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**MANATŪ KAUPAPA
WAONGA**
NEW ZEALAND
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

17 October 2025

TRANSFER OF YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 5 October 2025, in which you requested, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

The United States' National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026 directs the Secretaries of Defense and State to "establish and maintain a security cooperation initiative (referred to in this section as the 'Partnership') to strengthen cooperation among the defense industrial bases of the United States and allied and partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region." Concerning the possibility of New Zealand involvement in this "Partnership," the NDAA states that the US will "establish a process to determine which allies and partners of the United States (including Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, the Philippines, and New Zealand) shall be invited to participate as member countries." Please provide briefings, Cabinet papers, and any communications and advice concerning this matter.

The Ministry of Defence (the Ministry) is the government agency responsible for the development of defence policy, international defence engagements and the delivery of major capability projects. The information you have requested is more closely connected to the work of the New Zealand Defence Force. Accordingly, I am transferring your request to that agency in accordance with section 14(b)(i) of the Act.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to request the Ombudsman to investigate and review this transfer.

Yours sincerely

Director, Ministerial and Executive Services