

6.4 Coalition Agreement Between the New Zealand National Party and the Right-of-Centre Party (8 September 1994)

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL PARTY

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7 September 1994

Mr Ross Meurant MP
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Ross

I am recording with this letter, as Leader of the National Party, the arrangements that will apply between yourself and the National Party, following an announcement by you that you will leave National to form your own Parliamentary Party.

1. From the announcement you will cease to be a member of the National Party Caucus.
2. Notwithstanding this cessation you will be invited to participate in general Caucus and Caucus Committee proceedings dealing with business relevant to your duties.
3. You will continue as Parliamentary Under Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Forestry in the same office and with the same office support as at present, and with the same seating in the House subject to the following conditions:
 - i. you will support and vote with the National Party in Government on any issue of confidence and as a general rule, on all other issues. If exceptional circumstances emerge where you wish to withdraw your vote (excluding the issue of confidence when you will on all occasions support the Government), you will advise the Government Whips at least seven (7) days in advance of any such vote in either the House or a Select Committee so that an arrangement satisfactory to both parties can be negotiated;
 - ii. you agree not to publicly criticise the National Party or Government, or any of its members generally avoid conflict with the Government and assist in promoting public confidence in the arrangement. This particular agreement is not intended to restrict you commenting on genuinely held views on particular issues and in relation to matters involving your Constituents;
 - iii. you will work closely with the Government Whips on matters of voting, speaking rights and leave. The Whips are to take all reasonable steps to be fair with speaking opportunities and leave, commensurate with your Executive and Parliamentary duties; regular meetings will be held with the Government Whips or, if appropriate, myself to confer on the working of these arrangements and to conscientiously deal in private with any differences or difficulties arising;
 - iv. you will continue your present membership of Select Committees as a Government member[.]

It is acknowledged that these arrangements shall apply until anytime that you commit yourself to contest any constituency seat against a National Party member. At that time, should it arise, we will review the arrangements with a view to securing such working accommodation as is then realistic for your continuing support for the Government in Parliament.

Please signify your agreement with these terms by signing the duplicate of this letter and returning it to me.

Yours sincerely

[signed by Prime Minister Jim Bolger]

Rt Hon J B Bolger

Leader
New Zealand National Party

I agree that the foregoing terms correctly set out the arrangements

Signed:

Date:

[signed by Ross Meurant, 8 September 1994] [witnessed]