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RECORD OF A CALL ON THE DEFENCE SECRETARY BY THE NEW ZEALAND
MINISTER OF DEFENCE ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 1986 AT 1530 HOURS

Those present:

The Rt Hon George Younger MP
Secretary of State for Defence

The Hon F D O'Flynn
Minister of Defence,
New Zealand

The Rt Hon John Stanley MP
Minister of State for the Armed
Forces

HE Mr Bryce Harland
New Zealand High Commissioner

Mr W R Davies
Head of Sec(O)(C)

Mr R S Grant
Head of European Division,
New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Mr J S Wright
Assistant Private Secretary to
the Secretary of State

Air Commodore P Neville OBE AFC
Head of New Zealand Defence
Liaison Staff

Mr D C J Ball
Assistant Private Secretary to
the Secretary of State

The New Zealand Defence Minister made a brief call on the Defence Secretary. An informal discussion touched on a range of issues concerning Anglo-New Zealand defence relations, which, in the view of the Minister, were flourishing, notwithstanding the controversy over nuclear policy.

a. The Five Powers Defence Arrangements (FPDA). The Minister referred to the FPDA and the integrated air defence system, the Headquarters of which he had visited in Malaysia. He recognised the value of the system in improving relations between Malaysia and Singapore, although he harboured some doubts about its effectiveness in strictly military terms. The Defence Secretary noted that both the Malaysian and the Singapore Ministers had made clear their readiness to participate. He would be able to form his own impression of the efficacy of the Headquarters when visiting the Far East himself.

b. Equipment Procurement. The Minister mentioned New Zealand's decision to purchase a tanker for its Royal Fleet Auxiliary, the replenishment equipment for which came from British sources.



c. Royal College of Defence Studies. The Minister confirmed that New Zealand would not be taking up the offer of a place on the course for 1987. This decision was not related to current disagreements in other areas, and he hoped to be able to look closely at the possibility of resuming the place at a future date. The Defence Secretary said that the College was traditionally pleased to welcome students from New Zealand. It was helpful from a practical point of view to know what decision had been reached for 1987.

d. Nuclear Legislation. The Defence Secretary asked when it was expected that the legislation would become effective. The Minister said he was almost ready to report back to Parliament; he personally expected the legislation to be passed before the end of the year. He added that he had found it easier to discuss it with the British than with the Americans, and believed that the British Government had approached the subject in a fair way. He agreed with the Defence Secretary that it was a matter of regret that it had not been possible to find a formula compatible with British policy.

2. The Minister also touched on New Zealand-Australian relations, reaffirming that New Zealand saw its own defence as inseparable from that of Australia. Defence relations were better than they had been for a long time. He believed that the Dibb Report on defence prepared for Mr Beazley - which he himself regarded as a cautious document - had been misinterpreted, particularly in the United States; it was a mistake to see suggestions of a "Fortress Australia" attitude in it. The document had been well received in New Zealand.

3. The meeting ended at approximately 1600 hours.

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Ministry of Defence
22nd September 1986

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