

**From:** s9(2)(g)(i)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 January 2024 8:14 p.m.  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(i)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(i) Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE; Shaw, Andrew, BRIG; Schmidt, Richard; Pearce, Kathleen; s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(g)(i)  
**Subject:** RE: Update for Ministers: Red Sea/Houthi Attacks: US request for NZ support, including for potential limited military action [SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]

Hi again, s9(2)

The Minister is happy with the proposed course of action i.e., s6(b)(i) over the next few days and revert to Ministers with further advice, to be provided for Cabinet-level consideration during the week of 15 January.

Thanks, s9(



s9(2)(g)(i)  
**Private Secretary (Defence) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP**

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space  
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques

DDI: s9(2)(a) | M: s9(2)(a)  
Email: s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz | Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

*Authorised by Hon Judith Collins KC MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington*

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(i)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 January 2024 4:33 PM

To: s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>  
Cc: s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE  
s9(2)(a) @NZDF.mil.nz>; Shaw, Andrew, BRIG s9(2)(a) @NZDF.mil.nz>; Schmidt,  
Richard < s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; Pearce, Kathleen < s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>;  
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s9(2)(a) @NZDF.mil.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i)  
s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @mfat.govt.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Update for Ministers: Red Sea/Houthi Attacks: US request for NZ support, including for potential limited military action [SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]

**SEEMAIL RESTRICTED**

Hi s9(2) – happy new year!

Thank you very much for sending this information, which I have passed to the Office for awareness. I will come back to you if anything else is required at this stage, and to confirm they are comfortable with the proposed course of action you have outlined below.

Thanks, s9(



s9(2)(g)(i)  
**Private Secretary (Defence) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP**

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
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Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack  
Christchurch Mosques

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 6 January 2024 4:10 PM  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; Woods, Andy, AIRCDRE s9(2)(a) @NZDF.mil.nz>; Shaw, Andrew, BRIG s9(2)(a) @NZDF.mil.nz>; Schmidt, Richard <s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; Pearce, Kathleen s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @nzdf.mil.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @nzdf.mil.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @NZDF.mil.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @NZDF.mil.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @defence.govt.nz>; s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(a) @mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Update for Ministers: Red Sea/Houthi Attacks: US request for NZ support, including for potential limited military action [SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]

\*\*\* [SEEMAIL] This message may contain classified information \*\*\*

Good afternoon s9(2)(g)(i)

Please see below some information on a US request for New Zealand support for next steps following the recently-released statement (supported by New Zealand and other partners) on Houthi action in the Red Sea. MFAT will also be providing this information to MFA's office.

Background

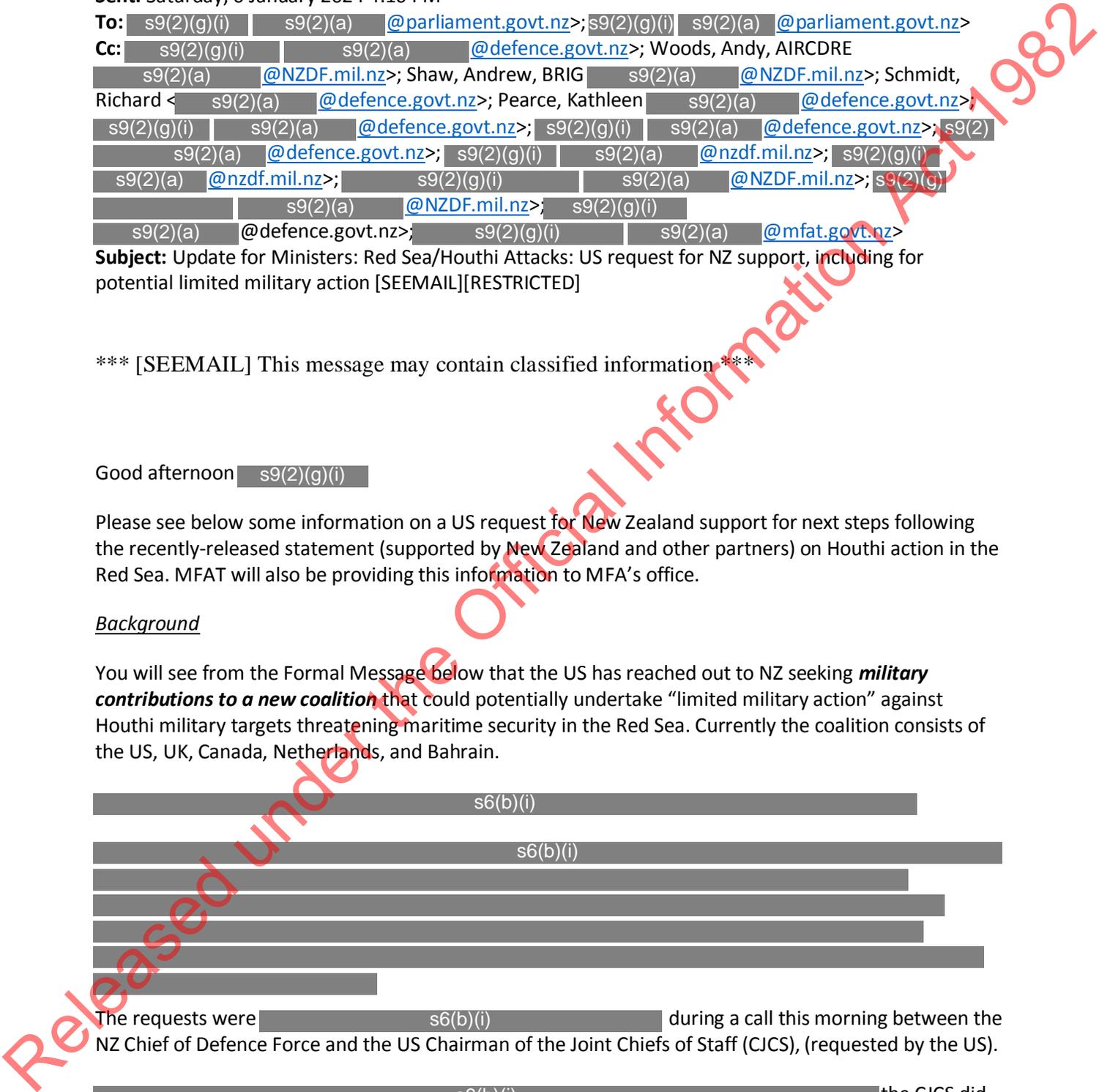
You will see from the Formal Message below that the US has reached out to NZ seeking **military contributions to a new coalition** that could potentially undertake "limited military action" against Houthi military targets threatening maritime security in the Red Sea. Currently the coalition consists of the US, UK, Canada, Netherlands, and Bahrain.

s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

The requests were s6(b)(i) during a call this morning between the NZ Chief of Defence Force and the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), (requested by the US).

s6(b)(i) the CJCS did indicate kinetic operations are being considered should the recently released collective statement not achieve the desired security effects in the Red Sea. A number of information requirements are currently



being sought by officials, these include; the legal basis for any actions, timeframe, other partner's considering joining or providing supporting statements (including Australia), potential military roles that NZ could fill, and, Rules of Engagement (ROE).

Proposed Action

Officials recommend we seek further clarity on the above questions from the US over the next few days and revert to Ministers with further advice. Subject to the views of Ministers, advice could be provided for Cabinet-level consideration during the week of 15 January.

If Raised Talking Points (to be updated if any action is undertaken):

- New Zealand condemns the recent Houthi attacks against commercial vessels in the Red Sea. These actions directly threaten international commerce and maritime security in the region, as well as the international rules-based system more broadly. We take such threats to international shipping seriously.
- We are aware that the US and a small number of partners are considering further action should the Houthis continue to threaten lives, the global economy, and free flow of commerce in the region's critical waterways.
- New Zealand has contributed to maritime security in the Middle East since the 1990s. New Zealand currently deploys up to 12 New Zealand Defence Force personnel to the Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain, which is a multinational naval partnership that promotes security and stability across the Middle East maritime region.

Let me know if you would like to discuss any of the above.

Ngā mihi,

s9(2)



s9(2)(g)(i)  
Director, Global and Deployments  
International Branch, Policy and Planning Division  
Defence House, 34 Bowen Street, PO Box 12703, Wellington 6144,  
New Zealand  
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**From:** FM.Defence

**Sent:** Saturday, 6 January 2024 7:49 a.m.

**To:** MOD Policy Branch s9(2)(a)@defence.govt.nz; MOD Development Branch

s9(2)(a)@defence.govt.nz; MOD International Branch

s9(2)(a)@defence.govt.nz; Schmidt, Richard <s9(2)(a)@defence.govt.nz>

**Subject:** FW: FORMAL MESSAGE: RED SEA/HOUSHI ATTACKS: US REQUEST FOR NZ SUPPORT FOR NEXT STEPS, POTENTIAL LIMITED MILITARY ACTION

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

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

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

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