

HON ANDREW LITTLE, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Ministerial Overseas Travel 16-11-2022 to 25-11-2022

June 2023

This publication provides the Cabinet proposal and report back on Hon Peeni Henare's travel to the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and Poland for bilateral discussions, and Cambodia to attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers meeting

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the November 2022 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare* [CAB-22-SUB-0487 and CAB-22-MIN-0487]
- the December 2022 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare* [CAB-22-SUB-0593 and CAB-22-MIN-0593]

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. Where information has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2) of the Act, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

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)]
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on the basis of confidence by the Government of any other country [section 6(b)(i)].



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 Peeni Henare

Portfolio Defence

On 7 November 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Peeni Henare from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 16 to 26 November 2022, to travel to:
 - 1.1 the United Kingdom and Poland for bilateral discussions;
 - 1.2 Cambodia to attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers meeting;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff, 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 \$72,846 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 New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Defence whose travel costs will met by their departments;
- 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.

Rachel Hayward
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 the United Kingdom (UK), Poland and Cambodia from 16 to 26 November.

2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle. Leave from Parliament has been sought.

Purpose of Travel

3 The proposed travel programme includes to the UK from 16 to 20 November, Poland from 18 to 19 November, and Cambodia from 21 to 24 November.

4 If you approve my travel, I plan to depart New Zealand early on Wednesday 16 November and return on Saturday 26 November. Travel will be by commercial aircraft.

UK (16 to 20 November)

5 The purpose of my travel to the UK is to meet with my UK counterpart, the Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace. This meeting will take place on 17 November at the British Army Headquarters, Andover. This will be my first trip to Europe as Minister of Defence.

6 Attending this meeting will allow me to enhance my working relationship with the UK Secretary of State for Defence and gain a deeper understanding of the priorities he has for his portfolio.

7 The visit will also provide me the opportunity to visit the 120 NZDF personnel deployed to the UK to train Ukrainian soldiers [redacted] s6(b)(i) and the 12 personnel supporting the analytical output of United Kingdom [redacted] s6(a)

8 My UK travel programme will enable me to conduct a deep dive on UK and New Zealand bilateral defence matters. It will also enable me to consider the matters that challenge the UK and New Zealand's shared security interests, and to set the strategic objectives for our relationship over the next 12 months.

Poland (18 to 19 November)

9 Subject to confirmation by his office, I will briefly travel from the UK to Poland meet with my Ukrainian counterpart on 18 November. The details of this potential meeting are yet to be determined as we are waiting to confirm Minister Reznikov's availability.

- 10 Our discussion would be a valuable opportunity to have my first kanohi ki te kanohi with Minister Reznikov following our virtual engagement in March and joint attendance to a number of Ministerial-level Defence Coordination Group meetings on Ukraine throughout the year.
- 11 This meeting would also enable me to update him on New Zealand's contributions to Ukraine and reiterate our support for their self-defence efforts.

Cambodia (21 to 24 November)

- 12 I will then travel to Cambodia, where I will attend the ADMM-Plus alongside counterparts from ASEAN and the 'Plus' countries, including Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the United States. This will be my third time attending the ADMM-Plus as Minister, and my first time engaging in-person due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 13 The ADMM-Plus is an important platform to foster dialogue, promote trust and forge relationships in the Indo-Pacific region. It will provide me with a valuable opportunity to hear the perspectives of my regional colleagues, and to further understand their countries' defence priorities and regional issues.
- 14 There will also be opportunities to conduct individual bilateral discussions in the margins of the meeting with a range of countries, including the United States, Cambodia, Indonesia, India and Malaysia.

Ministerial Party

- 15 I propose to travel with two staff members from my office, one of whom will be funded by the Ministry of Defence or the New Zealand Defence Force.
- 16 I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force. Their costs would be met from the departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

- 17 Indicative travel costs for my staff member and I are:

Airfares and taxes:	\$ 51,000
Accommodation, meals, transport:	\$ 11,044
Receptions/hospitality, gifts:	\$ 4,180
Contingency (@10%):	\$ 6,622
Total:	\$ 72,846

Acting Ministers

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

Defence: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Whānau Ora: Hon Willie Jackson

Associate Portfolios will revert to lead Ministers where applicable.

