Proactive Release

Date: 20 May 2020

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control:

Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

(CAB-20-MIN-0158 refers)

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

Portfolios **Disarmament and Arms Control / Justice**

On 14 April 2020, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Andrew Little under CAB-20-SUB-0158 on his travel, from 23 to 29 February 2020, to Berlin, Germany, on behalf of the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, to attend the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament and undertake bilateral meetings.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Office of the Minister of Justice

Chair
Cabinet

PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: GERMANY, SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2020 – SATURDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2020

Report

1. This reports on my travel to Germany in my capacity as Minister of Justice, to represent the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control at the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Stockholm initiative on nuclear disarmament held on 25 February 2020 (local date) in Berlin, as well as other meetings held in Germany.

Second Ministerial Meeting of the Stockholm initiative on nuclear disarmament

2. New Zealand is one of 16 states participating in a nuclear disarmament initiative launched by Sweden in 2019, which it now co-leads with Germany. The primary objective of the initiative is to develop a set of "ambitious yet realistic" stepping stones towards implementation of the nuclear disarmament obligation enshrined in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

3. It is widely acknowledged that progress on nuclear disarmament is lagging behind implementation of the other two pillars of the NPT (non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy).

4. A five-yearly Review Conference of States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was due to be held in New York from April – May 2020 (but has since been postponed for up to 12 months). It has been New Zealand's assessment that the 'Stepping Stones initiative' was a very valuable opportunity to identify a credible disarmament outcome for the forthcoming Review Conference.

5. On behalf of Minister Peters, I also attended the first Ministerial-level meeting of the initiative in Stockholm in June 2019.

6. The meeting resulted in the ministerial statement at Appendix A.

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Other meetings

7. I additionally undertook a programme of meetings arranged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The programme consisted of meetings with:

7.1. Hans-Georg Engelke, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Interior for the Federal Republic of Germany;

7.2. Christian Lange, Parliamentary State Secretary (equivalent to Deputy Federal Minister) for Justice for the Federal Republic of Germany;

7.3. Dirk Behrendt, Berlin Senator (Regional Minister) for Justice, Consumer Protection and Anti-Discrimination;

7.4. Cristina Gallach, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean for the Kingdom of Spain;

7.5. Niels Annen, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office for the Federal Republic of Germany;

7.6. Roundtable meeting with European academics on countering violence extremism.

Proactive release

8. It is proposed that this paper is released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade at an appropriate time given the present constraints and demands of COVID-19 Alert Level 4.

Recommendations

9. The Minister of Justice recommends that Cabinet **Note** this report.

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Justice

6 April 2020

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Appendix A: Ministerial statement of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Stockholm initiative on nuclear disarmament

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the 2020 Review Conference

We, Ministers of Argentina, Canada, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland,

Reaffirm our unequivocal support of the NPT and its three mutually reinforcing pillars: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We underline that past NPT commitments remain valid and form the basis for making further progress in fully implementing the treaty and achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

We are united in our resolve to strengthen the NPT against the background of disturbing trends – the unravelling of the arms-control fabric that has served and must continue to serve global security well, increasingly tense relations between nations and risks arising from new and emerging weapon technologies.

Today, we discussed these trends and our message is: Commitments must be implemented. We must advance nuclear disarmament, in accordance with Article VI of the NPT, and ensure that, in the interest of humanity, nuclear weapons will never be used again.

Now is the time to take action to reduce nuclear risks. We call on Nuclear-Weapon States to maximize transparency on their nuclear arsenals and show nuclear restraint at the highest political level. We encourage Nuclear-Weapons States to discuss and take practical measures to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their security and defence policies. All States must refrain from entering a new arms race.

More far-reaching steps can be taken. We are convinced that such steps would put us back on the road to nuclear disarmament. We encourage the United States and Russia to extend New START and engage in talks on its possible expansion, thus contributing to strategic stability. We underline the importance of contributions that other Nuclear-Weapon States can make to lay the ground for next-generation arms-control arrangements. We call on all Nuclear-Weapon States to reduce or further reduce their nuclear arsenals and to show leadership in putting a definite end to nuclear testing; in proceeding with negotiations on a treaty prohibiting fissile material production for nuclear weapons; and in supporting efforts to develop multilateral nuclear disarmament verification capacities.

We, Ministers of the Stockholm initiative, are firmly committed to facilitating such efforts and we support all sincere endeavours to rebuild confidence, improve the environment for and make real progress on nuclear disarmament. We value the impetus given to the P5 dialogue and we encourage Nuclear-Weapon States to make full use of it to yield concrete results before and at the NPT Review Conference. We feel encouraged by the first conference held on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

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We are resolved to stay engaged on regional proliferation challenges. One of our firm objectives remains the denuclearization of the DPRK in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, in full compliance with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. We underscore the importance of the preservation and full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) on the Iranian nuclear programme, which was endorsed by the United Nations Security Council.

We are committed to promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education and empowering the young generation to shape our future in the field of nuclear disarmament. We pay respect to communities affected by the use and the testing of nuclear weapons. We are resolved to ensure full and effective participation of women and further integrate gender perspectives in nuclear disarmament. We are equally resolved to further cooperation across the broad spectrum of nuclear opportunities and challenges – including peaceful nuclear uses as well as addressing nuclear proliferation risks.

