

Minister of Finance
Mr. Bill English
The Treasury
P.O. Box 3724
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

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Dear colleague, Mr. English,

I would like to forward my deepest sympathy to you and the brave nation of New Zealand on account of the tragic earthquakes in Christchurch and the great loss of human lives.

In spite of the long distance between our two countries, we have compassion for you at such moments; our two countries are both islands that often need to deal with catastrophes imposed by mother nature.

Personally I have strong feelings towards New Zealand.

In my younger days, in the year of 1974 – 1975, I stayed in Pikiri North Island as an exchange student, and since then, I have visited the country twice. Due to my relationship with the country and the nation, I know that New Zealanders are hard working, realistic and supportive people who stand united at difficult times.

Again, please accept my deepest sympathy and I wish you all the best.

Steingrímur J. Sigfússon
Minister of Finance and deputy Prime Minister

