



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

Date of release: 24 July 2019

The following documents have been included in this release:

***Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
(CAB-19-SUB-0256 refers)***

***Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister
(CAB-19-MIN-0256 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.

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 Beijing, China from 31 March to 2 April 2019 to reinforce the bilateral relationship through engagement with China's leaders, formally open the New Zealand Embassy, and engage with the New Zealand community in Beijing.

Report

- 1 I had planned to take up China's invitation to make a much longer visit, which would also have included attending the Bo'ao Forum, and visiting Shanghai to promote New Zealand business. I already had confirmation that a high-level trade and civil society delegation would accompany me; as well as several Ministers. In the wake of the Christchurch attacks, however, it was appropriate to reduce the scope and scale of the visit, to focus on the key element: the engagement with China's leaders in Beijing,
- 2 My visit focussed on underlining the strength of the relationship; demonstrating our broad shared interests; and identifying new areas in which we could cooperate in future.
- 3 I received an official welcome and honour guard, and had substantive meetings with both Premier Li and President Xi, as well as a formal lunch hosted by Premier Li – all of which underlined that the relationship is in good health.
- 4 In my discussions with Premier Li we agreed to pursue new cooperation in climate change, and reached agreement to conclude the FTA upgrade negotiations and the Belt and Road work plan as soon as possible. Other key outcomes included a joint statement on climate change, establishing a financial dialogue, and an updated Double Taxation Agreement. We also witnessed the signing of arrangements launching a five-year agricultural cooperation programme, and new cooperation in science and innovation.

5 6(a)



6 I chose to raise proactively ^{6(a)}
^{6(a)} describing New Zealand's 5G regulatory framework, ^{6(a)}
^{6(a)}, and outlining our views on ^{6(a)}
^{6(a)}, human rights - including Xinjiang, ^{6(a)}
Premier Li responded constructively.

7 I had a similar discussion with President Xi; raising many of the same issues. He responded in a constructive way. His opening and closing statements were positive, and couched in terms of pursuing mutual respect, practical cooperation and common interests. ^{6(a)}

8 Several Chinese Ministers were also present for the meetings and at lunch. With Commerce Minister Zhong Shan I discussed possible cooperation on WTO issues and the need to modernise, defend and improve the WTO itself. We both also welcomed the launch of the Year of Tourism, with Premier Li saying that he considered Māori culture to be a key driver for Chinese tourists' interest in New Zealand as a destination.

9 ^{6(a)}

10 I formally opened the new New Zealand chancery and residence in Beijing, in the presence of staff from all ten agencies represented (NZTE, MPI, Education, Police, Customs, Defence, MBIE Immigration, Tourism NZ, MBIE Science and Innovation, and MFAT). I also met a mix of Beijing-based business community members, and Executive Board members of the Shanghai-headquartered New Zealand Business Roundtable in China (NZBRiC). They were complimentary about the work of MPI and NZTE officials in China and noted that they were not experiencing any unusual market access issues. A key message from them was the particular challenge in China of being agile enough to stay ahead of emerging trends.

11 I also met with some mainly Beijing-based Kiwis in a large (more than 200 people) event at the embassy, and I did three high-profile Chinese media interviews with CCTV, Caixin and Weibo/Guangdong TV.

Proactive release

12 This paper will be proactively released subject to any redactions.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister

Proactively released by the 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 4 June 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-19-SUB-0256 on her travel, from 31 March to 2 April 2019, to Beijing, China, to undertake a bilateral visit.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister

Proactively released by the Prime Minister