Proactive release

- 19 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 16 to 26 November to travel to the United Kingdom, Poland and Cambodia.
 - 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whom will be funded by the Ministry of Defence or the New Zealand Defence Force;
 - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$ 72,846 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 New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Defence whose travel costs will met by their departments;
 - 1.5 agree that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Nanaia Mahuta will be Acting Minister of Defence; and
 - 1.5.2 Hon Willie Jackson will be Acting Minister for Whānau Ora.
 - 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Peeni Henare

Minister for Defence



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Peeni Henare

Portfolio **Defence**

On 19 December 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Peeni Henare under CAB-22-SUB-0593 on his travel, from 16 to 25 November 2022, to:

- 1 the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and Poland for bilateral discussions;
- 2 Cambodia to attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers meeting.

Rachel Hayward
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 the United Kingdom (UK), Poland, Ukraine and Cambodia from 16 – 25 November.

Report

United Kingdom

- 1 The purpose of my visit to the UK was to conduct the first in-person bilateral meeting with my counterpart, Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace. This meeting was the first official, in-person engagement by a New Zealand Minister with the new British Government under Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.
- 2 My meeting with Secretary Wallace was a positive and wide-ranging discussion, focussing on our nations' joint support to Ukraine, the future of UK and NZ collaboration in the Pacific and wider international arena, and our respective policy reviews. We also touched on defence industry and explored opportunities to meet again in the future.
- 3 Secretary Wallace thanked New Zealand for our contribution to the UK-led artillery and infantry training programmes for the Ukrainian Armed Forces, and I acknowledged the UK's leadership in guiding our shared response to Russia's invasion. Secretary Wallace also shared his thoughts on the current situation in Ukraine and the future of the conflict.
- 4 Secretary Wallace and I both emphasised the value in the UK and New Zealand working together both globally and regionally in the Pacific alongside other likeminded partners. We agreed on the potential to collaborate in the Pacific more, both militarily and diplomatically. The Secretary also suggested our respected policy review teams meet to exchange notes.
- 5 Secretary Wallace and I visited some of the NZDF personnel training members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces at Salisbury Plains, where we were updated on the training programme's progress and witnessed first-hand the personnel working well together. This was a valuable opportunity to engage with New Zealand, UK, and Ukrainian soldiers.

Poland and Ukraine

- 6 Following my visit to the UK, I travelled to Poland and Ukraine to meet with my respective counterparts, Minister Blaszczak, Polish Minister of National Defense, and Minister Reznikov, Ukrainian Minister of Defence.

- 7 In Poland, Minister Blaszczak reiterated Poland's appreciation for New Zealand's contributions and noted the importance of having supporters across the globe. We both affirmed our shared values and the importance of working together with partners to meet present challenges.
- 8 I then travelled into Ukraine which marked the first time a New Zealand Minister has travelled there since the conflict began. My conversation with Minister Reznikov was warm and free-flowing, and I was able to reaffirm New Zealand's support to Ukraine's defence against Russia. Minister Reznikov thanked New Zealand specifically for our assistance in training troops in the UK, and he noted that sanctions are working well to isolate Russia from the international economy. We discussed various aspects of the war and its future, and the role New Zealand can continue to play in the long-term support of Ukraine.
- 9 Beyond my conversation with Minister Reznikov, I was able to visit parts of Kyiv and surrounding cities, and memorial sites commemorating Ukrainian soldiers who have fallen since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea.
- 10 This trip was an incredibly valuable opportunity to see for myself the indiscriminate destruction by the invasion, as well as the sacrifice made by Ukrainian citizens in the protection of their country's sovereignty.

Cambodia

- 11 I then travelled to Siem Reap, Cambodia, where I attended the 9th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and first physical meeting since 2019.
- 12 Areas of focus during discussion included the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the military coup and ongoing violence in Myanmar, COVID-19 and its continued challenges, and the situation in the South China Sea, with many Defence Ministers emphasising the need for freedom of navigation and overflight. Support was also voiced for the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula and for the ASEAN Security Architecture.
- 13 I delivered an intervention to members, reaffirmed our unwavering support to the Ukrainian people. I also condemned the military coup in Myanmar and noted concerns about developments in the South China Sea. I addressed climate change as a major, long-term threat to our region, and particularly to the Pacific.
- 14 I also took part in bilateral meetings with Cambodia (as Chair), the Philippines, India, China and Singapore.
- 15 ADMM-Plus was an opportunity for members to exchange views, particularly in a face-to-face setting, and I valued the chance to hear the perspectives of my regional colleagues.

Proactive release

16 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