

## HON RON MARK, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

### 2018 Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

March 2018

This publication provides copies of six 2018 Cabinet papers proposing Hon Ron Mark's overseas travel, along with the associated minutes of decisions.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark: Middle East, Rome and London – 06-19 February 2018* [CAB-18-SUB-0010], and the associated Cabinet minute of decision [CAB-18-MIN-0010]
- *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark: Papua New Guinea – 06 March – 09 March 2018* [CAB-18-SUB-0098], and the associated Cabinet minute of decision [CAB-18-MIN-0098]
- *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark: Fiji 22-24 March 2018* [CAB-18-SUB-0060], and the associated Cabinet minute of decision [CAB-18-MIN-0060]
- *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark: Singapore – 31 May to 4 June 2018* [CAB-18-SUB-0216], and the associated Cabinet minute of decision [CAB-18-MIN-0216]
- *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark: Singapore and Australia – 18 to 22 October 2018* [CAB-18-SUB-0491], and the associated Cabinet minute of decision [CAB-18-MIN-0491]
- *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark: Egypt, Israel and South Sudan – 21 January to 1 February 2019* [CAB-18-SUB-0602], and the associated Cabinet minute of decision [CAB-18-MIN-0602]

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: [www.defence.govt.nz/publications](http://www.defence.govt.nz/publications).

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document.

- Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)].
- Information is also withheld in order to protect the privacy of natural persons [section 9(2)(a)]. No public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.



# 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.*

### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 30 January 2018, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Ron Mark from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 6 to 19 February 2018 to travel to:
  - 1.1      the Middle East, to visit a number of New Zealand Defence Force operations;
  - 1.2      Rome, to attend the Defeat ISIS Defence Ministers' Meeting;
  - 1.3      London, [REDACTED] s6(a) ;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff (one of whom will be funded by Defence), in addition to Hon Andrew Little (funded by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel) and Simon O'Connor MP (who will be funded from his Leader's budget);
- 3        **approved** the expenditure of up to \$45,675 for the travel expenses of the Minister of Defence and one staff member as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **agreed** that in his absence Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Veterans;
- 5        **noted** that approval for the absence and travel expenses of Hon Andrew Little has been sought separately [CAB-18-MIN-0014].

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet


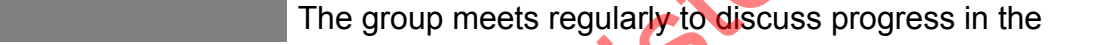


#### Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon Ron Mark

Chair  
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON RON MARK: MIDDLE EAST, ROME  
AND LONDON – 06-19 FEBRUARY 2018**

**Proposal**

1. I seek Cabinet's approval to travel to the Middle East, Rome and London in my capacity as the Minister of Defence from 06-19 February 2018.
2. The purpose of the travel is primarily to attend the Defeat ISIS (D-ISIS) Defence Minister's Meeting <sup>s6(a)</sup> in Rome on 13 February. <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
  
  
The group meets regularly to discuss progress in the Defeat-ISIS campaign in Iraq and Syria, further requirements for the campaign, and other issues in the global campaign to combat violent extremism. En-route to Rome I intend to visit a number of New Zealand Defence Force operations in the Middle East region. <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
  

3. I will be away from New Zealand from Tuesday 06 February until Monday 19 February 2018.
4. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in principle and I will seek leave from Parliament from the Party Whip.
5. Travel will be via a mix of commercial and military transport.

**Delegation Details**

6. I propose to travel with two staff members from my office, one of which will be funded by Defence. Additionally, I have invited Hon Andrew Little, Simon

O'Connor, and Golriz Ghahraman to accompany me to the Middle East. Mr O'Connor and Ms Ghahraman will be funded from their Leader's budget.

### Estimated Costs

7. Indicative costs for this travel are:

Airfares and Taxes:	\$28 000
Accommodation, meals, transport:	\$15 000
Receptions/hospitality, gifts:	\$500
Contingency (@5%):	\$2175
Total	\$45 675

### Acting Ministers

8. The Rt Hon Winston Peters has agreed to act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

### Recommendations

9. The Minister of Defence recommends that Cabinet:

- a) authorise his absence from New Zealand from 06-19 February 2018 to travel to the Middle East, Rome and London to attend the Defeat ISIS Defence Minister's meeting and visit New Zealand Defence Force operations;
- b) agree that the Minister be accompanied by two members of his office staff (one of whom will be funded by Defence), in addition to the Hon Andrew Little (funded by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel), Golriz Ghahraman and Simon O'Connor (funded by their leaders budget);
- c) approve the expenditure of \$45 675 for the travel expenses of the Minister and one staff member as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- d) approve the expenditure of \$15 000 for the travel expenses of Hon Andrew Little as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;

- e) agree that in his absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters will act in the Defence and Veterans portfolios; and
- f) note that leave from Parliament will be sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ron Mark  
**Minister of Defence**

Date:

Released by the Minister of Defence



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 26 February 2018, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Ron Mark from New Zealand, from 6 to 9 March 2018, to travel to Papua New Guinea to meet with his counterpart and sign the Status of Forces Agreement between New Zealand and Papua New Guinea;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff from his office, one of whom will be funded by Defence;
- 3        **approved** the expenditure of up to \$13,830 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **agreed** that in his absence Hon Tracey Martin act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Veterans.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon Ron Mark

Chair  
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON RON MARK: Papua New Guinea – 06  
March – 09 March 2018**

**Proposal**

1. I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Papua New Guinea in my capacity as the Minister of Defence.
2. The purpose of the travel is primarily to meet with my Papua New Guinean counterpart and to sign the Status of Forces Agreement between New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. This Agreement confirms both countries' desire for a coordinated defence relationship and provides the legal framework for ongoing military cooperation. The Agreement will for example cover New Zealand Defence Force Personnel providing support to Papua New Guinea for APEC. I will also take the opportunity to meet with New Zealand Defence Force personnel who are currently in Papua New Guinea providing training to the Papua New Guinean Defence Force.
3. Additionally, I also intend to meet with the Prime Minister and with the Police Commissioner who is responsible for APEC security preparations.
4. I will be away from New Zealand from Tuesday 06 March until Friday 09 March 2018.
5. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in principle. The travel will occur over a recess week.
6. Travel will be via commercial transport.

**Delegation Details**

7. I propose to travel with two staff members from my office, one of which will be funded by Defence. I will be accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force (funded by Defence).

## Estimated Costs

8. Indicative costs for this travel are:

Airfares and Taxes:	\$ 8 500
Accommodation, meals, transport:	\$ 3600
Receptions/hospitality, gifts:	\$ 1000
Contingency:	\$ 730
Total	\$13 830

## Acting Ministers

9. The Hon Tracey Martin has agreed to act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

## Recommendations

10. The Minister of Defence recommends that Cabinet:

- a) **authorise** his absence from New Zealand from 06-09 March 2018 to travel to Papua New Guinea to meet with his counterpart and to sign the Status of Forces Agreement between New Zealand and Papua New Guinea;
- b) **agree** that the Minister be accompanied by two members of his office staff (one of whom will be funded by Defence);
- c) **approve** the expenditure of \$13 830 for the travel expenses of the Minister and one staff member as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and



- d) **agree** that in his absence the Hon Tracey Martin will act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ron Mark  
**Minister of Defence**

Date:

Released by the Minister of Defence



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 19 March 2018, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Ron Mark from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 22 to 24 March 2018, to travel to Fiji to represent New Zealand at the unveiling of the Commemorative Monument to No. 5 Squadron of the Royal New Zealand Air Force at the University of the South Pacific;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of his staff, one of whom will be funded by Defence;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$12,453 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will be accompanied by his partner, whose costs will be met by him personally;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Veterans.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Hard copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon Ron Mark

Chair  
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON RON MARK: Fiji 22– 24 March 2018**

**Proposal**

1. I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Fiji in my capacity as the Minister of Defence.
2. The purpose of the travel is primarily to represent New Zealand at the unveiling of the Commemorative Monument to No. 5 Squadron of the Royal New Zealand Air Force at the University of the South Pacific, following their invitation to the Prime Minister. In her reply to the invitation, the Prime Minister proposed that the Minister of Defence represent New Zealand. I will also take the opportunity to meet with my counterpart in Fiji and the Minister of Fisheries.
3. I will be away from New Zealand from Thursday 22 March until Saturday 24 March 2018. New Zealand Defence Force personnel and veterans will be travelling on military aircraft to participate in this event and I intend to take the opportunity to do likewise unless circumstance requires the use of civilian flights.
4. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in principle. The travel will require absence from the house when it sits on Thursday 22 March.

**Delegation Details**

5. I propose to travel with two staff members from my office, one of whom will be funded by Defence. I will be accompanied by my partner [REDACTED] s9(2)(a), who will travel on the RNZAF aircraft, but who will otherwise be funded at my own expense.

**Estimated Costs**

6. Indicative costs for this travel are:

Airfares and Taxes (if required):	\$ 6 000
Accommodation, meals, transport:	\$ 3 260
Insurance:	\$ 1 000

Receptions/hospitality, gifts:	\$ 1 600
Contingency:	\$ 593
Total	\$12 453

### Acting Ministers

7. The Rt Hon Winston Peters has agreed to act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

### Recommendations

8. The Minister of Defence recommends that Cabinet:
- authorise** his absence from New Zealand from 22-24 March 2018 to travel to Fiji to represent New Zealand at the unveiling of the Commemorative Monument to No. 5 Squadron of the Royal New Zealand Air Force at the University of the South Pacific;
  - agree** that the Minister be accompanied by two members of his office staff (one of whom will be funded by Defence);
  - approve** the expenditure of \$12 453 for the travel expenses of the Minister and one staff member as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
  - agree** that in his absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters will act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios;
  - note** that leave from Parliament will be sought from the Party Whip; and
  - note** that he will be accompanied by his partner s9(2)(a).

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ron Mark  
**Minister of Defence**

Date:

Released by the Minister of Defence



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 14 May 2018, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Ron Mark from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 31 May to 4 June 2018, to travel to Singapore to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of his office, one of which will be funded by Defence;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of \$18,963 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **agreed** that in his absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister of Defence and the Minister for Veterans.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon Ron Mark

Chair  
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON RON MARK: Singapore – 31 May to 4 June 2018**

**Proposal**

1. I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Singapore for the Shangri-La Dialogue in my capacity as the Minister of Defence.
2. The purpose of my travel is to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue. The Shangri-La Dialogue is the primary platform for developing and discussing effective public policy on the security challenges facing the Asia-Pacific. I have attached a copy of the Dialogue programme. I have also been invited to speak at one of the Dialogue's simultaneous special sessions. The topic of my speech will be '**Managing Competition in Regional Security Cooperation**'. This is an opportunity to discuss the importance of ensuring the Asia-Pacific region's growing security cooperation initiatives are calibrated and deliver the desired effect within a defined resource set and without duplication. I will throughout my speech be reinforcing the value and necessity of effective security cooperation in the region.
3. The Shangri-La Dialogue is an opportunity for me to have bilateral meetings with a number of defence counterparts from around the region. In particular, I will be seeking meetings with counterparts from countries s6(a)  

4. I will be away from New Zealand from Thursday 31 May until Monday 4 June 2018.
5. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in principle. The travel will occur over a recess week.
6. Travel will be via commercial transport.

## Delegation Details

7. I propose to travel with two staff members from my office, one of which will be funded by Defence. I will be accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force (funded by Defence).

## Estimated Costs

8. Indicative costs for this travel are:

<u>Minister of Defence and one staff</u>	
Airfares and Taxes	\$ 13 010
Accommodation, meals, transport	\$ 5050
Receptions/hospitality, gifts	\$ 0
Contingency (@5%)	\$ 903
Total	\$18 963

## Acting Ministers

9. The Rt Hon Winston Peters has agreed to act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

## Recommendations

10. The Minister of Defence recommends that Cabinet:
- authorise** his absence from New Zealand from 31 May to 4 June 2018 to travel to Singapore for the Shangri-La Dialogue;
  - agree** that the Minister be accompanied by two members of his office staff (one of whom will be funded by Defence);
  - approve** the expenditure of \$18 963 for the travel expenses of the Minister and one staff member as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and



- d) **agree** that in his absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters will act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ron Mark  
**Minister of Defence**

Released by the Minister of Defence

# IISS SHANGRI-LA DIALOGUE

## 17th Asia Security Summit

1 – 3 June 2018, Singapore

### OUTLINE AGENDA

*All events will take place at the Shangri-La Hotel,  
22 Orange Grove Road, Singapore 258350,  
except for dinner on Saturday night, which will be held at the Istana*

*All Dialogue sessions will be on the record*

### FRIDAY 1 JUNE 2018

All day	Bilateral meetings between defence ministers and officials
19:00 – 20:00	OPENING RECEPTION
	MINISTERIAL RECEPTION
20:00 – 22:15	KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND OPENING DINNER

### SATURDAY 2 JUNE 2018

08:30 – 08:35	OPENING OF THE SUMMIT
08:35 – 09:30	FIRST PLENARY SESSION <b>US LEADERSHIP AND THE CHALLENGES OF INDO-PACIFIC SECURITY</b>
09:30 – 11:00	SECOND PLENARY SESSION <b>DE-ESCALATING THE NORTH KOREAN CRISIS</b>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	THIRD PLENARY SESSION <b>SHAPING ASIA'S EVOLVING SECURITY ORDER</b>
13:00 – 14:30	MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE
	LUNCHEON FOR ALL OTHER DELEGATES

*Please turn over*



- 14:30 – 16:15 Bilateral Meetings
- 14:45 – 16:15 SIMULTANEOUS SPECIAL SESSIONS
- Session 1: **NEW STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES AND THE FUTURE OF CONFLICT**  
Session 2: **ENHANCING MARITIME SECURITY: CODES OF CONDUCT AND CONFIDENCE – BUILDING MEASURES**  
Session 3: **THE SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN MYANMAR'S RAKHINE STATE**
- 16:15 – 16:45 Coffee Break
- 16:45 – 18:15 SIMULTANEOUS SPECIAL SESSIONS
- Session 4: **COMPETITION AND COOPERATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION**  
Session 5: **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF MILITARY CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC**  
Session 6: **MANAGING COMPETITION IN REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION**
- 19:30 – 22:00 **ISTANA RECEPTION AND DINNER (BY INVITATION ONLY)**

**SUNDAY 3 JUNE 2018**

- 08:40 – 09:30 **FOURTH PLENARY SESSION**  
**CHINA'S PARTNERSHIPS FOR SECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**
- 09:30 – 11:00 **FIFTH PLENARY SESSION**  
**NEW DIMENSIONS OF TERRORISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM**
- 11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:30 – 13:00 **SIXTH PLENARY SESSION**  
**RAISING THE BAR FOR REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION**
- 13:00 – 14:30 **MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE**
- CLOSING LUNCHEON FOR ALL OTHER DELEGATES**
- SOUTHEAST ASIAN YOUNG LEADERS' PROGRAMME LUNCHEON**



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 8 October 2018, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Ron Mark from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 18 to 22 October 2018 to travel to:
  - 1.1      Singapore to attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus;
  - 1.2      Sydney, Australia to attend the Five Eyes International Ministerial Conference on Veterans' Issues, and to visit the New Zealand Defence Force team participating in the Invictus Games;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$24,570 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **agreed** that in his absence Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Veterans.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Hard copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon Ron Mark

Chair  
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON RON MARK: Singapore and Australia –  
18 to 22 October 2018**

**Proposal**

1. I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Singapore for the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus and to Australia to attend the Five Eyes International Ministerial Conference on Veterans' Issues and the Invictus Games over 18 – 22 October.

**Travel**

2. The purpose of my travel to Singapore is to attend the annual ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus. New Zealand has traditionally sent a Minister to this meeting every year (with the exception of 2017 due to the post-election period). The ADMM Plus meeting is an opportunity to discuss regional security issues with my counterparts in the ASEAN countries and with the Plus members (China, Australia, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and the United States). I understand that the focus of this year's meeting will be on countering terrorism and on strengthening the ADMM Plus framework.
3. I will also look to conduct bilateral meetings with a number of my counterparts including from [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED].
4. The purpose of my travel to Australia is to attend the annual Five Eyes International Ministerial Conference on Veterans' Issues in Sydney, as Minister for Veterans, and to briefly visit the New Zealand Defence Force team participating in the Invictus Games which are taking place in Sydney at the same time. The Conference will include a range of presentations and discussions on critical issues in the veterans sector, and will culminate with the joint signing of a Statement of Intent on strategies in areas of common interest for the Five Eyes members.
5. I will be away from New Zealand from Thursday 18 October until Monday 22 October 2018.

6. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in principle. The travel will occur over a sitting week.

### Delegation Details

7. I propose to travel with one staff member from my office and officials from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force.

### Estimated Costs

8. Indicative costs for this travel are:

<u>Minister of Defence and one staff</u>	
Airfares and Taxes	\$ 14000
Accommodation, meals, transport	\$ 9 000
Receptions/hospitality, gifts	\$ 400
Contingency (@5%)	\$ 1170
Total	\$24 570

### Acting Ministers

9. The Rt Hon Winston Peters has agreed to act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

### Recommendations

10. The Minister of Defence and for Veterans recommends that Cabinet:
- authorise** his absence from New Zealand from 18 to 22 October 2018 to travel to Singapore and Australia;
  - approve** the expenditure of \$24570 for the travel expenses of the Minister and one staff member as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and

- c) **agree** that in his absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters will act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ron Mark  
**Minister of Defence**  
Minister for Veterans

Released by the Minister of Defence



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Ron Mark

**Portfolio**                      **Defence**

On 3 December 2018, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Ron Mark from New Zealand from 21 January to 1 February 2019 to travel to Egypt, Israel and South Sudan to gain a first-hand understanding of some of the international operations currently being conducted by the New Zealand Defence Force;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$49,100 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from the New Zealand Defence Force and the Ministry of Defence, whose travel costs will be met from their respective Votes;
- 5        **agreed** that he invite one Member of Parliament from the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee on the visit, whose travel costs will be met from their Leader's Budget;
- 6        **agreed** that in his absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Veterans.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Hon Ron Mark



Chair  
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON RON MARK: Egypt, Israel and South Sudan – 21 January to 1 February 2019**

**Proposal**

1. I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Egypt, Israel and South Sudan in my capacity as the Minister of Defence over the period 21 January to 1 February 2019.

**Travel**

2. The purpose of the travel is to gain first-hand understanding of some of the international operations currently being conducted by the New Zealand Defence Force. The Government has recently extended the mandates for these missions, so it is important for me to obtain further insights from those on the ground about the challenges they will be facing over the remainder of the mandate, as part of our ongoing monitoring and assessment of our missions around the world. It will also serve to directly acknowledge the service of our personnel who operate in difficult and dangerous environments on behalf of the Government.
3. I also intend to conduct counterpart calls with relevant Ministers in the countries where our personnel serve.
4. I will be away from New Zealand from Monday 21 January 2019 until Friday 1 February 2019. The programme is planned to include 3 days in Egypt (including Cairo and Sinai), 3 days in Israel, 2 days in South Sudan, plus travel time.
5. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in principle. The travel will occur prior to the House sitting in 2019.

**Delegation Details**

6. I propose to travel with one staff member from my office, alongside officials from the New Zealand Defence Force and the Ministry of Defence. Additionally, I intend to invite one MP from the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee to accompany me if available. Any MP travel would be funded from their Leader's budget.

## Estimated Costs

7. Indicative costs for this travel are:

<u>Minister of Defence and one staff</u>	
Airfares, Taxes and Insurance	\$ 36500
Accommodation, meals, transport	\$ 9000
Receptions/hospitality, gifts	\$ 1300
Contingency (@5%)	\$ 2300
Total	\$ 49100

## Acting Ministers

8. The Rt Hon Winston Peters has agreed to act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

## Recommendations

9. The Minister of Defence recommends that Cabinet:

- a) **authorise** his absence from New Zealand from 21 January to 1 February 2019 to travel to Egypt, Israel and South Sudan;
- b) **approve** the expenditure of \$49100 for the travel expenses of the Minister and one staff member as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and
- c) **agree** that in his absence the Rt Hon Winston Peters will act in the Defence and Veterans' portfolios.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Ron Mark  
**Minister of Defence**