

HON RON MARK, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Ministerial Overseas Travel 20-01-2020 to 29-01-2020

July 2020

This publication provides Cabinet documents regarding the proposal, and the report for Hon Ron Mark on his travel, from 20 to 29 January 2020, to Canada and the United States for counterpart visits.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the December 2019 Cabinet minute of decision: *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark* [CAB-19-MIN-0658]
- the associated Cabinet paper: *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark: Canada and the United States – 20 to 29 January 2020* [CAB-19-SUB-0658]
- the April 2020 Cabinet minute of decision: *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark* [CAB-20-MIN-0147]
- the associated Cabinet paper: *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark* [CAB-20-SUB-0147].

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

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document.

Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)]



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: Hon Ron Mark

Portfolio **Defence**

On 9 December 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Ron Mark from New Zealand, from 20 to 29 January 2020, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Ottawa and British Columbia, Canada to conduct bilateral meetings and visit the site of the Frigate Systems Upgrade for *HMNZS Te Mana* and *HMNZS Te Kaha*;
 - 1.2 Washington DC and Honolulu, United States of America to conduct bilateral meetings and visit the Indo-Pacific Command (INDO-PACOM);
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$36,120 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 be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force, whose costs will be met by their respective departments;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Veterans;
- 6 **noted** that leave from the House has been approved by the Party Whip.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon Ron Mark

Office of the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark: Canada and the United States – 20 to 29 January 2020

1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Canada and the United States for counterpart visits from 20 to 29 January 2020 in my capacity as the Minister of Defence.

2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

Canada

3 The purpose of my travel to Canada is to conduct a counterpart visit to Ottawa and British Columbia. In Ottawa I will conduct meetings with the Canadian Minister of Defence and senior security officials. [redacted] s6(a)

4 Prior to my engagements in Ottawa, I propose visiting *Base Esquimalt* in British Columbia, the home port for Canada's Maritime Forces Pacific and the site of the Frigate Systems Upgrade for *HMNZS Te Mana* and *HMNZS Te Kaha*. Visiting the site of the upgrades would provide the opportunity to ascertain a first-hand understanding of the status of the project on the ground, to thank Canada for their unwavering support during this upgrade [redacted] s6(a)

United States

5 A visit to the United States would acknowledge the strong defence relationship between our two countries, a core part of the broader bilateral relationship. High level visits are an important pillar of this relationship [redacted] s6(a)
[redacted] I propose visiting Washington, the United Nations Headquarters in New York and travelling through Honolulu on my return to New Zealand.

6 Whilst in Washington I would be hosted by my counterpart. [redacted] s6(a)

s6(a)

7 My counterpart and I will hold discussions on strategic security issues and our common deployments. s6(a)

s6(a). I may conduct a short day trip to the United Nations Headquarters in New York to discuss New Zealand's peacekeeping deployments to South Sudan (UNMISS), Lebanon (UNTSO), the Republic of Korea (UNC/UNCMAC), and, if confirmed, our Force Commander position with UNDOF.

8 On my departure from the United States I propose travelling through Hawaii in order to visit the Indo-Pacific Command (INDO-PACOM). s6(a)

s6(a). I would be hosted by the Commander while in Honolulu. New Zealand's relationship with INDO-PACOM is important and substantive, as this regional Command is responsible for Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific engagement. We have a number of Defence Force personnel based in Hawaii on long-term postings who I will also interact with.

9 s6(a)

This would be my first visit to Canada and the United States in my capacity as Minister of Defence. With both counterparts I will be updating them on major capability decisions and defence policy, including the recent release of the Defence Assessment *Advancing Pacific Partnerships*.

Ministerial Party

10 I propose to travel with one staff member from my office and officials from the New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Defence. Officials' travel will be funded by their respective agencies.

Travel Costs

11 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$ 30,000
Accommodation:	\$ 4,000
Receptions/hospitality, gifts	\$ 400
Contingency (5%)	\$ 1,720

Total: \$ 36,120

Acting Ministers

12 The Rt Hon Winston Peters has agreed to act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

Proactive release

13 I propose to proactively release this travel request, along with the travel report, following the conclusion of my travel.

Recommendations

14 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 14.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 20 to 29 January 2019 to travel to Canada and the United States in order to conduct counterpart visits;
- 14.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff, and officials from the New Zealand Defence Force and the Ministry of Defence whose travel costs will be met from their respective votes;
- 14.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$36,120 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 14.4 agree that in my absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters will act in the Defence and Veterans Portfolios; and
- 14.5 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ron Mark

Minister of Defence

Released by the Minister of Defence



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

Portfolio **Defence**

On 6 April 2020, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Ron Mark under CAB-20-SUB-0147 on his travel, from 20 to 29 January 2020, to:

- 1 Ottawa and British Columbia, Canada to conduct bilateral meetings and visit the site of the Frigate Systems Upgrade project;
- 2 Washington DC and Honolulu, United States of America to conduct bilateral meetings and visit the Indo-Pacific Command (INDO-PACOM).

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Office of the Minister for Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Canada and the United States from 20 to 29 January to conduct counterpart visits.

Report

Canada

- 2 My visit to Canada comprised two parts, firstly I travelled to Victoria, British Columbia to visit the Frigate Systems Upgrade (FSU) project and meet with Lockheed Martin, the Prime Systems Integrator for the project. Following a tour of both ships, I met Frank St John (Executive Vice President of Rotary and Mission Systems, Lockheed Martin) and other senior executives from Lockheed Martin. [REDACTED] s6(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 3 It was useful to see first-hand HMNZS Te Kaha and HMNZS Te Mana in the midst of their upgrades. The scale of industrial and systems work being undertaken was significant and cannot be understated. I met with [REDACTED] s6(a) Royal New Zealand Navy personnel [REDACTED] s6(a). In Victoria I was hosted by Rear Admiral Bob Auchterlonie, Commander Maritime Forces Pacific. I expressed thanks on behalf of New Zealand to the Canadian Navy for the substantial support they have provided to this project.
- 4 The second leg of my Canada visit was to Ottawa where I was hosted by my counterpart Minister of National Defence, Hon. Harjit Sajjan. [REDACTED] s6(a)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 5 While in Ottawa I also had an introductory meeting with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Hon. Lawrence MacAulay and briefings from senior Canadian defence personnel. My Veterans meeting was useful, Canada and New Zealand face similar challenges transitioning individuals out of the military and meeting the distinct needs of contemporary veterans.

United States

- 6 My programme in the United States commenced with calls at the United Nations Headquarters in New York where I met with Under Secretary General Rosemary DiCarlo and Under Secretary General Jean-Pierre LaCroix. Here my discussions focused on peacekeeping,

s6(a)

- 7 Following that I met with US Secretary of Defence, Dr Mark Esper; Deputy National Security Advisor, Matthew Pottinger; and Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert Wilkie in Washington.

s6(a)

- 8 In addition to these calls, I also led a roundtable at the Centre for Climate Security and Council on Strategic Risks, and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

- 9 I concluded my visit to the US with visit to Honolulu, where I met with Commander US Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral Philip Davidson. My wider visit programme in Honolulu included a briefing from Commander Special Operations Command Pacific, Major General Jonathon Braga; a visit to the US Coastguard Cutter Kimball; a barge tour of Pearl Harbor; and a visit to the US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit.

Proactive release

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

Recommendation

- 11 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. **note** this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ron Mark

Minister for Defence