

Proactive Release

Date: 6 August 2019

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

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: Thailand:

(CAB-19-MIN-0323)

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 1 July 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 30 July to 4 August 2019, to travel to Bangkok, Thailand to attend a series of annual regional meetings, and conduct bilateral meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$17,164 for travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 4.1 Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control and Minister for Racing;
 - 4.2 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: RT HON WINSTON PETERS: THAILAND

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Bangkok, Thailand from 30 July – 4 August, to attend a series of annual regional meetings, and conduct bilateral meetings with counterpart foreign ministers. These engagements will enable us to advance New Zealand's regional and bilateral interests in the Asia-Pacific region. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle for this travel.

Travel Objectives

2 On the regional side, I will attend:

- **The ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Consultations ("PMC+1"):** The PMC+1 meeting is New Zealand's most senior annual political engagement with the ten-member Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). It provides political direction to advance strategic and practical cooperation between New Zealand and ASEAN members.
- **The ASEAN Regional Forum ("ARF"):** This 27-member forum focuses on regional security cooperation and capacity building with a core preventive diplomacy mandate.
- **The East Asia Summit ("EAS") Foreign Ministers' Meeting:** The 18-member EAS is the Asia-Pacific's premier forum for strategic dialogue and brings together all of the region's major powers. The Ministerial meeting establishes a platform for the EAS Leaders' meeting, which will be held in Bangkok in November 2019.

3 In addition, I will take advantage of the presence in Bangkok of a large number of Asia-Pacific counterparts to conduct a series of bilateral meetings with counterpart foreign ministers.

Travel

4 I propose to depart New Zealand on the morning of Tuesday 30 July and return on the morning of Sunday 4 August 2019. I will not miss any Cabinet meetings during this time.

Ministerial Party

5 If this travel is approved, I would be accompanied by the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser in my office.

Acting Ministers

6 If Cabinet approves this travel, I would propose that Hon Grant Robertson act in my Foreign Affairs, Disarmament and Arms Control and Racing Portfolios, and Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio from 30 July – 4 August 2019.

Costs of Travel

7 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party are:

Airfares:	\$12,064
Accommodation and other expenses:	\$1,600
(Note: hotel costs for the head of delegation will be met by the Thai government)	
Hospitality and gifts:	\$2,000
Contingency:	\$1,500
Total	\$17,164

Proactive Release

8 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

9 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Thailand from 30 July to 4 August 2019;
- b) **note** that I would be accompanied by the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser from my office;
- c) **approve** expenditure of up to \$17,164 for travel expenses for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- d) **agree** that Hon Grant Robertson act in my Foreign Affairs, Disarmament and Racing portfolios, and that Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio, from 30 July to 4 August 2019;

Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs