

16 June 2025

Personal details removed for proactive release.

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OIA 30066

Thank you for your email of 1 April 2025 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"all advice, briefings, reports, memos and similar correspondence between mfat and the office of Winston Peters regarding his trip to New York and Washington this year as well as •all advice, briefings, reports, preparatory documents and similar correspondence regarding the change in US Administration including how Peters can prepare for the change to a Donald Trump presidency"

On 10 April 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the Ministry) contacted you to advise that the scope of this request was very broad, and likely to be refused under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. On the same day you agreed to refine the scope of your request to be for:

"Formal advice to the Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding his visit to New York and Washington in March 2025"

On 14 May 2025, the timeframes for responding to your request were extended by an additional 22 working days because responding to your request necessitated the review of a large quantity of information (section 15A(1)(a) of the OIA refers).

Attached are the following documents that are in scope of your request:

1. Minister of Foreign Affairs Day Packs United States Visit 13-19 March, dated 13 March 2025
2. Meeting Brief: Bilateral Meeting with Secretary of State Marco Rubio, dated 12 March 2025

Some information is withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 9(2)(a): to protect privacy.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, no public interest in releasing the information has been identified that would override the reasons for withholding it.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website:

www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at:

DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Sarah Corbett
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

RT HON WINSTON PETERS: THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025

New York is 17 hours behind New Zealand

Dress code: Business or casual attire

LOCAL TIME	NZT	PROGRAMME
1555		Depart Wellington for Auckland on NZ440
1700		Arrive AKL
1915		Depart AKL for New York City on NZ2
1800	1100 Friday	Arrive at JFK Airport, New York
1830	1130	Depart JFK Airport for s6(a)
1930	1230	Arrive at s6(a) Venue: s6(a)
2000	1300	Private Dinner

(END OF DAY PROGRAMME)

New York - Overview and Objectives

s6(a)

sb(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

s6(a)

Key Messages and Objectives

- Underline New Zealand's commitment to defending core rules and norms, centred on the UN Charter, which underpin sovereignty and territorial integrity, and our unwavering support for international law.
- Encourage the UN to be laser focused on its core, mandated responsibilities, recognising the need for Member States to lead and support significant reform if the UN is to remain relevant.
- Highlight the areas of the UN's agenda where New Zealand sees value in the UN's work and global convening power: peace and security issues; protection of human rights, development and humanitarian assistance; collective action on climate change and global environmental issues.
- s6(a)
 - b) How we can collectively safeguard core aspects of the UN system that are crucial to global security and prosperity; and
 - c) How to advance meaningful reform to ensure the UN upholds its fundamental – and unique – purpose and mandate.

United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division

New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York

March 2025

MFA Visit to Washington DC, March 2025: Overview and Objectives

The Trump Presidency has begun with the most intense implementation of new policy in modern memory. s6(a)

Your visit is vital as the first senior political engagement with the new administration and will set the initial framework and tone of New Zealand – US cooperation.

s6(a)

VISIT OBJECTIVES

- Establish relationship with Secretary of State Rubio and other administration leaders, s6(a)

Perceptions of New Zealand

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

Relationships

s6(a)

s6(a)

Indo-Pacific

s6(a)

s6(a)

Defence and Security

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

Trade and Economic

President Trump is imposing tariffs on trade competitors, starting with heavy tariffs on neighbours Canada and Mexico. The EU and China are also clearly in the cross hairs, as potentially are all trade partners, including New Zealand, and we anticipate further tariff announcements in the next weeks and months. These may affect New Zealand either directly – for example the announced tariffs on all agricultural imports from 2 April – or indirectly, through the disruption to international supply chains. s6(a)

s6(a)

You will have an opportunity to make the case that our trade is already reciprocal and our tariff regime already low, and therefore New Zealand should not face additional tariffs.

Global Issues / International Rules-Based System

President Trump's early announcements show a focus on ending the war in Ukraine and reducing US support to the security of Europe, resolving the crisis between Israel and Palestine; as well as imposing tariffs on major trading partners. s6(a)

s6(a)

Meeting Brief: Bilateral Meeting with Secretary of State Marco Rubio

Time and date: Tuesday 18 March 2025, 1.35-2:05pm

There will be a short, silent photo opportunity at the beginning of the meeting. There is no indication of a post-meeting press conference. No remarks will be required at this stage.



