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**From:** HONIARA  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 December 2021 1:12 pm  
**To:** PACMM  
**Cc:** s6(a) ; AUS; CEO; DCE; DS PDG; DS MLG; ISED; NAD; PACPF; PHM; PACREG; DS AAG; SEA; ...PACIFIC POSTS; FM.Defence (Seemail); FM.Police (Seemail); FM.DPMC s6(a) (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.Min Pacific Peoples; CMD; MEDIA; CON; ORD; SEC  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLANDS POLITICS s6(a)  
AHEAD

**Security Classification:**  
RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

### Rāpopoto - Summary

Prime Minister Sogavare's easy defeat this week of a Motion of No Confidence occurred s6(a)

s6(a)  
s6(a), s6(c)

### Hohenga - Action

For information

### Pūrongo - Report

s6(a)

2. The streets remained calm throughout the day of the Motion and those following, with patrols reporting no issues. Heavy rain overnight and through the day likely kept most in Honiara at home, although not uninterested: 5,600 viewers were reported on the Parliament live-stream of the debate (a

fivefold increase on normal viewing figures) and it was aired on national radio and likely to have been followed closely across the nation.

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

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Official Information Act

*Blowing the whistle*

7. The calls from provinces for self-autonomy or federalism (the two are often conflated) continue to persist, with the Prime Minister’s promise to lodge a federalism paper in parliament s6(a) s6(a) behind the calls for greater autonomy for the provinces. Premier Daniel Suidani has written to the UN Security Council, s6(a) , urgently requesting an independent fact-finding mission to ascertain the progress, or lack of it, on the implementation of the Townsville Peace Agreement. s6(a) s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a) s6(a)

**Tākupu - Comment**

s6(a)

his majority government, s6(a)

While the Prime Minister retains

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s6(a)

10. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

s6(a)

ensuring that we can respond flexibly to challenges exacerbated by the events of the last two weeks and their impact on Solomon Islands' economic and social health.

MUTU - ENDS//

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**From:** HONIARA  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 December 2021 8:26 pm  
**To:** HONIARA; PACMM  
**Cc:** s6(a) AUS; CEO; DCE; DS PDG; DS MLG; ISED; NAD; PACPF; PHM; PACREG; DS AAG; SEA; ...PACIFIC POSTS; FM.Defence (Seemail); FM.Police (Seemail); FM.DPMC s6(a) (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.Min Pacific Peoples; CMD; MEDIA; CON; ORD; SEC  
**Subject:** RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLANDS PRIME MINISTER SURVIVES NO CONFIDENCE VOTE

**Security Classification:**  
RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

## PŪRONGO – REPORT

Prime Minister **Manasseh Sogavare** has today survived a Motion of No Confidence lodged against him by the Leader of the Opposition **Matthew Wale**. The decisive vote in the Prime Minister's favour - 33 voted against the Motion; 15 for it; and 2 abstained - was undertaken following s6(a)

2 We are monitoring the security situation following the announcement of the result.

MUTU – ENDS//

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**From:** HONIARA <HON@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 December 2021 4:21 PM  
**To:** PACMM <PACMM@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** s6(a) AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; PACPF <PACPF@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; SEA <DM-SEA@mfat.govt.nz>; ...PACIFIC POSTS <PACIFICPOSTS@mfat.net.nz>; FM.Defence (Seemail) s6(a) ; FM.Police (Seemail) <Registry.NIC@police.govt.nz>; FM.DPMC s6(a) (Seemail) s6(a) ; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.Min Pacific Peoples s6(a) ; CMD <DM-CMD@mfat.govt.nz>; MEDIA <DM-MEDIA@mfat.govt.nz>; CON <DM-CON@mfat.govt.nz>; ORD <DM-ORD@mfat.govt.nz>; SEC <DM-SEC@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLAND: UNREST – ALL ROADS LEAD TO MONDAY

[RESTRICTED]

## Rāpopoto - Summary

Honiara remains calm with the presence of deployed foreign security assistance, including New Zealand personnel, providing both reassurance and deterrence. s6(a)

s6(a) The public and business owners are apprehensive however; well aware that tensions simmer below the surface in the lead-up to the Motion of No Confidence vote on Monday.

s6(a)

. Meanwhile, calls for greater provincial autonomy or federalism are becoming louder.

## **Hohenga - Action**

For information

## **Pūrongo - Report**

### *Calmness in the city*

The situation in Honiara remains calm, due in large part to the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) having its presence bolstered by the various international contingents now in Honiara.

s6(a), s6(c)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(b)(i)

2. The NZDF advance party and New Zealand Police has had constructive engagement with RSIPF Commissioner **Mostyn Mangau**, and with ADF and AFP leads. New Zealand's participation has been welcomed by Solomon Islands and Australian stakeholders alike and our focus – particularly that of Police - on supporting RSIPF to engage with communities is a credible and useful role. The response on social media has been overwhelmingly positive (notwithstanding some quarters opining the deployment will serve s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

### *Costs continue to mount*

3. The fallout from last week's violence continues. The Central Bank of Solomon Islands has revised upwards its damage assessment. They now report 63 buildings burnt and/or looted; forecast an economic depression; and report a SBD534 million hit to the economy. They report some 1,000 job losses, anticipate a loss of SBD80 million tax revenue over the next three months, expect increased loan defaulters, and predict a rise in inflation. RSIPF have reported that they have apprehended 217 suspects from the violence last week, of whom 33 were juveniles, but have not yet arrested any of the instigators. Some communities have returned looted goods to the Chinese Association, and police have advised that they will be checking those travelling to the provinces for evidence that cargo was legitimately sourced. Maritime traffic between Honiara and Auki has been paused, and we are starting to hear of potential food shortages in Malaita as a result.

4. s6(a)

s6(a)

5. s6(a), s6(d)

6. Meanwhile the Chinese Embassy has broken its silence to release a statement condemning last week's violence as a "dark moment" noting the significant loss caused to the Chinese community in Solomon Islands. It acknowledged the support received by Solomon Islanders since the violence and devoted most of the statement to applauding individual groups within the Chinese community. It reminded readers that the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Solomon Islands had "achieved more fruitful and tangible outcomes, and benefit the people of Solomon Islands in many ways." It stated its support for the government and people of Solomon Islands to restore "social order, and stability, and economic recovery." And, it warned that "any attempt to sabotage the relationship is doomed to failure ... dark clouds cannot block the sun."

s6(a)

7. s6(a) Opposition Leader **Matthew Wale** has been dialling up his pressure on the Prime Minister to resign. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Sogavare meanwhile has accused Wale of being involved in the violence last week and called upon him (Wale) to resign. s6(a)

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

8. s6(a)

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

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

*All eyes to Monday*

9. Monday's Motion of No Confidence will be broadcast live with media present but access to parliament will be strictly controlled. s6(c)

and several businesses have advised they will close that day. The Motion is not a private vote; following its introduction it is debated and then each Member must stand up and say whether or not they support it one by one (starting with Minister of Aviation **Peter Shanel Agovaka**), s6(a)

s6(a) Proceeding are likely to go on until after lunch. s6(a)

10. s9(2)(g)(i), s6(b)(i)

11. s6(a)

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Official Information Act

**Tākupu - Comment**

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

14. Within this context, we are keeping our minds focused on the long-term and enduring nature of our partnership with Solomon Islands. s6(a)

MUTU - ENDS/

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**From:** HONIARA  
**Sent:** Monday, 6 December 2021 10:57 am  
**To:** PACMM  
**Cc:** DS PDG; HONIARA; TREWERN, Vicky (DS PDG Office); PDG TFR; SEC; PEP PAYROLL  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: CABTS: ARRIVAL AT POST: s9(2)(a)

**Security Classification:** IN CONFIDENCE

[IN CONFIDENCE]

This FM advises that s9(2)(a) arrived safely to start her short term relief assignment on Saturday, 4 December.

MUTU – ENDS//

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Official Information Act

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**From:** HONIARA  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 December 2021 12:28 pm  
**To:** PACMM; SEC  
**Cc:** s6(a) AUS; CEO; DCE; DS PDG; DS MLG; ISED; NAD; PACPF; PHM; PACREG; DS AAG; ...PACIFIC POSTS; FM.Defence (Seemail); FM.Police (Seemail); FM.DPMC s6(a) (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.Min Pacific Peoples; CMD; MEDIA; CON; ORD; SEC; s6(a) (Seemail); FM.P/S Defence (Seemail); FM.P/S Police (Seemail)  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLAND: UNREST: s6(a)  
s6(a)

**Security Classification:**

RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

**Rāpopoto - Summary**

In a special address last night, Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare announced that New Zealand will be joining Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji to assist Solomon Islands in the wake of the ongoing political/civil unrest. While the city remains calm, s6(a) the Government last night released a press statement noting its awareness of plans for further violence by the instigators of last week's riots. Malaita Province has issued a statement calling for urgent dialogue between the provinces and the national government.

s6(a) He faces a Motion of No Confidence vote next

Monday but, s6(a)

**Hohenga - Action**

For information

**Pūrongo - Report**

Following the s6(a) phone call between Minister Mahuta and Foreign Minister **Jeremiah Manele** last night, Prime Minister **Manasseh Sogavare** announced that New Zealand will be joining Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Fiji to assist Solomon Islands. He has expressed his gratitude to New Zealand for "answering the call to get Solomon Islands back on its feet." s6(b)(i)

. We continue to engage closely with the National Disaster Management Office on other needs. The risk of a COVID-19 outbreak is front of mind for senior officials, and the Prime Minister devoted much of his address last night to emphasising that deployed personnel were fully vaccinated and would need to undergo a comprehensive testing regime. He condemned social media speculation yesterday about a possible positive case, explaining that while some initial tests had returned inconclusive results, follow-up tests had returned negative results. Honiara's vaccine rollout is on pause following the unrest, but plans are under way to recommence it.

*Calm at the surface,* s6(a)

2. Although there is relative calm in Honiara at present following the deployment of Australia, Papua New Guinea and – as of last night – Fijian security personnel, s6(a)

The Prime Minister has repeatedly dismissed calls for his resignation, saying the principles of democracy are "worth dying for" and s6(a)

Government issued a press release last night condemning the "unlawful

and heartless” rioters responsible for last week’s violence, and warning it is “aware of reports that the instigators are planning another evil plan to completely decimate the whole of Honiara city before implementing the next phase which they call the ‘third wave’ including the declaration of Malaita as an independent state.”

3. s6(a), s6(c)

s6(a)

4. s6(a), s6(c)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s9(2)(a), s6(c)

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

5. Malaitan Premier **Daniel Suidani** has criticised the deployment of foreign personnel s9(2)(g)(i) s9(2)(g)(i) as “keeping a corrupt Prime Minister in power” and spoken of his concern that Sogavare will be less likely to engage in dialogue as a result. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

The **Malaitan Provincial Government** issued a statement last night noting that the violence of last week is symptomatic of unaddressed constitutional and development issues, where unmet needs and desires – expressed through the 2000 Townsville Peace Agreement - have intensified as national institutions are prioritised and the “benefit of the state to the ordinary landowners and indigenous people has dwindled.” The statement also notes the corrupting influence of foreigners, particularly those in the natural resource area, and weakening of democracy. It calls for an urgent dialogue, requesting that the Pacific Islands Forum facilitate and mediate this dialogue under the auspices of the Biketawa Declaration.

s6(a)

6. s6(a)

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

*Motion of No Confidence*

8. Leader of the Opposition **Matthew Wale**'s Motion of No Confidence in the Prime Minister, lodged on Sunday, will be heard in parliament next week – most likely on Monday 6 December. This comes after –s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

9. s9(2)(g)(i)

10. s6(a)

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**Tākupu - Comment**

11. s6(a)

The government press statement last night presaging the likelihood of further violence contained a direct message to “peace loving and right minded Malaitans” to ask themselves “whether we are comfortable with the violent advocates to lead our people to an independent state.” s6(a)

s6(a)

12. s6(a)

With much water churning under the bridge, this remains a complex and dynamic environment and we will continue to monitor developments closely and report further in the coming days.  
MUTU - ENDS/

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Official Information Act

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**From:** HONIARA  
**Sent:** Sunday, 28 November 2021 7:11 pm  
**To:** PACMM; SEC  
**Cc:** s6(a) ; AUS; CEO; DCE; DS PDG; DS MLG;  
ISED; NAD; PACPF; PHM; PACREG; DS AAG; ...PACIFIC POSTS; FM.Defence (Seemail);  
FM.Police (Seemail); FM.DPMC s6(a) (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.Min  
Pacific Peoples; CMD; MEDIA; CON; ORD  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLAND: HONIARA UNREST: COUNTING THE TOLL  
**Attachments:** s6(a), s6(b)(i)

**Security Classification:**

RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

**Rāpopoto - Summary**

As the deployed Australian and Papua New Guinean personnel bed-in, a calm has descended on Honiara with a focus over the weekend on cleaning up the city and counting the cost of the violence and looting. s6(a)

s6(a)

**Hohenga - Action**

For information

**Pūrongo - Report**

*Calm descends* s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Following the arrival of deployed Australian and Papua New Guinean personnel in Honiara, a calm has descended across the city although tension remains. With 56 buildings razed and serious looting, Central Bank has indicated that the loss to the economy of the riots will be at least SBD227 million (NZD50 million), of which \$36 million would be lost in tobacco tax takings alone. Over 100 people have been arrested, and four MPs have resigned from the Government. A curfew has been imposed on Honiara and its maritime zone from 7pm to 5am until further notice.

2. There has been a focus this weekend on taking stock of the damage and commencing clean-up of those neighbours most affected by the violence. New Zealand company **Fletchers** was out yesterday using its heavy machinery to clear the Kukum Highway of burned out vehicles and debris and groups have been busy cleaning up Chinatown. The port is making moves to reopen to ensure that critical food and fuel supplies can be replenished from waiting cargo vessels. s6(a), s9(2)(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(a)

3. The presence of the additional personnel in Honiara – over 180 so far <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup> - has greatly bolstered the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF), <sup>s6(a)</sup> <sup>s6(a)</sup> <sup>s9(2)(g)(i), s6(b)(i)</sup>

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

4. <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

5. All personnel in Solomon Islands under this deployment are fully vaccinated, wearing PPE (masks)– as operational requirement permit - and there is a testing protocol for them in-country, however community fears are bubbling away over the possible COVID-19 risk that the deployed forces presents. Deployed personnel will be tested every 48 hours for 10 days (Australia) and 14 days (Papua New Guinea and Fiji) to ensure personnel remain COVID-19 free. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

*Understanding the motivations for violence*

6. While the city remains calm, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

<sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

<sup>s6(a)</sup>

7. s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(ii)

8. s6(a)

*Motion of No Confidence lodged; parliament to sit tomorrow*

9. Leader of the Opposition **Matthew Wale** has lodged a Motion of No Confidence with the Speaker of Parliament **Patterson Oti** which triggers a seven day process before the Motion can be heard on 6 December. In order to succeed, an absolute majority is required – meaning 25 MPs (as parliament is currently 49 MPs following the death last week of Environment Minister **Titus Fika**). When lodging the Motion, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

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

There is a suggestion that Prime Minister **Manasseh Sogavare** might look to pass a *sine die* resolution in Parliament tomorrow morning (ending the current sitting, with Parliament only returning next February) <sup>s6(a)</sup>

Should Parliament be livestreamed, as normal, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

10. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

**Tākupu - Comment**

11. s9(2)(g)(i)

. If a Motion of No Confidence is successful, it triggers a Prime Minister election, where in MPs are given a few weeks to identify and vote on their preferred leader. s6(a)

, where residents of Honiara are already facing food insecurity challenges and impacts on livelihoods as a result of the riots. s6(a)

We are in close contact with the National Disaster Management Office on immediate needs of Honiara residents, and will remain attentive to broader areas of assistance that we may be able to support through our existing development programme partnerships.

12. s6(a)

MUTU - ENDS/

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**From:** HONIARA  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 November 2021 7:17 pm  
**To:** PACMM; SEC  
**Cc:** s6(a) AUS; CEO; DCE; DS PDG; DS MLG; ISED;  
NAD; PACPF; PHM; PACREG; DS AAG; ...PACIFIC POSTS; FM.Defence (Seemail);  
FM.Police (Seemail); FM.DPMC s6(a) (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.Min  
Pacific Peoples; CMD; MEDIA; CON; ORD  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLANDS HONIARA UNREST: A CITY SMOULDERS  
**Security Classification:** RESTRICTED

[RESTRICTED]

### Rāpopoto - Summary

s6(a), s6(c) unrest  
s6(a), s6(c) continues in pockets across the city – including this afternoon,  
attacks on the Prime Minister’s residence and threats against the houses of MPs.

A deployment of Australian Federal Police and Defence Force personnel are now in-country and have commenced their operations, s6(a), s6(b)(i), s6(c)  
s6(a)

s6(a) At time of writing three Members of Parliament had  
announced their resignation from the Prime Minister’s coalition, s6(a)

### Hohenga - Action

For information

### Pūrongo - Report

#### *Burning and looting*

The outbreak of violence two days ago has continued today with looting and arson of major businesses in the Ranadi industrial area including the large tobacco factory, a bank, and hardware stores. s6(a)

s6(b)(i)

2. The violence yesterday raged s6(a)  
s6(b)(i), s6(a)

in Chinatown (which has received significant damage) and Ranadi's industrial zone. However, there are also elements of criminality, with much opportunistic looting of shops and hardware stores.

*Australian deployment beds-in; others on the way*

3. After receiving a request for assistance on Wednesday evening, the Australian system has worked extremely rapidly to respond, and the Australian Federal Police are now on the ground and supporting RSIPF s6(a), s6(b)(i), s6(c)

The presence of the AFP has greatly bolstered the RSIPF and has come as a relief to many residents of the city, although we have seen some social media concern about the risk that the deployed personnel from Australia and Papua New Guinea bring COVID-19 into Solomon Islands.

4. s6(a)  
s6(a), s6(b)(i), s6(c)  
s6(a)

*Prime Minister remains unmoved*

5. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i) In a statement last night he that he would not resign, as that would send the wrong message to the rioters about democracy: "if I am removed as Prime Minister, it will be on the floor of Parliament." He said that the rioters were being misled by "certain politicians and individuals to further their own selfish and narrow interests."  
s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

6. s6(a)

Chinese establishments were the original target of the violence in Honiara, before looting broadened out to other businesses. s6(a)  
s6(a) s6(d), s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(g)(ii)

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

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

8. Both Opposition Leader **Matthew Wale** and Premier of Malaita **Daniel Suidani** have made public appeals for the Prime Minister to resign. The latter said that the issue in Honiara is one for national MPs to resolve, noting in the media that multiple MPs had contacted him to intervene. "The situation faced now has risen from the Prime Minister and Cabinet's continued tactics of evading people's demands, which had turned into frustration," Suidani said. s6(a)

s6(a)

9. Since the Prime Minister's public statement, three MPs have confirmed their resignation from the Prime Ministers coalition. s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(a)

#### **Tākupu - Comment**

s6(a)

s6(a)

MUTU - ENDS/

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Official Information Act

The following five pages are withheld in full under s 6(a) and s 6(b)(i)

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**From:** HONIARA  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 November 2021 6:02 pm  
**To:** PACMM; SEC  
**Cc:** AUS; CEO; DCE; DS PDG; DS MLG; ISED; NAD; PACPF; PHM; PACREG; DS AAG;  
...PACIFIC POSTS; FM.Defence (Seemail); FM.Police (Seemail); FM.DPMC <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
(Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.Min Pacific Peoples; CMD; MEDIA; CON; ORD  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLANDS: HONIARA PROTESTS

**Security Classification:**

RESTRICTED

Contents of message below identical to Formal  
Message in pages below; resent at later time.

Released under the  
Official Information Act

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Official Information Act

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**From:** PACMM  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 December 2021 8:55 pm  
**To:** HONIARA; ...PACIFIC POSTS  
**Cc:** ...ALL POSTS; ...POLICY DIVISIONS; s6(a)  
s6(a) AUS; CEO; DCE; DS PDG; DS MLG;  
ISED; NAD; PACPF; PHM; PACREG; DS AAG; FM.Defence (Seemail); FM.Police  
(Seemail); FM.DPMC s6(a) (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.Min Pacific  
Peoples; CMD; MEDIA; CON; ORD; SEC; s6(a) (Seemail); FM.P/S Defence  
(Seemail); FM.P/S Police (Seemail); LGL  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: NEW ZEALAND DEPLOYMENT TO SOLOMON ISLANDS  
**Attachments:** Media lines - Solomon Islands unrest.docx

**Security Classification:**

RESTRICTED

**Rāpopoto – Summary**

Ministers with Powers to Act this evening approved a joint deployment of New Zealand Defence Force and New Zealand Police personnel to Solomon Islands to assist in restoring peace and stability in Honiara. Personnel will be deployed for up to 30 days, and will join the Australian-led force that has arrived in Honiara over the last week to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF). While the security situation in Honiara has remained calm since the arrival of the Australian contingent, s6(a)  
s6(a)

**Hohenga – Action**

HON – to issue TPNs to enable deployments (already under action - see para 6 – thanks).

Ministers' media release is linked at para 7. Grateful Pacific Posts share with hosts (SVA, for the Pacific islands Forum Secretariat also). Other Posts should feel free to share as they judge appropriate. The attached media lines may be useful in addressing for enquiries from hosts/colleagues (please refer any media requests to the Media team).

NYK see para 9.

**Pūrongo – Report**

Recent unrest in Honiara, Solomon Islands, has caused significant damage, and poses s6(a) risks to the ongoing security and development of the country (formal messages from HON refer; thanks also CBA's reporting). In response, personnel from the Australian, Papua New Guinean, and Fijian defence and police forces are currently deployed in Honiara to support the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

2 Aotearoa New Zealand received a request for support from Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare on 30 November 2021. s6(b)(i)

3 This evening 1 December, Ministers with Power to Act (Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Police, and Minister of Defence) authorised a New Zealand deployment for up to 30 days. It will aim to assist in stabilising the situation and rebuilding community trust, which will assist businesses and communities to begin the process of rebuilding from the unrest. This deployment

will complement New Zealand Aid Programme activities, including ongoing support to the RSIPF, and humanitarian assistance as needed.

4 The New Zealand deployment will include both New Zealand Police and New Zealand Defence Force personnel:

- The NZDF deployment will include a national command element of up to 20 personnel, which will provide interagency and multinational coordination at the local level, communications and logistics support, and command over deployed NZDF elements. If needed, a platoon group of up to 40 personnel can assist the RSIPF and partner nations to maintain stability, community engagement, and to provide public reassurance. The NZDF is liaising with agencies and the Australian Defence Force to confirm the composition of this group.
- s6(a)

s6(a)

5 The initial deployment will leave tomorrow, 2 December, with further deployments in coming days. It will fit in under the command structure of the Australian deployment in Honiara. The Local Coordinating Authority will be the Australian senior national officer, who reports to the Commissioner RSIPF. There will be close coordination with RSIPF, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Defence Force, and other partner agencies.

6 s6(b)(i)

This requires exchange of a series of TPNs; we thank Honiara for their ongoing efforts in this regard (separate messages, not to all, refer).

7 Ministers' press release is [here](#) and reactive media lines are attached. Grateful Pacific Posts share with hosts (SVA, for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat also). Other Posts should feel free to share the release with contacts should they judge it useful. s6(a)

8 s6(b)(i)

9 Thanks NYK for your formal message of 1 December: we will reflect on the ideas it contained and follow up in slower time.

**Mutu – Ends**

*If asked:*

- **How many are deploying and when:** NZDF will deploy an advance party who will work with partners in Honiara. They will deploy on a Royal New Zealand Air Force C-130 Hercules, with two vehicles on board, departing tomorrow (Thursday). A second group of about 50 personnel including soldiers and New Zealand Police, will follow at the weekend on a subsequent military flight.
- **How long is the deployment for:** The deployment is expected to be for a period of up to 30 days.
- **How many New Zealanders are in Honiara:** There are 44 New Zealanders registered on SafeTravel, all believed to be in Honiara.
- s9(2)(g)(i)

- **When will New Zealand personnel be deployed:** New Zealand is working through the details of the response but expects to deploy this week.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Released under the  
Official Information Act

Formal message below withheld in full under s 6(a) and 6(b)(i)

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

Released under the  
Official Information Act

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

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**From:** PACMM  
**Sent:** Thursday, 25 November 2021 5:24 pm  
**To:** HONIARA; PACMM; SEC  
**Cc:** AUS; CEO; DCE; DS PDG; DS MLG; ISED; NAD; PACPF; PHM; PACREG; DS AAG; ...PACIFIC POSTS; FM.Defence (Seemail); FM.Police (Seemail); FM.DPMC <sup>s6(a)</sup> (Seemail); FM.P/S MFA (Seemail); FM.Min Pacific Peoples; CMD; MEDIA; CON; ORD; CANBERRA; WASHINGTON; OTTAWA; LONDON; AMER; EUR  
**Subject:** RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLANDS: HONIARA PROTESTS

**Security Classification:**  
RESTRICTED

### **Sending on behalf of HONIARA**

#### **Rāpopoto - Summary**

- Unrest has continued in Honiara today 25 November and may be intensifying. The situation remains highly dynamic <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>
- The Solomon Islands Government has imposed a curfew through until 7am on Friday 26 November, although this appears to be of limited deterrence to those engaged in unrest. The curfew is posing food security challenges on families who lack sufficient means to maintain additional supplies. The High Commission is closed and <sup>s9(2)(a), s9(2)(c)</sup>
- We will continue to monitor the situation and provide regular security updates.

#### **Hohenga - Action**

For information.

#### **Pūrongo - Report**

HON's formal message of 24 November refers.

##### *Situation*

Pockets of unrest erupted midday on Wednesday 24 November in a number of sites around Honiara City centre (Sitrep 24 Nov, 20.00, refers). Overnight, the unrest continued to move into eastern Honiara with several businesses around Chinatown and Henderson attacked and looted, other buildings torched, and a police station and high school set ablaze. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

s6(a) There were ongoing reports of small explosions/shots during the night audible from Panatina and Henderson (eastern Honiara) but at this stage there is no evidence of the use of weapons beyond the deployment of teargas and rubber bullets by the Police Response Team (PRT).

2. The situation remains highly dynamic with scope to change rapidly s6(a) The atmosphere today is starkly different to that of yesterday. s6(a) s6(a) . Kukum police station has been lost, the Naha station came under threat s6(a) and it looks as if Henderson station is at risk. s6(b)(i) , s6(a), s6(b)(i)

More Chinese buildings have been looted and set alight along the Kukum highway and in Chinatown. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

3. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

We have confirmed with the CEO of the Port that all port facilities are closed, including the domestic ferry terminal, and fuel stocks are being protected.

4. To date there are no confirmed reports of deaths or serious injuries. Parts of the city are now experiencing power outages and mobile internet is extremely slow/patchy. Water supply outages have been experienced in some locations.

5. A group claiming to represent 'Honiara Based Malaitans' has issued a statement calling for the Prime Minister to step down and has outlined a list of grievances. Leader of the Opposition Matthew Wale has also requested the Prime Minister resign, citing his cultural insensitivity against Malaitans. Additionally, Malaitan Premier Suidani has urged the Prime Minister to come to the table to negotiate.

6. It has been confirmed that tomorrow's weekly Solomon Airlines flight to Brisbane – the sole passenger service currently operating out of Honiara - has been cancelled. We envisage that this will create requests for consular assistance both in Honiara and Wellington.

*Solomon Islands Government (SIG) Response*

7. RSIPF has maintained an active and visible presence across Honiara, s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Police have deployed rubber bullets and teargas to break up crowds but to our knowledge there have been limited violent interactions between police and crowds. s6(a)

8. SIG imposed a curfew (effectively a lockdown) from 19:00 on Wednesday 24 November to 07:00 on Friday 26 November. This curfew was enacted under the powers of the pre-existing COVID-19 State of Public Emergency. s6(a)

We understand that RSIPF is working to assist with the establishment of small food stores to alleviate shortages.

9. The Prime Minister addressed the public in a short televised statement last night. He lamented the sad events saying he had thought 'we had gone past our darkest days but this is a painful reminder that we have a long way to go.' He noted the Government remained strong and investigative officers

were tracking down those responsible. 'They will face the full force of our justice system.' No further statements have been released yet today.

10. At midday on Wednesday 24 November, <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

We are seeking an exemption to enable our diplomatic officers to travel to the High Commission for official duties.

s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

*New Zealand Response*

13. New Zealand's priority at this time is ensuring the safety of our staff and our consular responsibilities. There is no indication of targeting of New Zealanders. However, there is the risk of New Zealanders getting caught up in the unrest.

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

15. At this time, all seconded staff, dependants and NZ High Commission employees are safely accounted for and our Post security measures have been activated. We are in touch with <sup>s9(2)(a), s9(2)(c)</sup> and checking in with them regularly. NZ Inc colleagues and contractors are also accounted for. Two consular enquiries have been received but we have no active consular cases.

16. On Thursday 25 November, the New Zealand High Commission is closed to public. This is in line with the requirements of the SIG curfew.

17. Safe Travel updates and public Facebook messaging have alerted New Zealanders to the requirements of the curfew, and advised people to adhere to the advice of local authorities.

s6(b)(i)

ENDS

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**From:** HONIARA <HON@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 November 2021 6:14 pm  
**To:** HONIARA <HON@mfat.govt.nz>; PACMM <PACMM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEC <DM-SEC@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; PACPF <PACPF@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; ...PACIFIC POSTS <PACIFICPOSTS@mfat.net.nz>; FM.Defence (Seemail) <sup>s6(a)</sup> FM.Police (Seemail) <Registry.NIC@police.govt.nz>; FM.DPMC <sup>s6(a)</sup> (Seemail) <sup>s6(a)</sup> FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.Min Pacific Peoples <sup>s6(a)</sup> ; CMD <DM-CMD@mfat.govt.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; CON <DM-CONS@mfat.govt.nz>; ORD <DM-ORD@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLANDS: HONIARA PROTESTS

[RESTRICTED]

Attachment withheld in full under s 6(a)

Now with attachment

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**From:** HONIARA <HON@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 November 2021 4:02 PM  
**To:** PACMM <PACMM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEC <DM-SEC@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; PACPF <PACPF@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; ...PACIFIC POSTS <PACIFICPOSTS@mfat.net.nz>; FM.Defence (Seemail) <sup>s6(a)</sup> FM.Police (Seemail) <Registry.NIC@police.govt.nz>; FM.DPMC <sup>s6(a)</sup> (Seemail) <sup>s6(a)</sup> ; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.Min Pacific Peoples <sup>s6(a)</sup> ; CMD <DM-CMD@mfat.govt.nz>; MEDIA <media@mfat.govt.nz>; CON <DM-CONS@mfat.govt.nz>; ORD <DM-ORD@mfat.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FORMAL MESSAGE: SOLOMON ISLANDS: HONIARA PROTESTS

[RESTRICTED]

### Rāpopoto - Summary

Crowds of anti-Government protestors have today breached the grounds of Parliament, burning down a grass hut adjacent to the main building. Buildings in Chinatown are being attacked and the police station in Kukum set alight. Police are responding with riot teams and tear gas and have established some check-points throughout the city. Many schools and businesses have closed down, and police have instructed people to stay out of the city for now. We are not aware of any reports of deaths or serious injury. With the situation remaining dynamic, we report on the latest developments.

Our High Commission remains open, but we have cancelled all external meetings and secured the compound. All our staff are accounted for: <sup>s9(2)(c)</sup>

but have sent out Safetravel messaging advising people to stay out of the city and follow guidance of local authorities.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide regular security updates.

## Hohenga - Action

For information

## Pūrongo - Report

Anti-Government protests today in Honiara have targeted the Prime Minister **Manasseh Sogavare** and his government, s6(a)

As Parliament assembled today to once more extend the State of Public Emergency, crowds gathered at the bottom of the hill upon which Parliament sits, and eventually burst through the fence in an attempt to storm the facility. Riot police and Police Response Teams are working to disperse the protestors who are now scattered through the city, with large groups in Chinatown and in the city centre. We have seen footage of Chinese shops being targeted by the crowd. s6(a)  
s6(a)

2. s6(a)

We are aware now of looting and possible arson in Chinatown, but the Chinese Embassy (sited close to us) remains unaffected for now. There are also reports of the Kukum police station being set alight.

3. s9(2)(c)

Post has confirmed the safety of other NZ Inc and MFAT contractors. Safe travel has been updated to reflect the increased threat. We will continue to assess and update our security settings, s6(a), s6(b)(i)

4. Rumours of the protests had been swirling for some time, but until the protestors started throwing rocks at police around midday, s6(a), s6(b)(i)  
s6(b)(i)

5. s9(2)(g)(i) , the Government released a s9(2)(g)(i) press release last night from Malaitan members of government calling on the protest leaders and the Premier to "refrain from inciting Malaitans to engage in unlawful activities." The press release appealed to the moral obligations of the Premier of Malaita to recall Malaitan people from carrying out violence. "For you will not be remembered in history as honourable leaders of men but instigators of strife, violence, anarchy. If you have issues with the Government, the democratic way to resolve this is on the floor of Parliament

and not on the streets of Honiara. Our people do not deserve another civil unrest.” s6(a)  
s6(a)

6. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

**Tākupu - Comment**

7. s6(a)

8. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and report further over the coming day.

MUTU - ENDS/

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Official Information Act