

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.

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)(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. HURSH,
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 "moode" 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:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 206. A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry (Rept. No. 118-16).

S. 670. A bill to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program (Rept. No. 118-17).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 709. A bill to improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-18).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Con. Res. 7. A concurrent resolution condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 23. A resolution demanding that the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China immediately release Mark Swidan.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 99. A resolution supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 106. A resolution condemning Beijing's destruction of Hong Kong's democracy and rule of law.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 115. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month" and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 396. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities.

S. 682. A bill to provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes.

S. 797. A bill to establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

S. 841. A bill to authorize the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative, to enhance the United States-Caribbean security partnership, to prioritize natural disaster resilience, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 1240. A bill to modify the requirements for candidate countries under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1325. A bill to establish a partnership with nations in the Western Hemisphere to promote economic competitiveness, democratic governance, and security, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Craig J. Anderson, of Montana, to be United States Marshal for the District of Montana for the term of four years.

Molly R. Silfen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Eric G. Olshan, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. LUJAN):

S. 1439. A bill to amend the National Quantum Initiative Act to establish a public-private partnership for near-term quantum application development and acceleration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1440. A bill to establish a program to award grants to entities that provide transportation connectors from critically underserved communities to green spaces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1441. A bill to establish a Center for Biomedical Innovation and Development in order to accelerate innovation and development of advanced medical countermeasure products; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1442. A bill to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to adjust for inflation the maximum amount of assistance provided by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1443. A bill to require an interagency strategy for creating a unified posture on counter-unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS) capabilities and protections at international borders of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1444. A bill to increase the pay and enhance the training of United States Border Patrol agents, and for other purposes; to the

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MULLIN:

S. 1445. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an affirmative defense for certain criminal violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KELLY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1446. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain Nurse Corps payments from gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1447. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program supporting trauma center violence intervention and violence prevention programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1448. A bill to provide grants to owners of intergenerational dwelling units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1449. A bill to improve the environmental review process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1450. A bill to establish a cap on costs for covered prescription drugs under Medicare parts B and D; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1451. A bill to band anticompetitive terms in facility and insurance contracts that limit access to higher quality, lower cost care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1452. A bill to promote mental wellness and resilience and prevent and heal mental health, behavioral health, and psychosocial conditions through developmentally and culturally appropriate community programs, and award grants for the purpose of establishing, operating, or expanding community-based mental wellness and resilience programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 1453. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate advance refunding bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1454. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow a deduction for charitable contributions for certain purposes relating to college athletics; to the Committee on Finance.