

AIDE MEMOIRE

- US-led Coalition against ISIL identified a range of military options.
- Note we discussed these options with the Australians over the weekend.
- Note we focussed our discussions on a joint 'Building Partner Capacity' option. This option is about training selected Iraqi Security Forces at one of a number of sites within Iraq.
- We have, of course, made no decisions but this training option, of the various options proposed, looks more suitable for any NZ military contribution. However, as underlined from our discussions last weekend, much work still needs to be done to explore this option.
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [6(a)]
- The Australians are still to take any decision in relation to the 'Building Partner Capacity' option and like us are exploring the detail.
- To this effect, the Australians are looking to send a team to the Middle East shortly to scope out this option.
- Following our discussions over the weekend, I am proposing to Ministers that we agree that the New Zealand Defence Force send a small scoping team to join the Australians.
- My expectation is that this team, which would only explore options and gather information, would report back to Ministers in due course.
- The scoping team of a maximum of 10 personnel will visit [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [6(a)] Iraq (Combined Joint Operations Centre Baghdad).

Additional Points

- 'Building Partner Capacity' is a non-combat option similar to the Afghanistan National Army Officer Academy where we have eight personnel in Kabul until April 2015.
- What I would be expecting from any report is further detail around locations, size of NZ contribution, likely duration, safety of our people and force protection overall.
- The scoping team will be up to 10 regular force personnel.

Recommendations

- **Note** the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence have engaged in discussions with their Australian counterparts on options for a possible NZDF contribution to the international response to ISIL;
 - **Note** that discussions focussed on the possibility of an Australian/New Zealand joint 'Building Partner Capacity' option;
 - **Agree** to the NZDF deploying, alongside Australia, a scoping team to the Middle East to explore options, gather information on Building Partner Capacity – the provision of personnel to train selected Iraqi force elements;
 - **Note** the scoping team will be authorised to visit sites in [REDACTED] [6(a)] Iraq;
 - **Note** the scoping team are not permitted to make any commitment regarding any potential NZDF military contribution to the international coalition against ISIL;
 - **Note** that the scoping team will provide a report on the conclusion of the visit;
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED] [9(2)(f)]
 - [REDACTED]
- [9(2)(g)(i)]

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