



Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee

Minute of Decision

ERD Min (10) 2/2
REV 1

Copy No: 29

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New Zealand Commitments in Afghanistan: Update

Portfolios: Foreign Affairs / Defence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE INWARDS MAIL	
EDMS ID
Date	7.4.10
Folio No	GPO02-3
File	Yes / No
Referred to	IDR DPP

On 17 March 2010, the Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee (ERD):

- 1 **noted** that in August 2009, Cabinet:
 - 1.1 agreed that the drawdown of the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) begin before the current mandate ends in September 2010;
 - 1.2 directed officials to develop a roadmap for exiting the PRT in the medium term (including the financial implications of the proposals), and report to ERD;
 - 1.3 agreed in principle, subject to the report referred to in paragraph 1.2 above, to the extension of the current mandate of all New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) elements in Afghanistan until September 2011, on the understanding that drawdowns will occur with each PRT rotation from September 2009;

[CAB Min (09) 28/13]

- 2 **approved:**
 - 2.1 the roadmap as outlined in the paper under ERD (10) 9; and
 - 2.2 the corresponding extension of the current NZDF mandate in Afghanistan until September 2011, as agreed in principle by Cabinet in August 2009
[CAB Min (09) 28/13];

- 3 **noted** that the current situation in Bamyán has stabilised sufficiently to commence a formal transition of the lead security responsibility, and that drawdown milestones will be synchronised with International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) plans and PRT rotations between now and September 2011;

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- 4 **agreed** that the transition of lead security to the Afghan National Police (ANP) in Bamyan Province be implemented in conjunction with the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan and the NATO Training Mission to Afghanistan over the next three PRT rotations:
- 4.1 April 2010 to October 2010;
 - 4.2 October 2010 to April 2011;
 - 4.3 April 2011 to September 2011;
- 5 **noted** that the military strategic end-state will be achieved on completion of the drawdown of the NZDF military commitment to the Bamyan PRT by September 2011, with the NZDF having transferred the lead security role to the ANP and/or another international partner;
- 6 **noted** that:
- 6.1 while current planning involves an optimal exit point of September 2011, it is likely that circumstances will require a residual military presence to remain in Bamyan, to:
 - 6.1.1 co-ordinate continued security assistance to the ANP;
 - 6.1.2 facilitate continued logistics and communications support as lead nation;
 - 6.1.3 provide protection to the New Zealand civilian staff;
 - 6.2 the size and nature of any residual NZDF footprint would be determined in consultation with Ministers, and would depend on the conditions requiring any such contingency;

Out of scope

- 8 **noted** the appointment, subject to budget approval, from mid-2010, of a Development Advisor to Bamyan, for a term of one year plus one year at an average annual cost of up to \$730,000, which will be met from within existing Vote Official Development Assistance baselines until December 2011;
- 9 **noted** the appointment of a civilian PRT Director by April 2010, with funding of \$770,000 per annum to be met from within existing Vote Foreign Affairs and Trade baselines until December 2011;
- 10 **noted** that, with the appointment of a civilian PRT Director, the senior military commander will be moved from Bamyan to ISAF headquarters in Kabul to centralise NZDF military command, given the New Zealand Special Air Service Group deployment and the proposed ANZAC force contributions;

Out of scope

- 12 **noted** that the Afghanistan development assistance allocation will increase from the current \$9.5 million to \$12 to 14 million over the period from 2010 to 2015, with the priority on agriculture and rural livelihoods;
- 13 **approved** the following Vote Defence Force changes to appropriations to provide for extending the New Zealand PRT in Afghanistan, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance:

Vote Defence Force Minister of Defence	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14& Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses: Operationally Deployed Forces Annual (funded by revenue Crown)	-	14.048	-	-	-

Out of scope

s6(a)

- 16 **noted** that the existing three New Zealand Police (the Police) staff are fully funded through Vote Official Development Assistance at a cost of \$1 million per annum;
- 17 **agreed** that, consistent with the decision to link the deployment of Police staff in Bamyan with the NZDF presence, the three Police staff exit Bamyan at the drawdown of NZDF at September 2011;
- 18 **directed** officials report to ERD quarterly with updates on progress towards implementing the transition roadmap, with the next report due in June 2010.

Saphron Powell
Committee Secretary

Reference: ERD (10) 9

Secretary's note: This minute has been reissued to replace the name of the Vote in recommendation 8.

Distribution: (see over)

Present:

Hon Bill English (part of item)
Hon Judith Collins
Hon Anne Tolley
Hon Murray McCully (Chair)
Hon Tim Groser
Hon Dr Wayne Mapp

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ERD
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
New Zealand Police
New Zealand Defence Force

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