Today, we endorsed a set of stepping stones for advancing nuclear disarmament – meaningful and achievable measures reinforcing the NPT and its implementation. The 50th anniversary of the NPT is the moment to show political leadership, honour the commitments and achievements made under the treaty and lay the ground for its future. We are fully committed to that goal and will participate at high level in the 2020 Review Conference. We invite the NPT community to join us in our commitment and subscribe to this declaration.

Annex

Stepping Stones for Advancing Nuclear Disarmament

We, Ministers of Argentina, Canada, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, have identified the following non-exhaustive list of short-term, achievable and meaningful actions – stepping stones - for advancing nuclear disarmament.

We reaffirm the mutually reinforcing character of the three pillars of the NPT and underline that previously agreed measures and commitments, including the 2000 NPT Review Conference's "13 Steps" and the 2010 NPT Review Conference's "64 Point Action Plan", remain valid and form the basis for making further progress in fully implementing the treaty and achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

The stepping stones offer concrete opportunities to reduce international tensions, improve global security, serve as confidence-building measures and pave the way for further progress in the years to come, with the aim of achieving our shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. These areas include, inter alia, diminishing the role of nuclear weapons in security policies and doctrines, minimizing the risk of conflict and accidental nuclear weapon use, strengthening cooperation and building trust, enhancing transparency on arsenals and doctrines and strengthening the nuclear arms control architecture.

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We pledge to take responsibility in promoting, including, but not exclusively, the following stepping stones on the way to implementing nuclear disarmament, and we invite all states to consider, support and implement them:

- Nuclear-Weapon States to acknowledge the need to ensure that nuclear weapons will never be used again and to advance nuclear disarmament.

- The United States and Russia to extend New START and engage in talks on its possible expansion.

- Nuclear-Weapon States to reduce or further reduce their nuclear arsenals and to contribute to next-generation arms control arrangements.

- Nuclear-Weapon States, collectively or individually, to discuss and take practical measures to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in their policies and doctrines.

- Nuclear-Weapon States to deepen discussions on nuclear doctrine and declaratory policies, both among themselves and with Non-Nuclear Weapon States, at the upcoming NPT Review Conference and throughout the next NPT review cycle.

- Nuclear-Weapon States to report to parties to the NPT on arsenals and plans for their modernisation.

- Nuclear-Weapon States, collectively or individually, to tighten Negative Security Assurances, including in the context of Treaties establishing Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones.

- All States to support the establishment of Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones in all regions of the world on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned, including the establishment of Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in accordance with the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, in relation to which we feel encouraged by the first session of the conference held in 2019 and continuous efforts in this regard.

- Nuclear-Weapon States and Nuclear Possessor States to engage in a structured dialogue to assess, minimize and address nuclear risks, including by measures aimed at preventing crisis, extending decision-times in crisis and measures to minimise potential vulnerabilities emerging from disruptive technologies and cyber threats, e.g. on command and control.

- Nuclear-Weapon States to improve or establish crisis communication and protocol among each other, e.g. by hotlines and risk reduction centres.

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- Nuclear-Weapon States to address increasing entanglement of conventional and nuclear systems and to take measures to reverse such development.

- All States to uphold existing moratoria on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion and to enhance efforts towards the long overdue entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), through continued advocacy vis-à-vis and engagement by the States whose ratification is required, as well as political, technical and financial efforts to further strengthen the International Monitoring Systems and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

- All States to declare and uphold moratoria on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

- Nuclear-Weapon States and Nuclear Possessor States to show leadership to unblock negotiations on a treaty prohibiting fissile material production.

- All States to support the ongoing initiatives on developing multilateral nuclear disarmament verification capacities, such as the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification and efforts within the United Nations such as Groups of Governmental Experts, Open-ended Working Groups and capacity building.

- All States to engage with the young generation, including through dialogue platforms, mentoring, internships, fellowships, scholarships, model events and youth group activities.

- All States to encourage visits to and interaction with communities affected by nuclear weapons, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and former nuclear test sites such as Semipalatinsk and in the Pacific.

- All States to ensure the full and effective participation of women and to further integrate gender perspectives in all aspects of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation decision-making processes.

- Nuclear-Weapon States to engage in and intensify dialogue on maintaining strategic stability, with maximum transparency vis-à-vis the international community, to foster mutual understanding and trust and setting the frame for future arms-control agreements and disarmament.

- All parties to the NPT to report on their implementation of obligations and commitments under the NPT using a standardized reporting format, and to support proposals to strengthen reporting and transparency commitments.

- Each Nuclear-Weapon State to submit its NPT implementation reports in advance of the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

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- All states to commit to enhancing the NPT review cycle to improve implementation in all its aspects and to support ongoing efforts to strengthen the NPT review process.

- Recognizing various State perspectives, the above stepping stones are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and offer a way to build political momentum that could help unlock current diplomatic blockages and advance the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments. Our governments will do their utmost to this end.

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