Marco Rubio was confirmed as Secretary of State on 20 January 2025. s6(a) , s6(a)

He has previously spoken out about the need to counter Chinese espionage and IP theft; boost American industrial capacity; and empower US allies and partners.

An experienced politician, Rubio has served in Congress and was first elected to the US Senate in 2010. He served on the Senate

Select Committee on Intelligence, and on committees responsible for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Foreign Relations, and Appropriations. s6(a)

s6(a)

Rubio was born in Florida to Cuban immigrants. He is a Catholic and regularly draws on his working-class upbringing. s9(2)(a)

Rubio is a staunch Miami Dolphins (American football) fan, and his wife was a cheerleader for the Dolphins. Rubio played football at college in Missouri. He graduated from the University of Florida and University of Miami School of Law.

You spoke with Secretary Rubio in January this year.

Discussion points

Bilateral relationship

- Highlight the importance we attach to our close friendship with the United States. Emphasise our alignment as **two of the longest-standing democracies**.
- s6(a)

- s6(a)

- s6(a)

Defence relationship

- Note the strength of **our bilateral defence relationship**. We have worked alongside the US over decades, including in the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific.
- **Emphasise that we are committed to doing more.** s6(a)
- Note **the Defence Capability Plan is nearing completion**. New Zealand has **recognised the need to step up on defence spending**. What we announce will be a floor, not a ceiling. Reiterate the NZDF aims to be a combat capable force able to operate seamlessly with our partners, especially Australia and the United States.
- s6(a)
s6(a)

Trade and economic

- Reiterate that our **bilateral trade** is thriving, complementary and well balanced and that New Zealand is often able to fill gaps in the US market - most recently of infant formula. s6(a) . Our exports feed into critical US supply chains in food and healthcare.
- s6(a)
- s6(a)

US engagement in the Pacific

- Emphasise our view of the **US as a Pacific country**, with strong interests in the region. Reference US effort to increase its Pacific focus during the first Trump Administration.

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s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

- s6(a)

International security issues

- s6(a)
- Welcome US engagement on ending the **war in Ukraine**. s6(a)
- s6(a) we remain **committed to a peace settlement that is just and lasting** and that doesn't establish a precedent that larger states can change international borders by force. Countries like New Zealand rely on international law being followed.
- **A just peace is more likely if Ukraine can negotiate from a position of strength.** New Zealand troops are training Ukrainian troops in the UK and Europe; we continue to implement sanctions to place pressure on Russia's ability to fund its war machine; and we have contributed funding for both military and humanitarian support.
- s6(a)
We want to see full implementation of that ceasefire and a **return to two-state solution negotiations**, as the only blueprint we have for long-term peace.
- s6(a)
- s6(a)

s6(a)

CABLE FROM WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2025

SUMMARY

President Trump has dominated the political agenda and media cycles since his inauguration 50 days ago. s6(a)

ACTION

For information in advance of the 14-19 March 2025 visit to the US by the Deputy Prime Minister.

REPORT

This report provides a WSH commentary on the state of play in the US and implications for New Zealand as at 11 March 2025 - day 50 of the second Trump administration.

2 s6(a)

In his election campaign, Trump pledged to take the country in a new direction and to do so at pace. He is now delivering on his election pledges (and more) based on what he sees as an overwhelming mandate from US voters. President Trump has so far signed a record 89 executive orders s6(a) He has offered significantly more media availability than his predecessor s6(a) and maintained a steady stream of social media posts on his Truth Social platform. This action has ensured the President has dominated US and global headlines over the last 50 days. s9(2)(g)(i)

Political Situation

3 s6(a)

Trump has maintained his election day momentum through and past inauguration. Approval ratings for the President are in the 45-50% range, so roughly the same as the level support he received in the November election but still among the lowest for any President after the first month. s6(a)

s6(a) . As expected, after four years preparing, the Trump Administration came in knowing what it wanted to do and how to get it done quickly.

4 s6(a)

5 s6(a)

6 s6(a)

Economic Situation

6 The biggest issue for voters in November 2024 was the cost of living/perceptions of the economy. The impact of the Trump Administration since 20 January on the economy remains to be seen. Latest inflation (3.0%) and unemployment (4.1%) rates were up slightly in the last month. The average price of gas is steady at around \$3.20 per gallon and down on 12 months earlier.

7 s6(a) . In an interview on Fox on 9 March, President Trump didn't rule out an economic recession. He described a "period of transition" as new tariffs and federal cost cutting measures were rolled out. In his joint address to Congress on 4 March, Trump referred to an "adjustment period" in the context of agricultural tariffs. s6(a)

8 s6(a)

s6(a)

9 s6(a)

Foreign Policy

10 s6(a)

11 s6(a)

12 s6(a)

13 There has only been limited focus so far on the Indo-Pacific by the administration. President Trump received an early visit from the Prime Minister of Japan; Secretary Rubio held a QUAD meeting; and two rounds of tariffs have been imposed on China s6(a)

A key moment for the region will be the expected 2 April announcements on reciprocal and other tariff arrangements. We will report further on US policy toward the Indo-Pacific shortly.

The Administration

14 s6(a)

Publications, such as [Forbes](#), are running influence trackers. Middle East Envoy, Steve Witkoff, is s6(a) leading on

Russia/Ukraine – Witkoff is expected to have a second engagement with President Putin this week. Vice-President JD Vance has taken a vocal role s6(a)

. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Director of the National Economic Council Kevin Hassett have been the leading voices on economic issues s6(a)

. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth s6(a)

15 s6(a)

16 While other agencies are slowly making progress in confirming their political appointees, the State Department nominations, including ambassadors, have been held up by Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i), as ranking member of the relevant sub-committee. s6(a)

17 s6(a)

Implications for New Zealand

18 s6(a)

19 s6(a)

20 s6(a)

21 s6(a)

s6(a)

ENDS

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CABLE FROM NYK 8 MARCH 2025

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RECENT FORMAL MESSAGES

i. FORMAL MESSAGE: UKRAINE-US RELATIONS AFTER “THAT” MEETING

From: WASHINGTON, 12 March 2025

s6(a)

ii. FORMAL MESSAGE: MEETING WITH US FOREIGN ASSISTANCE "CZAR"

PETER MAROCCO

From: WASHINGTON, 08 March 2025

s6(a)

s6(a)

**iii. FORMAL MESSAGE: MEETING WITH ACTING UNDERSECRETARY OF
STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS**

From: WASHINGTON, 08 March 2025

s6(a)

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iv. FORMAL MESSAGE: UNITED STATES: PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ADDRESS TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS: "THE AMERICAN DREAM IS UNSTOPPABLE"

From: WASHINGTON, 06 March 2025

President Trump delivered his first address to Congress in his second term on Tuesday 4 March. His address primarily recounted his actions enacted in his first weeks in office. He focused on his overhaul of the federal government, actions to counter illegal immigration, and promises of tax relief.

Trump defended the tariffs implemented that day including against Canada, Mexico, and China. He foreshadowed reciprocal tariff action on 2 April, including the possibility of greater tariffs on agricultural products, and called out close partners such as the Republic of Korea for perceived unfair treatment of the US. He made a rare acknowledgement that his tariff programme would require an "adjustment process" and be a "little disruptive".

Trump signalled his desire to maintain channels of communication with the Ukrainian and Russian presidents and arrive at a peace plan to resolve the war in Ukraine. Trump did not signal his intentions in detail for the Middle East, for Congress, and any desire for bipartisan cooperation in his address. Democrats protested throughout the address and warned of the high costs that Trump's policies would impose in their formal response.

s6(a)

COMMENT

s6(a)

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v. FORMAL MESSAGE: US FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PAUSE - LATEST VIEWS

From: WASHINGTON, 28 February 2025

The US has cancelled 92% of USAID contracts and 30% of State Department foreign aid-related grants – terminating some USD 60 billion of foreign assistance programming. s6(a)

s6(a)

**vi. FORMAL MESSAGE: UNITED STATES: NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST**

From: WASHINGTON, 26 February 2025

s6(a)

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s6(a)

**vii. FORMAL MESSAGE: INTRODUCTORY MEETING WITH US ACTING
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INDO-PACIFIC**

From: WASHINGTON, 26 February 2025

s6(a)

viii. FORMAL MESSAGE: PRIME MINISTER ISHIBA VISIT TO THE US

From: WASHINGTON, 21 February 2025

Japan Prime Minister Shigeru ISHIBA and US President Donald Trump met for the first time on 7 February, the latter's second meeting with a world leader (post inauguration). s6(a)

The two countries released a Joint Statement that signalled ongoing strength in the US-Japan Alliance s6(a)

s6(a)

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RT HON WINSTON PETERS: FRIDAY 14 MARCH 2025

New York is 17 hours behind New Zealand

Dress code: Business attire

LOCAL TIME	NZT	PROGRAMME
		Breakfast at s6(a)
0925	0225	Depart Hotel for meeting at Official Residence
1000-1030	0300	Meeting with Richard Haass <i>Venue: Official Residence</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
1030-1120	0330	Executive Time <i>Venue: Official Residence</i>
1120		Depart Official Residence for UN
1130 – 1200	0430	Meeting with Philémon Yang, President of the General Assembly <i>Venue: UN Secretariat, President of the General Assembly's Office, s6(a)</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
1200	0500	Depart PGA Office for UN Delegates' Lounge or Rose Garden
1205-1215	0505-0515	Coffee Break <i>Venue: UN Delegates' Lounge or Rose Garden</i>
1215	0515	Depart Delegates' Lounge or Rose Garden for DiCarlo Office
1220 – 1250	0520-0550	Meeting with Rosemary DiCarlo, Under Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs <i>Venue: UN Secretariat, s6(a)</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
1250	0550	Depart UN for Official Residence
1300 – 1400	0600	Lunch with Bob Rae, Permanent Representative of Canada <i>Venue: Official Residence</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
1400-1420	0700-0720	Executive Time <i>Venue: Official Residence</i>

1420	0720	Depart Official Residence for UN
1430-1445	0730-0745	Press Conference <i>Venue: Outside UN Secretariat Building, 45th Street and 1st Avenue (Weather option: Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations)</i>
1445	0745	Depart for s6(a)
1455	0755	Executive Time <i>Venue: s6(a)</i>
		Private Dinner

(END OF DAY PROGRAMME)

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Meeting Brief: Bilateral Meeting with Richard Haass, Former President, Council on Foreign Relations

Time and date:

Friday 14 March 2025, 10-10:30am



Dr Richard Haass is the Senior Counselor with Centerview Partners – a US investment banking firm that provides strategic advice and consultancy services. Haass is a veteran diplomat and remains a President Emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, where he served until 2023 as President for 20 years.

Haass was US State Department Director for Policy Planning and a principal adviser to Secretary of State Colin Powell. He also served as US Coordinator for Policy Towards the Future of Afghanistan and US Envoy to the Northern Ireland Peace Process. He retains the rank of Ambassador.

He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Oberlin, a PhD from Oxford University, and honorary degrees from Harvard University. He is a New York native and is married to Susan Mercandetti. They have two children.

Meeting Information

- The meeting is scheduled for 30 minutes.
- There will be no gift exchange.

Key objectives

- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- Discuss **US foreign policy** s6(a)

Meeting Brief: Philemon Yang, President of the General Assembly

Time and date:

Friday, 14 March, 11.30am-12pm, President of the General Assembly's Office



Philemon Yang [Appropriate address: “**Mr President**”] is the current President of the General Assembly (PGA) for the 79th session (2024–25), the neutral facilitator for the Assembly’s deliberations. Yang is a former Prime Minister of Cameroon (2009-2019).

Born in 1947, Yang is a magistrate by training. After obtaining a law degree in Cameroon, Yang completed a Master of Laws (International Law) from the University of Ottawa, and a Master of Business Administration from US Century University.

He has previously held Ministerial portfolios in Cameroon including, Vice-Minister of Territorial Administration (1975-79) and Minister of Mines and Energy (1979-84). He also served for 14 years as Cameroon’s High Commissioner to Canada (1984-2004).

Not surprisingly, given Yang’s background, the focus for his presidency is sustainable development and advancing “Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want”. Yang has also prioritised: AI and digitalization; finance, science and technology; revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly; and work to combat climate disruption.

Yang has visited Australia for a CHOGM meeting but is only lightly familiar with our region. He is married and has three children.

Meeting Information


- President Yang will host you for a meeting in his office. The meeting is scheduled for 30 minutes. The discussions will be conducted in English. There is no formal agenda, and the meeting is expected to be largely a courtesy call.
- President Yang is expected to begin discussions with an overview of his priorities as President of the General Assembly. You may wish to respond by sharing your priority areas of focus as New Zealand’s Foreign Minister.
- There will be no gift exchange. A photo opportunity will be available at the start of the meeting.

Key Points

- Recall that this year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and the creation of the UN. Ask Yang about the plans to mark the 80th anniversary of the UN.
- Reiterate New Zealand support for the UN and the international rules-based system.
- s6(a)
- s6(a)

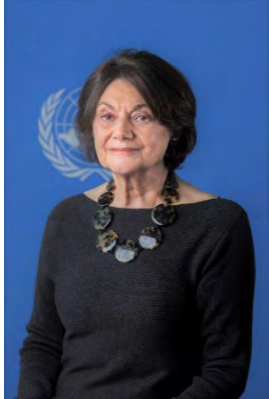
- Explain how New Zealand partners with the Pacific to support their sustainable development.
- s6(a)
- Seek Yang's views on the role of the UN General Assembly in addressing peace and security issues, noting the Security Council's primary responsibility for such issues.
- Seek Yang's views on UN reform and the seriousness of the UN liquidity crisis.

Overview: Cameroon Facts and Figures

Geography/Demographics			
Land Area	475,442 sq. km		
Population	31,000,000 (2024 estimate)		
Capital City	Yaoundé		
Languages	French and English		
Political			
Political system	Nominally a Presidential republic modelled on the French system. In practice, elections are flawed, and the ruling party consistently retains at least three quarters of the seats in both houses of Parliament.		
Elections	Last election in 2020. Parliamentary elections are expected in 2025, but a date has yet to be announced.		
Head of State	President Paul Biya has been President since 1982.		
Head of Government	Prime Minister Joseph Ngute, appointed by the President.		
s6(a)			
Economic (2024)			
GDP	US\$142 billion (NZ\$250b)	GDP per capita	US\$4,840 (NZ\$8,520)
Real GDP growth	3.3% (2023)	Inflation	7.4% (2023)
Cameroon Trade Profile			
Main exports	Petroleum, aluminium, timber, cocoa, and cotton.	Main imports	Machinery, fuel, food
Main export markets for goods	Netherlands, France, China	Main import markets	France, China
Trade with New Zealand is minimal (total two-way trade NZ\$44.47 million). We export dairy and frozen fish and import wood and rubber. Cameroon is our 88th trade partner.			

Meeting Brief: Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

Time and date: Friday, 14 March, 12.20-12:50pm, DiCarlo's office, UN Secretariat Building



Rosemary DiCarlo [Pronounced dee-car-low; appropriate address: "**Under-Secretary-General**"] is the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, one of the most senior roles in the UN Secretariat. A US national, DiCarlo assumed the post in 2018.

She advises the UN Secretary-General on international peace and security issues and frequently briefs the UN Security Council on conflict situations. She oversees "good offices" initiatives and field-based political missions carrying out peace-making, preventive diplomacy and peace-building activities. She also oversees UN electoral assistance provided to dozens of member states each year.

During her previous career with the US Department of State, DiCarlo served as the US Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN (appointed under President Obama). Other assignments included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, and Director for UN Affairs at the National Security Council, in D.C. She has completed overseas postings to Moscow and Oslo.

She was President of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy (2015-2018) and was concurrently appointed a Senior Fellow and Lecturer at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs.

DiCarlo graduated from Brown University with a BA, MA and PhD in comparative literature, Slavic languages and literature. She speaks French and Russian. We understand she may be travelling the week after you meet to Brussels with SG Guterres for NATO discussions.

DiCarlo and HOM NYK served as Deputy Permanent Representatives together, including during New Zealand's term on the UN Security Council in 2015-16.

