



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: Prime Minister

Date of release: 17 February 2020

The following documents have been included in this release:

***Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
(CAB-19-SUB-0642 refers)***

***Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister
(CAB-19-MIN-0642 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;
- 6(e)(vi), to prevent serious damage to the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions relating to the entering into of overseas trade agreements; and
- 9(2)(b)(ii), to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information.

~~Restricted~~

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

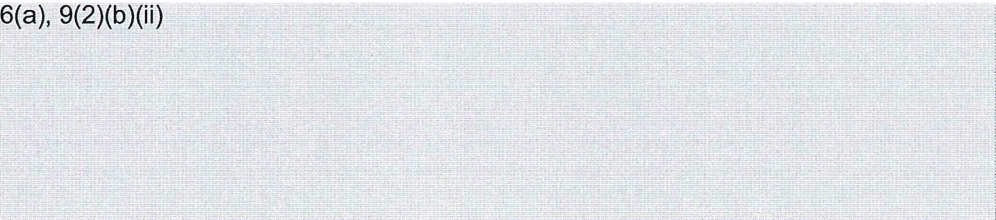
Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Tokyo, Japan, 17-22 September and New York, United States of America, 22-28 September, to advance New Zealand's bilateral relationship with Japan, and to attend the United Nations General Assembly Leaders' Week.

Report

- 1 I visited Japan 17-22 September, with a view to advancing New Zealand's Strategic Cooperative Partnership with Japan; a like-minded partner that shares many of New Zealand's values and priorities.
- 2 Prime Minister Abe and I agreed to strengthen the defence and security relationship, including by commencing a joint study on a bilateral Information Sharing Agreement, and encouraging greater defence cooperation in such fields as military training, the Pacific, and high-level exchanges (Japan) and maritime security, peacekeeping, and humanitarian assistance (New Zealand). We also jointly welcomed opportunities for sports exchanges created by Japan's hosting of the Rugby World Cup and Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics.
- 3 In terms of the economic relationship, Prime Minister Abe and I agreed to seek to identify further opportunities to address climate change, including through cooperation on hydrogen, particularly in light of the joint venture between the Tuaropaki Trust and Obayashi. Prime Minister Abe noted Japan's appreciation for New Zealand's efforts on climate change, including the US\$150m to support Pacific Island Countries, New Zealand's Zero Carbon Bill, and efforts to promote hydrogen exports. Japan intended to send out messages on the importance of innovation and the "virtuous cycle of environment and growth" (comment: Government policies to promote changes in the business sector so that business can lead disruptive innovation), and Japan hoped to work with New Zealand in this area. We also agreed to look for opportunities to deepen bilateral space cooperation.

4 6(a), 9(2)(b)(ii)



5 We agreed to continue New Zealand's agricultural cooperation with Hokkaido, 6(a) and we agreed to work together to encourage other parties to join the CPTPP. We also agreed that it would be preferable to conclude RCEP with India included.

6 We discussed regional issues including the Pacific; announcing our intention for Japan and New Zealand to issue a Joint Declaration on Pacific Cooperation. We also exchanged views on the DPRK. 6(a)

Prime Minister Abe also indicated concern about developments in the South China Sea, 6(a)

7 I conveyed New Zealand's concerns about Japan's resumption of commercial whaling, which Prime Minister Abe acknowledged.

8 6(a)

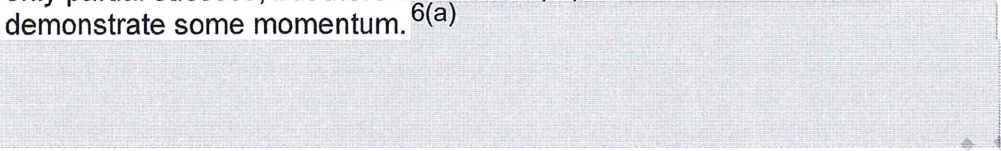
9 6(a)

10 Following our Summit and press conference at which we released a Joint Statement, Prime Minister Abe hosted me to lunch with a range of invitees including Members of Parliament, the CEO of ANZCO Japan, and former All Black, Dan Carter.

