



Headquarters
New Zealand Defence Force
Defence House
Private Bag 39997
Wellington Mail Centre
Lower Hutt 5045
New Zealand

OIA-2026-5871

30th July 2026

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 11 July 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), historical documents related to Operation Kupe.

- *I would like to be supplied with all ; Messages in discussion/Reports/Other associated Documents/Summaries based reports/NZDF related Parliamentary White Papers AND Operations Orders (Op-Rds) in reference to, or, related to, 'Operation Kupe' - The withdrawal of New Zealand's Forces in South East Asia, Singapore.*
- *The specific time period of most interest is the periods January 1974 when 'Operation Kupe' was first identified for action - until December 1986 when it was formally announced by the then Labour Government under David LANGE.*

There are more than twenty boxes containing hardcopy files associated with Operation Kupe and withdrawals from Southeast Asia. There is no contents list available to facilitate the ready retrieval of relevant files, instead a manual review of all documents would be required in order to identify those that are relevant for declassification. There are currently no resources available to undertake this additional work, and making staff/personnel available would impair the efficient administration of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). This is in accordance with section 16(2)(a) of the OIA.

However, the following files related to Operation Kupe were transferred to Archives New Zealand. The following table provides the file reference number for recall and the title. You may wish to contact Archives New Zealand to arrange access to these files.

File	Title
7605/3	Works And Real Estate - Accommodation - Planning - Project Kupe
7605/3	Works And Real Estate - Accommodation - Planning - Project Kupe
26/7/24	New Zealand Government - Commonwealth Defence - Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom - British Withdrawal Far East
7605/9	Works and Real Estate - Accommodation Planning (Includes Consultancy Services) - Operation Kupe
7605/9	Works and Real Estate - Accommodation Planning (Includes Consultancy Services) - Operation Kupe

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

GA Motley

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF