

Aide Memoire — Russia/Ukraine Considerations in further diplomatic measures

MFAT's 14 February submission noted a further Aotearoa New Zealand response to Russian aggression in Ukraine could include further diplomatic measures. There are a range of escalating diplomatic measure that could be taken to indicate New Zealand's strong opposition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. At this time, many international partners have focused their efforts on the implementation of sanctions and have not yet announced other bilateral diplomatic steps. A number, including Australia, have indicated that they are considering their diplomatic options ^{s6(a)}. Of course, this could change quickly given the fluid situation on the ground. We anticipate also that once one of our partners moves, others will follow reasonably quickly. This aide memoire outlines:

- Potential options for further curtailing diplomatic ties;
- Factors officials would take into account in any recommendations; and
- Expected Russian responses.

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- Sever diplomatic relations with Russia - s6(a)

Possible Russian Responses

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6 Aotearoa New Zealand has very rarely adopted this measure. The last time we declared a Head of Mission *persona non grata* was Fiji's High Commissioner to New Zealand in 2008 - in response to their expulsion of our Acting High Commissioner to Fiji. In 2007, Fiji expelled our High Commissioner to Fiji, Mike Green. When they expelled our Acting High Commissioner, Caroline McDonald, the following year we responded by expelling their High Commissioner. In 1980, New Zealand declared the Russian Ambassador *persona non grata* for providing funds to the Socialist Unity Party. (i.e. foreign interference.)

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13 Officials will provide further advice on diplomatic measures in a submission that is under way on next steps that Aotearoa New Zealand might consider in response to Russia's aggression. Should developments warrant further recommendations on diplomatic measures at short notice, officials will engage immediately with the Minister's Office and DPMC.

Europe and Protocol Divisions
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade