

is actually coming for a visit to Washington later this week. I think she will be here on Friday at the White House in meetings, and wouldn't it be great if we were to confirm this qualified Ambassador to represent our interests in Germany and to begin the process of improving our relationship with Germany and deepening that relationship.

I hope we have the opportunity to have this vote in the next couple of days, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a look at Ric Grenell's background. I don't think you will find one of the Ambassadors who is a noncareer Foreign Service person to be a better person on some of these tough foreign policy issues, and I think he will do an excellent job for us in Germany.

NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. President, the second nominee I would like to talk about briefly is one who has also faced some opposition from the other side of the aisle, to the point that he was reported out of committee last night on a pure party-line vote—an 11-to-10 vote. I wish that weren't the case. I want to thank Senator COONS for actually voting "present" so that Senator ISAKSON's vote could count.

I think Mike Pompeo, who is the current Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, is extremely well qualified.

When you look at what has happened historically with regard to the job of Secretary of State, this body has been able to support people who they may not agree with on every policy issue or may not agree with the President who appointed that person, but they realize that a President should be able to have his or her own person—particularly in that job—be the Secretary of State, be the diplomat to the United States around the world. As a result, with regard to Senator Kerry, who was a colleague of ours here, when he was up for his confirmation vote, the vote was 94 Senators out of 100 supporting him. With regard to Secretary Clinton, when she was nominated, she was confirmed by a vote of 94 Senators—94 out of 100 voted for her. That has been more or less typical. Colin Powell actually was confirmed by a unanimous vote of this body after he became the nominee for Secretary of State. Condoleezza Rice got an overwhelming majority; I think it was in the mideighties.

I would hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle would look at Mr. Pompeo's background and his qualifications. I don't think they can dispute the fact that he is qualified for this job.

This is a man who has been successful in everything he has done. From humble beginnings, he went to West Point. He graduated at the top of his class. Then, as an Army officer, he was in Germany before the wall came down. He was an officer in Germany patrolling the Iron Curtain. He then went to law school after having served in the military. He went to Harvard Law

School and ended up being an editor of the Harvard Law Review and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School. That is pretty impressive. It is hard to do.

He then went into business. He was successful there, including businesses that had to do with national security issues.

He then ran for the House of Representatives and was elected. He was on the Intelligence Committee in the House, and so he has the ability to get well-versed on a lot of the classified information needed to be able to understand the danger and volatility we face in this world today. He is well-regarded in the House on both sides of the aisle.

He was then nominated by the President to serve as CIA Director. By the way, he was confirmed by this same body as CIA Director by a vote of 66 Senators, so it was a nice bipartisan majority. I hope that happens again.

Again, I think it is very important that we get a Secretary of State in place at this critical time but also that we get one in place who is shown to have some of the momentum, trust, and confidence of this body. Certainly the President has a lot of confidence in him, or he wouldn't have nominated him for this additional responsibility.

As CIA Director, he has become well-versed on all the issues. One issue I will mention that you have heard about recently is that he recently went on a secret mission to meet with the dictator of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, and he did that at the behest of the President to help prepare for a successful meeting between the President and the North Koreans. We all hope that meeting is indeed constructive and ends up making progress on the denuclearization—which all of us hope for—of the Korean Peninsula. You need somebody like Mike Pompeo there to help direct that. So I think it is the right time for him to move forward on a number of issues, and that certainly is one.

Another issue I will say I am very interested in working with him on is what is happening in Eastern Europe and Central Europe—the destabilizing effect that Russia is having with regard to what is called the hybrid war—in other words, disinformation and propaganda—and also the military part of this, which is happening on the eastern border of Ukraine.

Russia, as you recall, took Crimea away from Ukraine. In my discussions with Mike Pompeo, he understands that issue and he gets that issue. He has supported providing weapons to Ukrainians so they can defend themselves, lethal but defensive weapons. That was a big change from the last administration and, frankly, from the first year of this administration. It happened recently. Those materials are now being delivered, and the Ukrainians—having been there over the Easter break—are feeling a renewed sense of support from their Western allies, particularly from the United

States. I think Mike Pompeo is the right guy to be there with regard to that issue also.

I have taken the leadership role on this issue of pushing back against the disinformation, including the meddling in our own election here, which I believe happened and I believe will happen again unless we are smarter about pushing back. That is why I have joined with my colleagues—Senator MURPHY on the other side of the aisle and others—to promote this idea of a center at the State Department that coordinates all the U.S. Government efforts here, which are needed, and particularly focuses on the online effort and the need for us to be more aggressive and robust in our response. It is called the Global Engagement Center. Again, I have had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Pompeo privately but also in public testimony about this issue, and he has expressed his strong support for that Global Engagement Center and for having a more effective and robust response.

I think Mike Pompeo is the right person at the right time. I think he is qualified for this job as well as anyone out there I can imagine. Again, in talking to my colleagues, some of them have said that they disagree with President Trump's positions and that is why they are opposing Mr. Pompeo. Their favorite person—who would probably be in the other party and have different views—is not going to be nominated by President Trump. President Trump is going to nominate somebody who supports him on most of his basic approach to foreign policy and someone he trusts. That is just how it works.

Again, when we supported John Kerry with 94 votes in the Senate—I think it was 94, 95, or something like that—it is not that we agreed with all the policies from President Obama; it is that we believed President Obama should have the right to have a Secretary of State who he thought was going to best represent him, and we thought that Senator Kerry was qualified. I think the same was true with regard to Hillary Clinton, who got 94 votes. The same was true with Condoleezza Rice. The same was true with GEN Colin Powell. And the same should be true here because certainly Mike Pompeo is extremely well qualified.

The other thing I have heard from my colleagues—and I have talked to a number of them on the committee and off the committee about seeing if they could possibly join us in supporting Mr. Pompeo so he can have a little more of a bipartisan momentum here as he goes into this job—the other thing I have heard is that they are concerned, given his background in the military and given some of the things he said as a Member of Congress, that maybe he will focus more on military power rather than soft power—in other words, less on diplomacy and more on kinetic or military activity.

I don't think that is consistent with anything I have heard from him either

in our private meetings or in his public testimony where he addressed this issue head-on. He said that as a former Army officer and someone who went to West Point and graduated at the top of his class—did I say that earlier? Anyway, he went to West Point, and he is someone who actually believes very strongly in soft power and believes that military actions ought to be the last resort, not the first resort. I think that is true with almost anybody who has been in the military—certainly people who have been in combat. I made the comparison to what Colin Powell said when he was nominated, which was very similar to that. What General Mattis says today is very similar to that.

I believe Mike Pompeo has the opportunity not only to help with regard to these crisis issues we are facing around the world—North Korea, Syria, what is happening in Iran, what is happening in Ukraine—I think he is someone who has the ability to improve the morale at the State Department at a critical time. In fact, I am convinced of it. Having talked to some people at the State Department—as you know, many of the career civil service people have been feeling as though they weren't being consulted. Mike Pompeo is a listener, and he has talked about what he did at the CIA. He talked about the fact that God gave us only one mouth but two ears. In other words, we are supposed to be listening and taking in the input and then helping to lead as a servant leader listening to people. I think that is the kind of leader Mike Pompeo is.

My hope is that he will be confirmed and that he will earn the trust some of us have shown in him by doing exactly that at the State Department—getting the diplomats in the State Department engaged and empowered, making sure that we are taking every step possible with regard to diplomacy before turning to military action anywhere in the world, and working with our military and with the White House and with the Congress to have a U.S. foreign policy that is effective in keeping the peace.

Yes, we need a strong military because by having a strong military, by having a strong defense, we maximize the chance for peace, but we also have to have a strong diplomacy arm that is out there ensuring that we take every measure we possibly can to use soft diplomacy. I think diplomacy is something that Mike Pompeo has shown that he is committed to.

So my hope is that we will have positive votes on Rick Grenell as Ambassador to Germany and Mike Pompeo later this week, that we can have bipartisan support for these two, and that they, in turn, will earn the trust this body has shown in them.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 18-14, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$110 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER,
(For Charles W. Hooper, Lieutenant
General, USA Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18-14

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Government of the Netherlands.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.5 million.
Other \$109.5 million.

Total \$110.0 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy defense articles and services in support of continuation of a Continental United States (CONUS) based Royal Netherlands Air Force F-16 Formal Training Unit.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to twenty-seven (27) GBU-12 Inert Paveway IIs.

Non-MDE: Also included are PGU-27 Inert training rounds, Impulse Cartridges, MJU-7/B Flares, RR-188 Chaff, BDU-33/B and BDU-50/B training munitions, fuel and air refueling support, airlift services, base operating support, facilities, publications and technical documentation, pilot training, personnel training and training equipment, weapon system and software support, U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NE-D-NZW).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NE-D-NXZ-\$149.3 million; 19 Sep 13.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc.; Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 24, 2018.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Netherlands—F-16 Formal Training Unit at Tucson Air National Guard Base (ANGB), Arizona

The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy defense articles and services in support of continuation of a Continental United States (CONUS) based Royal Netherlands Air Force F-16 Formal Training Unit, to include up to twenty-seven (27) GBU-12 Inert Paveway IIs. Also included are PGU-27 Inert training rounds, Impulse Cartridges, MJU-7/B Flares, RR-188 Chaff, BDU-33/B and BDU-50/B training munitions, fuel and air refueling support, airlift services, base operating support, facilities, publications and technical documentation, pilot training, personnel training and training equipment, weapon system and software support, U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated program value is \$110 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

This potential sale will continue to improve the Royal Netherlands Air Force's (RNLAf) ability to develop mission-ready and experienced pilots to support its F-16 aircraft inventory. The well-established pilot proficiency training program at Tucson Air National Guard Base will train pilots in F-16 operations, tactics, techniques, and procedures. This training will enhance the RNLAf's ability to continue contributions to Overseas Contingency Operations and to NATO air policing operations, as well as, to possible future coalitions operations. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing this training.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There is no prime contractor involved in this proposed sale. The Tucson Air National Guard will provide instruction, flight operations, and maintenance support and facilities with defense articles anticipated to come from U.S. stocks, as needed. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.