

for the cloture motions filed today, May 4, be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN494 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (133) beginning Kara Miriam Abramson, and ending Faris Y. Asad, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 30, 2023.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 74 and Calendar No. 153; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Damien M. Diggs, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of four years and Amanda K. Brailsford, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in 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.

CONFIRMATION OF WESLEY L. HSU

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate confirmed Judge Wes-

ley Hsu to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Born in St. Louis, MO, Judge Hsu received both his bachelor's degree and J.D. from Yale University.

Judge Hsu began his career in private practice as an associate and contract attorney at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, where he worked on a range of intellectual property matters.

After working in private practice, he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the same district to which he is now nominated. In this role, he gained significant litigation experience in both criminal and civil proceedings.

During his time at the Department of Justice, Judge Hsu successfully prosecuted a defendant who trafficked computer networking equipment, which the Department named as one of its most significant intellectual property operations to date.

In 2017, Judge Hsu was appointed as a Superior Court Judge for the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Since his appointment, he has presided over more than 200 criminal and civil cases that have gone to verdict or judgment.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Hsu unanimously "well qualified," and he has the strong support of Senators Feinstein and Padilla.

Judge Hsu's deep ties to the California legal community, combined with his significant courtroom experience, will make him an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

I thank my colleagues for confirming his nomination.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. 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,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
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. 23-28, concerning the Navy's proposed Let-

ter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Latvia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$110 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER

(For James A. Hirsch, Director).

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-28

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: Government of Latvia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$110 million.

Total \$110 million.

Funding Source: National Funds and Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-MDE: Included is a Naval Strike Missile Coastal Defense System (NSM CDS), including tactical, telemetered, and training missiles; containers; mobile operational platforms; integration equipment; ordnance handling equipment (OHE); training equipment and aids; technical publications and data; training; spares; U.S. Government and contractor technical and product support or assistance; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (LG-P-SAB).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(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: May 2, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Latvia—Naval Strike Missile Coastal Defense System

The Government of Latvia has requested to buy a Naval Strike Missile Coastal Defense System (NSM CDS), including tactical, telemetered, and training missiles; containers; mobile operational platforms; integration equipment; ordnance handling equipment (OHE); training equipment and aids; technical publications and data; training; spares; U.S. Government and contractor technical and product support or assistance; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$110 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve Latvia's capability to meet current and future threats in the Baltic Sea maritime domain. Latvia's increased coastal defense capability and interoperability with U.S. and NATO armed forces will contribute to both U.S. and Latvian defense and security objectives in the Baltics. Latvia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor is to be determined. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Latvia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

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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,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-0D. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 17-35 of July 10, 2017.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-0D

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Romania.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 17-35; Date: July 10, 2017; Military Department: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On July 10, 2017, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 17-35 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of seven (7) Patriot Configuration-3+ Modernized Fire Units consisting of: seven (7) AN/MPQ-65 radar sets, seven (7) AN/MSQ-132 engagement control stations, thirteen (13) antenna mast groups, twenty-eight (28) M903 launching stations, fifty-six (56) Patriot MIM-104E Guidance Enhanced Missile-TBM (GEM-T) missiles, one hundred and sixty-eight (168) Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) Missile Segment Enhancement (MSE) missiles, and seven (7) Electrical Power Plants (EPP) III. Also included with this request was communications equipment, tools and test equipment; support equipment; prime movers; generators; publications and technical docu-

mentation; training equipment; spare and repair parts; personnel training; Technical Assistance Field Team (TAFT), USG and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services; Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO); field office support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$3.9 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$1.3 billion of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: forty (40) Patriot Advanced Capability-2 (PAC-2) Anti-Tactical Missiles (ATM), MIM-104C. The estimated total value of these additional items is \$200 million. The total estimated MDE value will increase by \$200 million, resulting in a new MDE total of \$1.5 billion. The total estimated case value will increase to \$4.1 billion.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve Romania's capacity to counter threats posed by potential attacks. This will contribute to the Romanian Armed Forces' effort to update its capabilities and enhance interoperability with the United States and other allies.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 2, 2023.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING STEW LEONARD, SR.

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Stew Leonard, Sr., a visionary entrepreneur and Connecticut icon, who passed away on April 26, 2023, at the age of 93. He will be remembered for creating Stew Leonard's, a beloved chain of grocery stores.

A lifelong Connecticut resident, Stew graduated from Norwalk High School and the University of Connecticut's School of Agriculture and went on to work for his family's dairy business. At the time, the family farm—Clover Farms Dairy in Norwalk, CT—was known for its state-of-the-art operation with a pasteurizing and bottling plant and delivery trucks outfitted with plastic cows that “mooed” for the neighborhood children.

By the late 1960s, Stew had the insight to recognize that the milk delivery business was waning. When a new highway was being built with Clover Farms Dairy in its path, Stew made the bold decision to transform the family business. He decided to build a dairy store, with a farmer's market atmosphere and opportunities for children to watch milk being bottled while their parents shopped.

In December 1969, Stew opened a 17,000-square-foot store, carrying only eight items. Through his ingenuity, in-

ventiveness, and determination, Stew Leonard's grew from its humble beginnings into a lasting, beloved Connecticut institution. The flagship store in Norwalk, CT, was named the World's Largest Dairy Store, according to Ripley's Believe It or Not, and also earned a Guinness World Record for having the highest sales per square foot of selling space. Now a chain of seven stores across three States, Stew Leonard's has retained its family-friendly atmosphere, focus on freshness and quality, and reputation for superior customer service.

Ultimately, Stew Leonard's is a family business, run today by Stew's son Stew Leonard, Jr., with support from his siblings and five of Stew's grandchildren. Collectively, the Leonard family maintains Stew's commitment to excellence and service, gaining generations of loyal customers and friends.

The company has a long track record of charitable endeavors, from hosting community food and clothing drives, to Stew's “Wishing Wells.” Placed at the entrance to every store, the wells collect change that is donated to a local charity at the end of every month, matched by a donation from the store. For more than 50 years, Stew Leonard's stores have become deeply engaged in their communities, a testament to Stew's generous spirit.

I was privileged to know the Leonard family and to attend many events with them over the years. I have also been a long-time customer, enjoying visits to the Norwalk store with my four children decades ago when they would marvel at the mooing cow and other attractions. Stew's entrepreneurial spirit, work ethic, and dedication to the people of Connecticut were inspiring, and he will be deeply missed. My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to Stew's family during this difficult time, particularly to his wife Marianne, his four children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Stew Leonard's life and legacy, both large and lasting.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted: