

From: AMER
To: AMER; CEO; OCE; DCE; DS AAG; DS MLG; DS PDG; DS TEG; DS EMA; DS APEC NZ; ...POLICY DIVISIONS; ...ALL POSTS; FM.MPI (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.P/S Climate Change (Seemail); FM.Defence (Seemail); s6(a) (Seemail); FM.P/S Trade (Seemail)
Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE - PRIME MINISTER ARDERN CALL WITH US PRESIDENT BIDEN
Date: Monday, 26 July 2021 6:15:28 pm

[RESTRICTED]

**Not for cable exchange
RAPOPOTO - SUMMARY**

Prime Minister Ardern spoke with President Biden on 16 July (NZ time) ahead of hosting the APEC Leaders' Informal Retreat. It was their second bilateral conversation (the first since President Biden took office) and was again warm in tone, s6(a)

The leaders discussed APEC, COVID-19, the Pacific, the Christchurch Call and Artemis Accords, s6(a) the Indo-Pacific, CPTPP and reopening borders. Positive discussion about the prospects for the Prime Minister making an official visit to the White House in 2022 was very encouraging and, overall our sense is that we are well-positioned to advance our agenda on multiple fronts in the months ahead.

HOHENGA - ACTION

For information.

PŪRONGO - REPORT

Prime Minister Ardern spoke by telephone with US President Joseph R. Biden on Friday, 16 July (NZT), ahead of hosting the APEC Leaders' Informal Retreat that evening. While the Prime Minister had spoken with then-President-elect Biden shortly after the US election last year, and both leaders had participated in the virtual Climate Leaders' Summit in April, this was the first bilateral conversation between the two leaders since President Biden's inauguration on 20 January. The leaders discussed APEC, COVID-19, the Pacific, the Christchurch Call and Artemis Accords, s6(a) the Indo-Pacific, CPTPP and reopening borders.

APEC
2 s6(a)

In response the Prime Minister noted how significant it was for the meeting that the US President was able to join in person. Doing so added extra weight to the work in the region, including with regard to the health response and economic recovery.

COVID-19 vaccine rollout in New Zealand and the Pacific

3 The Prime Minister and President discussed the vaccine rollout in New Zealand. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the rollout pace in New Zealand was appropriate to our COVID-free status. New Zealand had not expected to be first to vaccinate, and the supply choices being made by pharmaceutical companies on vaccine delivery to New Zealand (relative to other countries) made moral sense. The Prime Minister also focused on New Zealand's support for vaccine supply to Pacific countries, s6(a), s6(b)(1)

Relationship achievements: The Christchurch Call and Artemis Accords

4 s6(a)

The Prime Minister responded that she continued to be ambitious for the Call and for what it can do next year. Having the US join this work was "huge". She also noted New Zealand's signing up to the Artemis Accords as another positive step in our cooperation.

s6(a), s6(b)(1)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

6 s6(a)

Border settings and leader travel/visits

7 The call concluded with the Prime Minister telling the President that New Zealand was working on reopening and changing our border settings over the next 12 months. She reiterated her earlier invitation to the President to visit New Zealand; it was "real". The Prime Minister also noted she would be visiting the US in May 2022 and would welcome the opportunity to visit the President. s6(a)

TĀKUPU – COMMENT

8 The 15-minute call between the leaders was once again warm in tone, s6(a)

9 All in all our sense is that this call reaffirmed the strong bonds underpinning the US/NZ relationship, as well as the opportunities both sides see to deepen our engagement. s6(a)

MUTU – ENDS

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File Note: Bilateral Meeting between Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and President Joe Biden, 31 May 2022, Washington DC

Attendees

New Zealand

- Prime Minister Ardern
- Ambassador Rosemary Banks
- Raj Nahna, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister
- Catherine Graham, Divisional Manager AMER
- John Subritzky, Deputy Head of Mission

United States

- President Biden
- Secretary of State Tony Blinken
- Senator Tom Udall, US Ambassador to New Zealand
- Director of National Intelligence Averill Haines
- National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan
- Homeland Security Adviser Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall
- Co-ordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell
- Senior Director for East Asia and Oceania Edgard Kagan

President Biden welcomed the Prime Minister and her delegation to the White House.

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Pacific Engagement

The leaders shared perspectives on recent events in the Pacific. The Prime Minister complimented Secretary of State Blinken on his recent speech, ^{s6(a)}

The Prime Minister emphasised New Zealand's unique identity as a Pacific nation, reflected in the fact that 20 percent of MPs in the New Zealand Parliament are of Pacifica heritage. New Zealand's engagement with the Pacific Islands builds and draws from this strong sense of identity and connection.

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

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Trade

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a) the Prime Minister acknowledged the domestic political realities on trade. She noted that while New Zealand hoped the US would be able to consider joining CPTPP in the longer term, more immediately it was important to advance the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework initiative (IPEF) and to give it as much substance and weight as possible. One area it should do so is in addressing regulatory barriers to trade.

As an example the Prime Minister referenced the infant formula shortage in the US and the difficulty, because of FDA regulatory requirements, for New Zealand exporters to shift product urgently into the US, even under emergency provisions. s6(a)

s6(a)

Returning to IPEF, the Prime Minister argued that for it to be meaningful and have impact, it needed to address these sorts of regulatory issues.

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to remind President Biden (and his delegation) that the steel and aluminium tariffs enacted by the Trump Administration still applied to New Zealand exports, notwithstanding that these tariffs had been lifted for

many other countries. This was deeply frustrating given that New Zealand's exports were limited and also sustainably produced. She noted that the US enjoyed a trade surplus with New Zealand when these tariffs were implemented, and that the very small niche scale of New Zealand's exports could not possibly be deemed a threat to US industry.

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Extremism on line and the Christchurch Call

The Prime Minister continued that disinformation is a challenging issue for democracies, especially when connected with freedom of speech considerations. Under the banner of the Christchurch Call, New Zealand has made progress with the tech companies in addressing hate speech and disinformation, and will continue to push hard on this as well as algorithmic transparency. The Prime Minister remarked that in the event New Zealand encountered blockages or obstacles, it would be helpful to enlist US support and intervention.

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Looking ahead to later this year, the Prime Minister noted plans to hold a Christchurch Call Summit in the margins of UNGA involving Heads of Government and the CEOs of the leading tech companies. The last Summit was held in 2019, when the US was not a member. Obviously US participation in this year's Summit would be very welcome.

Gun Control

There was a general discussion on gun control. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

the PM shared her experience following the terrorist attacks in Christchurch and rapidly introducing new gun control laws in New Zealand.

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

As the formal meeting concluded, the Prime Minister invited the President to visit New Zealand, as his schedule permitted. s6(a)

New Zealand Embassy
Washington DC

**File Note : Meeting between Prime Minister Ardern and Vice President Harris :
31 May 2022**

Present : Raj Nahna, Chief of Staff
Rosemary Banks, Ambassador
Rebecca Lissner, Deputy National Security Adviser to the Vice President
Dean Lieberman, Senior Adviser for National Security Affairs

Prime Minister Ardern met Vice President Kamala Harris in her office ahead of her call on President Biden. The meeting began with a brief exchange on the **experience of women leaders** in charting a new course, including on protocol matters, and providing role models for younger generations. PM Ardern expressed admiration for VP Harris as the first woman to hold the position, given the significance of this. ^{s6(a), s6(b)(f)}

VP Harris raised two priority topics for discussion; space cooperation and violent extremism, complimenting PM Ardern for having been "such a great leader" on the latter.

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

PM Ardern agreed that there is a pressing need to develop rules and norms for peaceful use of space and New Zealand is keen to help shape these rules. She explained that New Zealand is now the fourth largest space power by number of launches, which is not widely recognised. ^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

she referenced the close relationships that have been established between Peter Beck's Rocket Lab and NASA. PM Ardern emphasised that New Zealand was keen to work closely with the United States in space cooperation, and could contribute on climate change via satellite technology, e.g. for observation and tracking of methane emissions.

[Document ID]

PM Ardern registered New Zealand's wish to strengthen the **technology partnership** between New Zealand and the US. ^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

PM Ardern responded that New Zealand was pleased to have joined the Artemis Accords.

Turning to **violent extremism** the Prime Minister acknowledged the Vice President's powerful statements after the Buffalo and Uvalde shootings. She expressed New Zealand's deep sympathy for these losses and solidarity, offering any information we could usefully provide. ^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}

PM Ardern referred to the Royal Commission report into the Christchurch terrorist attacks and the fact that the killer had admitted to having been radicalised by what he had been able to access on YouTube. This had motivated her government to bring together the tech companies and civil society to address the problem of violent extremism on line, which could not be solved by regulation.

She gave an account of her meetings on the west coast days earlier with the tech companies, where she had pressed for more transparency around the way they used algorithms. Microsoft and Twitter were responding constructively. PM Ardern noted that she would look for progress on algorithms by the time of the Christchurch Call Summit at the time of UNGA in September.

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

The Prime Minister and Chief of Staff described the political process as well as the buy back mechanism. They emphasised the importance of acting swiftly, while there was public support for action. ^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Turning the discussion to developments in the Pacific Islands, PM Ardern suggested to VP Harris that she could consider attending the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting
s6(a), s6(b)(i)

The meeting closed with the Prime Minister inviting the Vice President to visit New Zealand in future.

WSH
1 June 2022

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Out of scope

From: WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 16 June 2022 8:27 am
To: AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: ALL POSTS (FM) <ALLPOSTSEM@mfat.net.nz>; ...POLICY DIVISIONS
<POLICYDIVS@mfat.net.nz>; FM.Defence (Seemail) <fm.defence@nzdf.mil.nz>;^{s6(a)}
,^{s6(a)}
FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.P/S
Trade (Seemail) <PSTrade@mfat.net.nz>; FM.P/S Defence (Seemail)
<P/SDEFENCE@mfat.net.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG
<DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS APEC NZ <DSAPECNZ@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>;
DS TEG <DM-DSTEG@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER TO THE UNITED STATES: POLITICAL CALLS
IN WASHINGTON DC

[RESTRICTED]

Rāpopoto – Summary

Out of scope

Out of scope

The *United States – Aotearoa New Zealand Joint Statement*

(https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2022-06/Joint%20Statement%20draft%20-%2031%20May_Final.docx)

catalogued existing areas of cooperation and sets a path forward in new areas such as space and technology cooperation.

s6(a)

Hohenga – Action

Hei titiro māu - for information.

Pūrongo – Report

The Prime Minister visited the United States from 23 to 31 May. She was accompanied by her partner Clarke Gayford and (except for White House calls) Minister for Trade and Economic Growth Damien O'Connor. Her itinerary included events in New York, Boston, San Francisco and Seattle, and two separate stops in Washington DC. A business delegation maintained a parallel programme in New York, Boston and San Francisco.

2 In this message we report the Prime Minister's meetings in Washington DC. There were a series of calls on US Senators on Wednesday 25 May; and calls at the White House on 31 May where she met both President Biden and Vice President Harris. A separate FM will follow on the 'reconnecting New Zealand' aspects of the Prime Minister's visit.

3 File notes are attached on the Prime Minister's meetings with Senators; and her meetings with the President and Vice President. This message captures the key aspects of these calls, and provides comment on the future direction and key goals in the bilateral relationship as agreed between the Prime Minister and President Biden.

4 The Prime Minister arrived in Washington DC the day after the tragic shooting of nineteen schoolchildren in Uvalde, Texas, and 11 days after a racially-motivated mass shooting in Buffalo, New York. Given New Zealand's rapid response to the terrorist attacks in Christchurch, US leaders and media were especially interested in the Prime Minister's views on gun control. This gave her meetings in Washington more of a US domestic hue than would usually have been the case with a visiting foreign leader. The Prime Minister made clear in her public and private comments that she could only talk to New Zealand's experience with gun control.

Meeting with President Joe Biden

5 As has been widely reported in the media, the meeting with President Biden went well over time. This reflected the very friendly nature of the meeting and the personal rapport quickly established between the two leaders. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

6 In the Oval Office itself, President Biden and the Prime Minister discussed strategic competition, s6(a) the Pacific, trade, Russia and Ukraine, the Christchurch Call, and gun control reform.

7 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

8 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

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s6(a)

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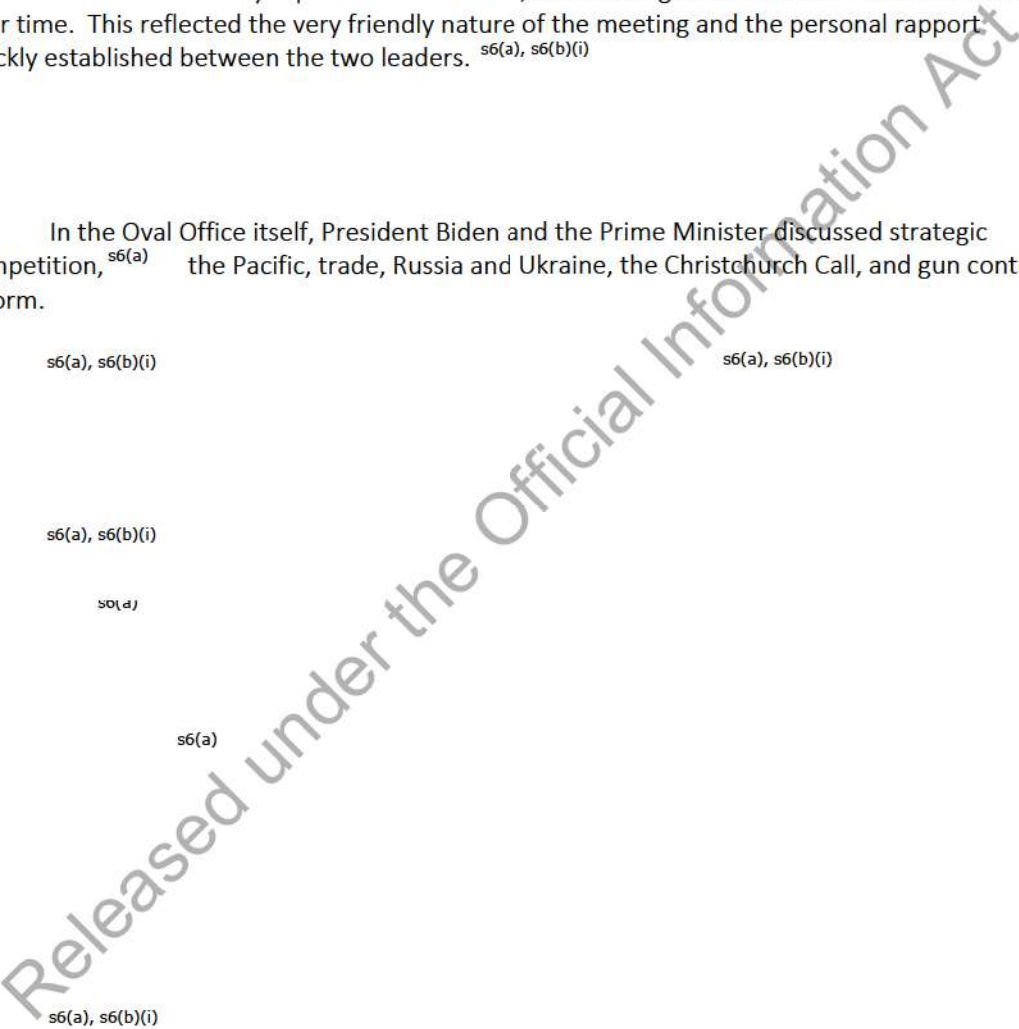
s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

11

s6(a)

• s6(a)



• s6(a)

• s6(a)

12 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

13 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

14 s6(a)

15 The Prime Minister acknowledged the domestic political realities on trade in the US. She noted that while New Zealand hoped the US would be able to consider joining CPTPP in the longer term, more immediately it was important to advance the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework initiative** (IPEF) and to give it as much substance and weight as possible.

16 One area that the IPEF should address is regulatory barriers to trade. As a practical example, the Prime Minister took the opportunity to explain to President Biden the significant difficulties New Zealand exporters were experiencing in getting **infant formula** quickly into the US. New Zealand wanted to help, but the US regulatory regime made it extremely hard.
s6(a), s6(b)(i)

17 The Prime Minister also reminded President Biden (and his delegation) that the **steel and aluminium tariffs** enacted by the Trump Administration still applied to New Zealand exports. She argued that these were of no threat to US industry and should be removed.
s6(a), s6(b)(i)

18 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

The Prime Minister took the opportunity to flag plans for a Christchurch Call Summit in the margins of this year's UNGA (at Leader/CEO level) at which US participation would be very welcome.

19 The leaders also discussed **gun control reform**, where the Prime Minister described the

New Zealand experience following the terrorist attacks in Christchurch.

20 s6(a)

s6(a)

Meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris

21 This was scheduled as a twenty minute meeting directly before the Oval office so the discussion focused on two priority topics; space cooperation between New Zealand and the United States and violent extremism. On **space cooperation** the Vice President welcomed the growing partnership between our two countries and the read out here (TO ADD LINK) from her office after the meeting noted the finalisation of the bilateral Space Framework Agreement.

22 The two leaders agreed on the urgency of developing rules and norms for the peaceful use of space and the Prime Minister expressed New Zealand's readiness to help shape these rules. She also highlighted climate change as an area of space cooperation where New Zealand and the United States could work tighter, e.g. for the observation and tracking of methane emissions. The Vice President thanked New Zealand for having joined the **Artemis Accords**.

23 The Prime Minister registered her ambition to strengthen our **technology partnership** with the United States^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}

24 On combatting **violent extremism** on line, the Prime Minister spoke about the Christchurch Call to Action and her discussions with the west coast technology companies, urging them to provide greater transparency on the use of algorithms.

25 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

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Tākupu – Comment

32 The Washington elements of the Prime Minister's visit reported in this message reinforced in Congress and with the White House New Zealand's positive reputation as a reliable, long-term partner for the US with shared values and goals for stability and resilience in the Indo-Pacific. The atmospherics were warmly welcoming^{s6(a)}

Discussions also highlighted the dynamic new areas of space cooperation and technology. The foundations of the bilateral relationship have been strengthened and the direct personal connections now established between the Prime Minister and the President as well as with the Vice President, have lifted New Zealand's visibility in the Biden administration to a new level.

ENDS



PRIME MINISTER
TE PIRIMIA

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Dear Mr President

On behalf of the Government of New Zealand I would like to congratulate you on your inauguration as the President of the United States of America. Your campaign message of unity resonated strongly here.

Our two nations enjoy a long and enduring friendship. We already work together on a range of important issues including defence and security through our Pacific partnerships, and on efforts to uphold the rules-based international order.

In further strengthening our US-New Zealand partnership, I look forward to working together to address the long-term challenges facing both our nations including through collective efforts to combat climate change, to further enhance our trade and economic relations, and build back better from the challenges of COVID-19. As discussed in our phone call in November last year, I would like to renew my offer for New Zealand officials to exchange learnings and perspectives on COVID-19 with US counterparts. I know my Director-General of Health will be making contact with your Surgeon General.

I was pleased to hear in our discussion how much you had enjoyed your 2016 visit to New Zealand. I do hope you will take up my invitation to return during your term.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
PRIME MINISTER

My warm
congratulations
again!
Please pass on
my best to
Dr Biden too!

February 5, 2021

Dear Prime Minister:

The American people join me in offering warmest regards to the people of New Zealand on the occasion of Waitangi Day on February 6.

New Zealand is one of our closest friends and partners. The unbreakable bond we share was established when the first U.S. Consul to New Zealand was on hand to witness the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi on February 6, 1840. We have since partnered together to build the multilateral framework that benefits our nations as well as the global population.

I look forward to strengthening the U.S.-New Zealand relationship and cooperating to overcome the greatest challenges of our time, including combatting climate change, managing COVID-19, and ensuring the Indo-Pacific remains free, open, secure, and prosperous. I also want to commend you on your tremendous leadership in protecting your country and citizens from the worst effects of this pandemic and look forward to collaborating with you to share best practices.

I have fond memories of my trip to your country in 2016 when New Zealand's legendary reputation for friendliness and hospitality was on full display. I wish you and all New Zealanders well on this Waitangi Day.

Sincerely,

//S//

Joseph R. Biden Jr.

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February 12, 2021

Dear Prime Minister Ardern:

Thank you for reaching out to extend your hand in partnership as President Biden and I begin to tackle the challenges – and seize the opportunities – we face at home and abroad. We know that advancing our goals will require working together with our closest partners, like you.

It is a tremendous honor to be elected to represent the American people at this critical time. We understand the magnitude of the issues facing the United States and our friends abroad. From the coronavirus pandemic to climate change, we are committed to partnering with the global community to make a difference in the lives of our people today while creating the conditions for a better tomorrow. My optimism is grounded in a core belief that together, we can take on these challenges in the pursuit of peace, prosperity, and justice for all.

Please rest assured that I am committed to strengthening our partnership to deepen the ties that bind the American people and the people of New Zealand.

I appreciate your partnership and look forward to our cooperation.

Sincerely,
//S//
Kamala Harris
Vice President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 9, 2021

The Right Honorable
Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister and Minister of National Security
and Intelligence of New Zealand
Wellington

Dear Madam Prime Minister:

Thank you for your thoughtful message and personal words of support. New Zealand is one of our closest friends and partners, and I look forward to working with you and the Government of New Zealand to deepen our partnership and advance mutual interests.

We face many crises across the globe, including COVID-19, global health security, and climate change, and I am confident that together we can overcome these challenges. I appreciate our collaboration to support Pacific Island countries, and I look forward to working together to ensure the Indo-Pacific remains free and open.

I hope you will be able to participate in the Climate Leaders' Summit on April 22 and 23. An official invitation with details on the virtual Summit will be shared shortly.

Thank you for the kind invitation for a return visit to your lovely country. I hope to make it back again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Biden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Released under the Official Information Act



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 25, 2021

The Right Honorable
Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister of New Zealand
Wellington

Dear Madam Prime Minister:

On behalf of the American people, I send my best wishes to you and the people of New Zealand as we continue our shared fight to turn the tide on the suffering and loss inflicted by this pandemic. My heart goes out to all the New Zealander families and communities who have been touched by tragedy in this crisis. But even as we fight COVID-19 and seek to build our economies back better and stronger, we must not fail to also address the looming existential threat of climate change.

I write today to invite you to participate in a virtual Leaders Summit on Climate on April 22 and 23, 2021, which will bring together the leaders of the world's major economies and other vital partners for an urgent and open dialogue on ways to strengthen our collective efforts to confront the climate crisis. In particular, I would like to ask you to speak on April 22 on the topic of mobilizing finance for climate mitigation and adaptation.

The world is already experiencing the devastating impacts of climate change. Science makes clear that unless we dramatically scale up our efforts over the course of this decade, we will condemn future generations to incalculable harm. It is incumbent on us as leaders to do all within our power to stem this rising global threat.

That is why one of my very first actions as President was to return the United States to the Paris Agreement, the framework embraced by all countries to guide our collective climate efforts. But we all must step up and do more if we are to ensure the Agreement's success. I am fully committed to working with you to strengthen global climate ambition heading into the U.N. Climate Change Conference this November in Glasgow. Our guiding aim must be to keep within reach the vital goal of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

By the time of the Leaders Summit, the United States will put forward an ambitious climate target for 2030 as our new nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement. I urge you to also come to the Summit prepared to share how your government will contribute to keeping the 1.5 degree Celsius goal within reach.

The Summit will reconvene the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate, which brings together the 17 countries responsible for nearly 80 percent of global emissions to seek common ground on climate solutions. To ensure the Summit includes other voices critical to understanding and meeting this urgent challenge, I am also inviting the heads of additional countries who are demonstrating strong climate leadership, are especially vulnerable to climate impacts, or are charting innovative pathways to a net-zero economy.

Our discussions will focus both on the challenge of decarbonizing the global economy and on the urgent need to help vulnerable countries adapt to unavoidable climate impacts. We will examine strategies to mobilize stronger public and private sector financing and the transformative technologies that can usher in the sustainable industries of the future. We also will highlight the economic and job creation benefits of climate action, in both our near-term recovery efforts and the decades ahead, and the need to ensure that these benefits are widely shared. We will be joined in some sessions by civil society and business leaders.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Leaders Summit on Climate, and to hearing your plans for delivering more ambitious climate action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Released under the Official Information Act

RESTRICTED

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Dear Mr President

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
PRIME MINISTER

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PRIME MINISTER
TE PIRIMIA

24 MAY 2021

The President
The White House
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Dear Mr President

I am writing to invite you to an APEC Informal Leaders' Retreat, which I will convene at 2300 NZT/1900 SGT on 16 July 2021. We are facing a significant health and economic crisis. It is my hope that we, as political leaders, can use this Retreat to identify practical building blocks in our regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consistent with the idea of an informal Retreat, the meeting will be only two hours in length, framed around a single overarching question:

Confronted by COVID-19, what are the opportunities for the Asia-Pacific region to collaborate to move through the health crisis, and to accelerate economic recovery in a manner that lays the foundations for a better future?

My hope is that this question will guide our discussions as we explore ideas and policies that, together, will enable our economies to recover quickly and sustainably.

I am committed to us having an interactive and inclusive dialogue. The agenda will create space for every Leader to speak and will allow for open discussion. I would like us to build on each other's ideas, and share suggestions for ways in which we can proactively move the region's recovery forward.

This year, APEC has an important opportunity to demonstrate its responsiveness and relevance as we work together to safeguard the wellbeing of our people. We share the ambition to secure a future for our region that will benefit us all.

I look forward to welcoming you on 16 July, and to exchanging views on how we navigate out of crisis together.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
PRIME MINISTER



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 2021

The Right Honorable
Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister of New Zealand
Wellington

Dear Madam Prime Minister:

Thank you for participating in the Leaders Summit on Climate. Together, I believe we succeeded in galvanizing a global commitment to raise our climate ambitions while highlighting the economic opportunities available for nations that step up to meet this challenge and underscoring the urgency of scaling up climate finance and helping vulnerable nations adapt. I want to reaffirm to you directly that the United States is committed to this work and to taking the steps to deliver on our pledge. I am grateful for your thoughtful remarks on the importance of scaling up public and private finance to meet our climate objectives.

The Summit was just a step on the road to the UN Climate Change Conference this fall in Glasgow. We must ensure by then that all nations, especially the major economies, are committing to the level of ambition needed to keep to the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. We must act now to keep that goal within reach. I am committed to working closely with you and our fellow leaders in the coming months to ensure Glasgow's success.

Thank you again for your contribution to this historic Summit, and I look forward to continuing our work together to tackle the climate crisis.

Sincerely,

Released under the Official Information Act

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Dear Mr President

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

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Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
PRIME MINISTER

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RESTRICTED



PRIME MINISTER
TE PIRIMIA

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
WASHINGTON DC 20500

27 August 2021

Dear Mr President

I write to offer the condolences of the government and people of New Zealand for the loss of life and injuries sustained by US military personnel in terrorist attacks in Kabul on 26 August. We condemn these appalling acts of violence.

Support from the United States has been essential to our own effort to evacuate New Zealanders and those Afghan nationals who worked with us during our twenty-year deployment to Afghanistan. We are extremely grateful for this assistance, and we grieve with you for the losses that your country has suffered in these final days of the evacuation.

In keeping with the strong values we share, New Zealand will continue to work closely with the United States and other partners to support the people of Afghanistan and to counter the threat of terrorism and extremist violence.

Yours sincerely



Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
PRIME MINISTER



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 9, 2021

The Right Honorable
Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister of New Zealand
Wellington

Dear Madam Prime Minister:

On behalf of the American people, I send my best wishes to you and the people of New Zealand. We recognize and appreciate your partnership in working to build democratic and human rights-respecting societies that allow all citizens to thrive. In a moment of significant challenge and enormous opportunity, it is more important than ever for democracies to prove that we can deliver for the needs of our people.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in a virtual *Summit for Democracy* on December 9-10, 2021. I am inviting Heads of State and Government, other government leaders, and voices from the business and nongovernmental communities to join me in taking action to strengthen democracy and defend against authoritarianism, combat corruption, and promote respect for human rights. We look forward to sharing additional details shortly and to hearing your ideas on how we can foster a more democratic, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable world.

As a country constantly striving to create a more just and equitable society, the United States will host the *Summit for Democracy* with humility and in the spirit of mutual learning. Together, we will embark on the work necessary to shape a prosperous and peaceful future built on respect for the rights and aspirations of all people. I look forward to welcoming you and joining you in this critical endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Biden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.



PRIME MINISTER

TE PIRIMIA

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Dear Mr President

Thank you for your letter of 9 November, formally inviting me to participate in the Summit for Democracy on 9-10 December, 2021. I am happy to accept the invitation.

Democracy, and democratic resilience, are important topics to Aotearoa New Zealand, one of the oldest continuous democracies in the world. Democracy across the globe is facing a range of serious challenges, both internal and external to our countries, and I agree that the time is right to bring government leaders, businesses and non-governmental communities together to discuss ways to strengthen, improve and build democratic resilience.

New Zealand has an extensive existing aid programme across the three broad Summit for Democracy themes - fighting corruption, defending against authoritarianism and advancing human rights, especially in the Pacific. I welcome the opportunity to share our perspective and lessons learnt.

I welcome your initiative to host the Summit for Democracy, and look forward to participating.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
PRIME MINISTER



PRIME MINISTER
TE PIRIMIA

9 June 2022

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr President,

I write to thank you most sincerely for allowing me such a generous amount of your time when we met last week. Our conversation reinforced for me the deep and enduring friendship between New Zealand and the United States, built on our shared democratic values, security partnership, and a commitment to a fair global rules-based system.

Our meeting was a timely opportunity to discuss developments in the Pacific Islands, where New Zealand warmly welcomes a deeper and enduring United States presence. I repeat my offer to assist or facilitate this in any way that would be helpful to you.

We are pleased to know that you are planning an invitation to Pacific Leaders to meet you in Washington later this year, and that you are considering very senior United States representation at the Pacific Islands Forum meeting of leaders in July.

In our discussion I noted that there is potential for the United States to expand its presence and influence through other elements of the existing Pacific regional architecture. One example is the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus.

I can assure you that New Zealand will continue to work closely with the United States on the newly launched Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. It was a pleasure to join you for this important event on the eve of my visit to the United States.

On a more personal note, may I thank you for the tireless leadership you have shown since you assumed the Presidency. To restore momentum to the global response to climate change; to activate a debate on how to protect and strengthen democracies and most recently, to catalyse a collective response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. In these difficult times, close friendships like that between New Zealand and the United States are all the more important.

Once again, my thanks Mr President, for a substantive and enjoyable meeting.

Kind regards,



Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister



PRIME MINISTER

TE PIRIMIA

9 June 2022

The Honourable Kamala Harris
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Madame Vice President,

Thank you for receiving me last week. It was truly a pleasure to meet you, after having watched with admiration and a sense of sisterly solidarity as you assumed this high office.

I am excited by the potential for closer future cooperation between the United States and New Zealand in all areas of the peaceful use of space. We are grateful for your readiness to support the establishment of a bilateral strategic space dialogue which my officials will be keen to activate as soon as possible.

The dialogue and active collaboration between our two countries will be further expanded when the recently finalised Space Framework Agreement is signed and comes into effect later this year, a development which I know we both welcome.

We have the opportunity to further grow our cooperation with the US government as well as building other partnerships in supporting space exploration and taking action on climate change, such as in the MethaneSAT satellite mission for measuring methane emissions from space.

Another area we discussed was the urgency of developing rules and norms for the peaceful use of outer space. May I reaffirm that New Zealand is committed to helping to shape these rules, and we value working with the United States on this important task.

I appreciated the opportunity to discuss our respective responses to the challenge of violent extremism and the way the internet has become a source of radicalisation. I hope you and President Biden may be able to attend the Christchurch Call to Action Summit to be held in the wings of the United Nations General Assembly in September. I see this initiative as a useful way of engaging with the technology companies to persuade them to take greater responsibility for their content.

May I repeat my invitation to you to visit New Zealand – it would be an honour to host you and the Second Gentleman.

Kind regards,



Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister

It was such
a pleasure to
meet you! Please
do come and
visit us (if you can!)