, I also undertook 12 bilateral engagements, including with Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Canada, Solomon Islands, the Netherlands, Singapore and South Korea. My introductory meeting with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Richard Marles, was particularly valuable, as was the chance to engage with Solomon Islands' Minister for Police, National Security and Correctional Services, Anthony Veke. Many of my engagements were warm and cordial, with free flowing discussion of key issues.

- 6 I also attended a Five Power Defence Arrangements Defence Ministers' meeting. This engagement was a valuable opportunity to share perspectives on pressing security issues facing our region.
- 7 There was a strong Defence Industry presence at the Dialogue, and I met with representatives from Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Airbus. We discussed diversifying supply chains, and all three companies sought to understand what assistance they could provide New Zealand, and what New Zealand would be interested in investing in.

South Korea (13 – 16 June)

- 8 Following the conclusion of the Shangri-La Dialogue, I travelled to South Korea to visit New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel serving on the longest standing deployment in the Indo-Pacific region. Those I spoke to were positive about their experience on the mission, and noted the high regard in which NZDF personnel were held. At the War Memorial of Korea, I spoke to media and attended a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate New Zealand's involvement in the Korean War. These engagements were in line with my *People* defence priority.
- 9 This visit also allowed me to reaffirm our bilateral defence relationship with South Korea during the 60th anniversary year of New Zealand-South Korea diplomatic relations. I met with General Paul LaCamera, Commander of UNC/Combined Forces Command/United Forces Korea, who provided an update on security issues on the Korean Peninsula.
- 10 Due to the recent change in the South Korean government, I was not able to meet with Ministry of National Defense officials, but
- 11 I had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of the Defence Acquisition Programme Administration, who provided his perspective on solutions to the defence supply chain issues the war in Ukraine has exposed. We both expressed our interest in future cooperation in the defence industry, as has been seen with Australia. I met with my ministerial counterpart at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore prior to my visit to South Korea.
- 12 My visit to South Korea provided me with invaluable first hand exposure to a NZDF operational deployment, and it helped enhance my understanding of one of the most pressing threats in our region.

Proactive release

- 13 I propose to proactively release this paper within 30 business days. Proactive release will be subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Peeni Henare

Minister for Defence

Released by the Minister of Defence



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

Portfolio **Defence**

On 30 May 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Peeni Henare from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 8 to 16 June 2022 to travel to:
 - 1.1 Singapore to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue;
 - 1.2 South Korea to visit New Zealand Defence Force personnel serving on the longest standing deployment in the Indo-Pacific region, and for bilateral discussions;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two staff members from his office, one of whom will be funded by the Ministry of Defence or the New Zealand Defence Force;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$49,436 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force, whose travel costs will be met by their agencies;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Nanaia Mahuta act as Minister of Defence;
 - 5.2 Hon Willie Jackson act as Minister for Whānau Ora;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Singapore and South Korea from 8 to 16 June 2022.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

Singapore (8 – 12 June)

- 3 The purpose of my travel to Singapore is to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue.
- 4 The Shangri-La Dialogue is the premier forum for Defence Ministers in the Indo-Pacific. The high levels of attendance from Ministers, defence force leaders, and senior security agency officials make it an important focal point for major power relationships and for discussion on contemporary strategic issues. This summit will mark the relaunch of the Dialogue following its hiatus in both 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.
- 5 I have been asked to deliver a speech on climate security and green defence with a focus on the Pacific as part of a panel discussion. Climate change will be one of the greatest challenges for New Zealand Defence in the coming decades, as set out in the Defence Assessment 2021. This speech will provide an opportunity to highlight the importance New Zealand places on responding, adapting, mitigating and engaging with Defence Forces of the Indo-Pacific region as a trusted partner on climate change.
- 6 I am seeking meetings with counterparts from countries including Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Canada, the United States, Solomon Islands, the European Union, Timor Leste and Singapore. I have also been invited to attend group meetings in the margins of the event, including a Five Power Defence Arrangements Defence Ministers' meeting and

These engagements provide

a valuable opportunity to share perspectives on some of the most crucial security issues facing our region with some of its most influential actors.
- 7 There is also a strong Defence Industry presence at the Dialogue. I am seeking meetings with Airbus, Babcock, Lockheed Martin and Boeing because these companies have a strategic partnership with New Zealand Defence, providing capabilities as well as in service maintenance and

support for the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). In addition, they typically partner with New Zealand businesses (often small to medium enterprises) to source specialist local expertise. By doing so, they invest in New Zealand industry and strengthen regional resilience.

South Korea (13 – 16 June)

- 8 Following the conclusion of the Shangri-La Dialogue, I propose to travel to South Korea where I will visit New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel serving on the longest standing deployment in the Indo-Pacific region, in line with my *People* priority. I will also spend time acknowledging the service of NZDF personnel who served in the Korean War at the Korean War Memorial and ANZAC War Memorial.
- 9 A visit to South Korea will allow me to reaffirm our bilateral defence relationship, and assure South Korea and other United Nations partners of our ongoing commitment to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. The visit will also follow on from the meeting with my South Korean counterpart to be held during the Shangri-La Dialogue. I plan to visit the United Nations Command and Joint Security Area where I propose to meet with the US Commander of the United Nations Command and its Military Armistice Commission, and other senior South Korean and United States officials and military leaders and personnel. These valuable discussions will help to enhance my understanding of one of the most pressing threats in our region.

Ministerial Party

- 10 I would be accompanied by two staff members from my office for each leg of the visit. My advisor will be with me for each leg, with the other staff member being funded by the Ministry of Defence or the NZDF. I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Defence and NZDF to both Singapore and South Korea. Their costs would be met from the departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

Indicative travel costs for my staff member and I are:

Airfares and taxes:	\$25,852
Accommodation, meals, transport:	\$13,200
Receptions/hospitality, gifts:	\$ 5,890
Contingency (@10%):	\$ 4,494
Total:	\$49,436

Acting Ministers

- 11 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

Defence: Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Whānau Ora: Hon Willie Jackson

12 My Associate Portfolios will revert to lead Ministers.

Proactive release

13 This paper will be proactively released on the Ministry of Defence's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 8 to 16 June 2022 to travel to Singapore and South Korea;
- 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by two members of staff for each leg of the visit, one of whom will be funded by the Ministry of Defence or the New Zealand Defence Force;
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$49,436.00 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force whose travel costs will be met by their departments;
- 1.5 agree that Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Defence) and Hon Willie Jackson (Whānau Ora) will be Acting Ministers in my absence;
- 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Peeni Herare

Minister for Defence