Meeting information

- Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo will host you for a meeting in her office. The meeting is scheduled for 30 minutes. There is no formal agenda.
- s6(a)
- She will be briefed to thank you for New Zealand's support to Bougainville and Sir Jerry Mateparae's role as independent moderator. s6(a)
- There will be no gift exchange.

Key points

- Discuss the geopolitical climate and major issues threatening international peace and security – s6(a)
- s6(a)
- Underline New Zealand's view that the UN must focus on its fundamental mandate, which is to ensure international peace and security, while also promoting human rights, development and the rule of law, all of which underpin peace and security.
- s6(a)
- Seek DiCarlo's views on the role of the UN General Assembly in addressing peace and security issues, noting the Security Council's primary responsibility for such issues.
- Seek DiCarlo's views on UN reform and the seriousness of the UN liquidity crisis, including on areas ripe for reform within her portfolio and how she is approaching the fiscal crisis.

Background

s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

Meeting Brief: Lunch with Bob Rae – Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations

Time and date:

Friday, 14 March 2025, 1-2pm, New Zealand Official Residence



Bob Rae [appropriate address: “**Ambassador**”] is Canada’s Permanent Representative to the UN in New York. He has served in this post since August 2020. Rae is active across the UN agenda, including as the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2024-25.

Rae served as Premier of Ontario from 1990 to 1995, and interim Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada from 2011 to 2013. Rae is closely affiliated with the Trudeau government.

The son of a diplomat, Rae received a BA in Modern History from the University of Toronto, an MPhil in Politics as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in 1977. He served as assistant to the Canadian General Counsel of the United Steelworkers from 1975-77. He was named a Queen’s Counsel in 1984.

As Canada’s Special Envoy to Myanmar, Rae engaged in diplomatic efforts to address the crisis in the country’s Rakhine State, writing the report “Tell Them We’re Human” in 2018.

You met Rae at the dinner held in your honour in New York in April 2024. Rae is a staunch supporter of CANZ (Canada, Australia, New Zealand) cooperation at the UN, s6(a)

He is married to Arlene Rae, a writer and advocate for women and girls. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

Meeting information

- There is no formal agenda, s6(a)
- There will be no gift exchange.

Key points

- s6(a)
- s6(a)
- s6(a)

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- s6(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

RT HON WINSTON PETERS: SATURDAY 15 MARCH 2025

New York is 17 hours behind New Zealand

Dress code: casual attire

There are no slated engagements for Saturday.

Released under the Official Information Act

RT HON WINSTON PETERS: SUNDAY 16 MARCH 2025

New York is 17 hours behind New Zealand

Dress code: casual attire

LOCAL TIME	NZT	PROGRAMME
		Breakfast at hotel and check out
1000	0300	Depart s6(a) for Moynihan Station
1030	0330	Check in at Moynihan Station
1120-1418	0420-0718	Train to Union Station, Washington DC
1430	0730	Depart for s6(a)
1500	0800	Check into s6(a)
1600-1615	0900-0915	Interview with Lilian Hanly (RNZ) Venue: s6(a)
1615-1745	0915-1045	Executive time
1745	1045	Depart for Official Residence
1800	1100	Dinner at Official Residence
2000		Depart for s6(a)

(END OF DAY PROGRAMME)

RT HON WINSTON PETERS: MONDAY 17 MARCH 2025

Washington DC is 17 hours behind New Zealand

Dress code: business attire

LOCAL TIME	NZT	PROGRAMME
		Breakfast at s6(a)
0940	0240	Depart s6(a)
1000-1030	0300-0330	Meeting with Peter Marocco, Acting Head of USAID <i>Venue: US State Department</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
1030	0330	Depart for s6(a)
1100	0400	Executive time
1200-1315	0500-0615	Delegation lunch at s6(a) <i>Venue: Official Residence</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
1315	0615	Depart s6(a) for Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1400 – 1430	0700-0730	Meeting with National Security Adviser Mike Waltz <i>Venue: Eisenhower Executive Office Building</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
s6(a)		
1605-1615	0905-0915	Stand-up with New Zealand media
1615-1640	0915-0940	Return to s6(a)
1640-1800	0940-1100	Executive Time
1815	1115	Depart s6(a) for Official Residence

1830 – 2000	1130- 1300	Dinner with s6(a) s6(a) , Sebastian Gorka, , Morgan Ortagus (attendees TBC) <i>Venue: Official Residence</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
2000-2010	1300- 1310	Depart for s6(a)

(END OF DAY PROGRAMME)

Released under the Official Information Act

Meeting Brief: Bilateral Meeting with Peter “Pete” Marocco, Director of the Office of Foreign Assistance, State Department

Time and date: Monday 17 March 2025, 10-10:30am



Marocco was appointed Director of the Office of Foreign Assistance at the State Department and Deputy Administrator of USAID in late January 2025.

During the first Trump Administration (2017-2020), Marocco served in senior official positions at USAID (Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization), and the Departments of Defense (Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for African Affairs), Commerce (Senior Advisor for Intelligence and Security), and State (Deputy Assistant Secretary and Senior Bureau Official for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations).

Marocco is a US Marine Corps veteran, reaching the rank of Platoon Sergeant. He has worked in the private sector, leading programmes on international security, expeditionary logistics, and humanitarian efforts that rescued, resettled, or rehabilitated ISIS survivors.

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There will be no gift exchange.

Discussion points

- Emphasise our view of the **US as a Pacific country**, with strong interests in the region. Reference US efforts to increase its Pacific focus during the first Trump Administration.
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Meeting Brief: Bilateral Meeting with National Security Adviser Michael (Mike) Waltz

Time and date: Monday 17 March 2025, 2-2:30pm



Michael (Mike) Waltz was appointed National Security Adviser from 20 January 2025. Prior to this, he was a Member of Congress representing Florida's 6th Congressional District. Waltz was a Senior Advisor and Policy Director for South Asia and Counterterrorism at the Pentagon in the George W. Bush White House.

Waltz is a Distinguished Military Graduate of the Virginia Military Institute. He served as a Special Forces officer on active and reserve duty with the US Army with multiple tours in Afghanistan and in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Waltz was formerly Chief Executive Officer of Metis Solutions, which provides strategy, intelligence, and operational support to US government customers worldwide. He is author of "Warrior Diplomat: A Green Beret's Battles from Washington to Afghanistan" and was a contributor to "Drone Wars: Transforming Conflict, Law, and Policy."

There will be no gift exchange.

Discussion points

Bilateral relationship

- Highlight the importance we attach to our close friendship with the United States. Emphasise our alignment as **two of the longest-standing democracies**.
- Reiterate that **New Zealand is a trusted strategic partner for the United States** s6(a)
- s6(a)

Defence relationship

- Note the strength of our **bilateral defence relationship**. We have worked alongside the US over decades, including in the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific.
- s6(a) s6(a)

- Note **the Defence Capability Plan is nearing completion**. New Zealand has **recognised the need to step up on defence spending**. What we announce will be a floor, not a ceiling. Reiterate the NZDF aims to be a combat-capable force able to operate seamlessly with our partners, especially Australia and the United States.

US engagement in the Pacific

- Emphasise our view of the **US as a Pacific country**, with strong interests in the region. Reference US efforts to increase its Pacific focus during the first Trump Administration.

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Ukraine

- Welcome US engagement on ending the **war in Ukraine**. s6(a)
- s6(a) but we remain **committed to a peace settlement that is just and lasting** and that doesn't establish a precedent that larger states can change international borders by force. Small countries like New Zealand rely on international law being followed.
- **A just peace is more likely if Ukraine can negotiate from a position of strength.** New Zealand troops are training Ukrainian troops in the UK and Europe; we continue to implement sanctions to place pressure on Russia's ability to fund its war machine; and we have contributed funding for both military and humanitarian support.

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Event Brief – Dinner with Sebastian Gorka, ^{s6(a)}
Morgan Ortagus, ^{s6(a)} (attendees TBC)

Time and date: Monday 17 March 2025, 6:30-8pm, New Zealand Official Residence

Drinks to precede dinner while guests arrive, before moving to a sit-down dinner.

Guests

- ^{s6(a)}
- Sebastian Gorka, Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism
- ^{s6(a)} Morgan Ortagus, Deputy Special Envoy to the Middle East

Objectives

- ^{s6(a)}

Key messages

- Highlight the importance we attach to our close friendship with the United States. Emphasise our alignment as two of the **longest-standing democracies**.
- Reiterate that New Zealand is a **trusted strategic partner** for the United States ^{s6(a)}
- Note the strength of our bilateral defence relationship. ^{s6(a)}
- ^{s6(a)}
- ^{s6(a)}
- Reiterate that our **bilateral trade** is thriving, complementary and well-balanced. New Zealand companies **invest in the US and create US jobs** – particularly in tech. New Zealand is open to US trade – we have low to no tariffs – and investment.
- Welcome US engagement on ending the **war in Ukraine**. ^{s6(a)}
- ^{s6(a)} . We want to see full implementation of that ceasefire and a **return to two-state solution negotiations**, as the only blueprint we have for long-term peace.

Biographies of Participants

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Sebastian Gorka is Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism.

Sebastian Gorka is British born with Hungarian heritage. He lived in Hungary from 1992-2008, where he maintained a good relationship with Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and was briefly Vice-President of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, a now-defunct right-wing party.

In 2008 he moved to the United States with his American wife, where he established himself as a military and intelligence analyst. He was a high-profile commentator in right-wing publications, on radio and TV.

Gorka played an active role in Donald Trump's first presidential campaign and in 2017 was appointed as a national security adviser to the President.

Between presidencies, Gorka remained a staunch supporter of Trump through his radio show, *America First*, his podcast, and frequent appearances on cable news channels such as Fox. In 2022 he filed a lawsuit against the House Select Committee investigating the 6 January 2021 events at the Capitol, after it sought access to his phone records.

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He is a fan of rugby.

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**Morgan Ortagus**

Morgan Ortagus serves as the Deputy Special Envoy for the Middle East, under Steve Witkoff. She is a television commentator, financial analyst, and political advisor, and served as spokesperson for the United States Department of State from 2019 to 2021 during the Trump administration.

She is a Trump critic-turned-supporter, and at her appointment Trump tweeted: ""Early on Morgan fought me for three years but hopefully has learned her lesson."

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During Trump's first term in office, Ortagus served as the State Department spokesperson under then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Prior to that, she was a financial analyst at the Department of the Treasury and served as deputy U.S. treasury attaché to Saudi Arabia. She is an active U.S. Navy Reserve intelligence officer.

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RT HON WINSTON PETERS: TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2025

Washington DC is 17 hours behind New Zealand

Dress code: business attire

LOCAL TIME	NZT	PROGRAMME
		Breakfast at s6(a)
		Executive time
1320		Transfer to engagement with Secretary of State Marco Rubio
1335–1405	0835-0905	Meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio <i>Venue: State Department</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
1405-1410	0905-0910	Depart for stand-up with New Zealand media
1410–1420	0910-0920	Stand-up with New Zealand media <i>Venue: State Department venue TBC</i>
1420	0920	Depart State Department for s6(a)
1420-1820	0920	Executive Time
1820		Depart s6(a) for New Zealand Official Residence
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2000		Depart Official Residence for Rosewood Hotel

(END OF DAY PROGRAMME)

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Released under the Official Information Act

RT HON WINSTON PETERS: WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025

Washington DC is 17 hours behind New Zealand

Dress code: business attire/casual attire

LOCAL TIME NZT		PROGRAMME
		Breakfast and check out of s6(a)
0940	0240	Depart s6(a) for New Zealand Official Residence
1000-1100	0300-0400	Meeting with Demetri Sevastopulo, Financial Times journalist <i>Venue: New Zealand Official Residence</i> <i>No gift exchange</i>
1100	0400	Depart for New Zealand Embassy
1100 – 1130	0400-0430	Meet and greet with New Zealand Embassy staff <i>Venue: New Zealand Embassy Washington DC</i>
1130	0430	Depart for Official Residence
1200-1300	0500-0600	Lunch with Hudson President John Walters <i>Venue: New Zealand Official Residence</i>
1300-1430	0600-0730	Executive Time at the New Zealand Official Residence
1430	0730	Depart Official Residence for Ronald Reagan Airport
1632	0932	Depart Ronald Reagan Airport <i>Flight: UA 422</i>

(END OF PROGRAMME)