11 My second visit to New York for UN Leaders' Week and the General Debate involved three very full business days. The UN during this week is a busy environment, involving 81 heads of state, 42 heads of government, hundreds of Ministers, and 42,000 visiting officials. I was privileged to speak first at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit and deliver the keynote address at the lunch. These were excellent opportunities to raise New Zealand's profile, and reflected the resonance of our efforts to tackle some of the most challenging global issues, including climate change.

12 In order to cover the range of events taking place over the week, particularly those focussed on the Pacific, the Minister for Pacific Peoples, Aupito William Sio, was also in New York for a longer period over the course of the week.

13 On Monday 23 September, I participated in the Secretary-General's day long Climate Action Summit, and was joined by Minister Sio, and the Ulu-o-Tokelau. The Summit was intended to spur greater climate ambition as countries are framing their 2030 and 2050 climate plans. In this respect, it met only partial success, but there were enough positive commitments to demonstrate some momentum.^{6(a)}



14 On the early evening of the same day, I hosted, alongside President Macron of France and King Abdullah II of Jordan, a well-attended Leaders' Dialogue with a key focus on the Christchurch Call to Action. New Zealand's leadership to progress the Christchurch Call was well recognised, and the dialogue included significant announcements on the restructuring of the technology company-led Global Internet Forum on Counter-Terrorism (GIFCT), the development of a crisis response protocol to be used following a terrorist or violent extremist attack with an online component, and the addition of 31 new states and two new international organisation supporters. I subsequently held a roundtable with leaders from Microsoft, Facebook, Google, YouTube, Amazon and Twitter, and the Christchurch Call Advisory Network (of civil society representatives), to reflect on the day's proceedings and proposed next steps.

15 On Tuesday 24 September, the first day of the UN's General Debate, I delivered New Zealand's national statement. My statement addressed the Christchurch attack and New Zealand's response, the need for urgent action to address climate change, and the need for humanity to form common identities outside of fierce nationalism or self-interest. I also attended the Secretary-General's lunch for heads of delegations, held a range of bilaterals, and discussed the values of tolerance, equality and non-violence at an event to mark Gandhi's 150th birthday.

16 On Wednesday, I highlighted the link between addressing inequality and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals as a keynote speaker at the Gates Foundation's annual Goalkeepers Event; spoke about the need to better align trade agreements with climate change goals at a panel session of the annual Bloomberg Global Business Forum; and joined counterparts from Fiji, Norway, Costa Rica, and Iceland to announce the launch of negotiations for an Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS). The ACCTS is a New Zealand initiative, which aims to demonstrate, in practical terms, how trade rules can be used to support climate and sustainable development objectives.

17 During the course of these three days I held bilateral meetings with: Belgian Prime Minister Michel, Costa Rican President Alvarado, Danish Prime Minister Frederiksen, President of the European Council Tusk, European Trade Commissioner Malmström, Fijian Prime Minister Bainimarama, Icelandic Prime Minister Jakobsdóttir, Spanish Prime Minister Sanchez, Indian Prime Minister Modi, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Pakistani

Prime Minister Khan, Prime Minister Löfven of Sweden, UK Prime Minister Johnson, and US President Trump. I also met the UN Secretary-General.

- 18 Themes of those discussions included: advancing our respective trade and economic partnerships (in particular through the EU/NZ FTA and discussions towards a US/NZ FTA –^{6(e)(vi)} [redacted] respective approaches to climate change and sustainability issues with those leaders who have a focus in these areas); developments in foreign policy around Brexit, and security matters such as the DPRK, Iran, and Jammu and Kashmir. ^{6(a)} [redacted]

- 19 I was accompanied by a travelling media delegation from the NZ Herald, Newshub, Newsroom, Radio NZ, Stuff, and TVNZ. In addition to regular media stand-ups, I held a press conference with Facebook's Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg; appeared on CBS This Morning; and made a cameo appearance on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert to promote Colbert's recent trip to New Zealand, which was organised by Tourism New Zealand.

Proactive release

- 20 I intend to proactively release this report, subject to any redactions under the Official Information Act.

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 9 December 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-19-SUB-0642 on her travel, from 17 to 28 September 2019, to:

- 1 Tokyo, Japan to undertake an official visit and attend a Summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe;
- 2 New York, United States of America to attend the 74th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 74).

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister