



Proactive Release

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister:

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

The following documents have been included in this release:

***Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
(CAB-19-SUB-0284 refers)***

***Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister
(CAB-19-MIN-0284 refers)***

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction code:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(b): to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government, or by any international organisation.

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Paris and Singapore, from 12 to 20 May, to co-host a meeting on eliminating violent and extremist content online, and to launch New Zealand's Enhanced Partnership with Singapore.

Report

- 1 In the wake of the attacks in Christchurch, and particularly their livestreaming, I sought advice on what could be done to address the proliferation of violent and extremist content online. Although a number of countries have pushed for progress on these issues, their efforts did not prevent what happened in Christchurch. I considered that New Zealand had the responsibility to push for more specific action to be taken internationally, and I wanted to ensure we worked in collaboration with those who have the greatest ability to make changes that would have a tangible impact – the tech companies.
- 2 I subsequently spoke to several tech company CEs and the leaders of several countries, to gauge their interest. President Macron was an early supporter, and offered to co-host the event, alongside an existing set of G7 meetings and a related tech summit. As such, the centrepiece of my visit to Paris became the “Christchurch Call to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online” – a meeting of country and tech company leaders to discuss and agree actions to progress these issues. As a result of work ahead of that meeting, including separate meetings I held with the tech companies and civil society, a range of countries and companies adopted the Call, committing them to take steps to address the issues. Those supporting the call on the day, alongside France and New Zealand, were Canada, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Norway, Senegal, the UK, and the European Commission; Amazon, Facebook, Dailymotion, Google, Microsoft, Qwant, Twitter, and YouTube. Other countries that have adopted the Call but were not at the meeting were Australia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden.
- 3 As a result of the meeting, several streams of work have been identified:
 - 3.1 reshaping the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT - an existing industry body) to be a more effective collaborative venture between companies, countries and civil society;
 - 3.2 developing a crisis response protocol that can speed collaboration when that is necessary (eg in the wake of an event similar to

Christchurch, and in an effort to more readily identify and take down offending content on online platforms);

- 3.3 further efforts to understand the state of research and connect civil society with company data, for example with a view to improving company tools to spot and take action against this content; and
 - 3.4 investigating the results of company recommendation and newsfeed algorithms and, in particular, whether they play a role in radicalisation by leading users to more extreme material over time.
- 4 The plan is for an initial year of work, with discussions at a pre-existing meeting in Jordan in June, and a meeting around the UN General Assembly in September to review progress.
 - 5 In the margins of the Christchurch Call, I met bilaterally with President Macron, Norwegian Prime Minister Solberg, King Abdullah of Jordan, UK Prime Minister May and Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau. I also met separately with Jack Dorsey from Twitter to discuss what Twitter could do to give effect to the Christchurch Call, given it does not use algorithms but still faces issues around users tweeting, or linking to, extremist content. The discussions with other leaders covered issues around violent extremism online and also a range of foreign policy issues, including trade. I reiterated to Prime Minister May New Zealand's interest in our future trade access to the UK and EU following Brexit, ^{6(a)}
[REDACTED]
 - 6 I also undertook a number of media engagements to raise the international profile of the Christchurch Call and to build momentum for its success. This included an Op-Ed that appeared on the front page of the New York Times the Sunday before the meeting, an interview with Christiane Amanpour that ran globally on CNN, and a feature interview with French newspaper Le Monde.
 - 7 In Singapore, the focus of my visit was to launch the bilateral Singapore-New Zealand Enhanced Partnership with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The Enhanced Partnership is a significant milestone in our bilateral relationship, encompassing activity between more than 20 government agencies from each side. Minister O'Connor accompanied me for this part of my trip, and signed the Science and Innovation Arrangement between New Zealand and Singapore, as well as the upgrade of the Closer Economic Partnership (CEP) free trade agreement with Singapore's Minister for Trade Relations, S Iswaran. Three other arrangements were also signed on the day; a Partnership for Growth between NZTE and its Singaporean counterpart; a cyber security arrangement, and an arts and culture arrangement. ^{6(a)}
[REDACTED]
 - 8 In my separate discussion with the Prime Minister, we noted that the upgraded CEP was a positive signal in troubled times for trade, and exchanged views on the prospects for WTO reform, for more CPTPP parties

to ratify the agreement, 6(a) . I also re-registered our desire to see a high quality conclusion to the RCEP negotiation.

- 9 I also met Singapore's President Halimah Yacob, who demonstrated a great interest in New Zealanders' response to the Christchurch attack, our work around the Christchurch Call, and a range of foreign policy and trade issues.
- 10 I also undertook an interview with the Strait Times focused on the strength of the New Zealand Singapore relationship.
- 11 Minister O'Connor was also able to meet separately with Singapore's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources (and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, including Halal issues), Masagos Zulkifli, principally in his capacities as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Food Safety. This meeting was a useful opportunity to discuss cooperation opportunities in the primary sector (6(b)), glean an update from Singapore on its plans to become more self-sufficient in food, and talk about sustainability and environmental issues more generally (including on Singapore's management of food waste).

Proactive release

- 12 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the [Official Information Act 1982](#).

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister



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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 17 June 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-19-SUB-0284 on her travel, from 12 to 20 May 2019, to:

- 1 Paris, France to co-host the “Christchurch Call to Eliminate Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content Online” meeting of country and tech company leaders;
- 2 Singapore, accompanied by Hon Damien O’Connor, to launch the bilateral Singapore-New Zealand Enhanced Partnership, and hold bilateral meetings.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister