

the fundamental freedoms that shape the United States and the values that drive our foreign policy.

When it comes to explaining American values and our foreign policy to the world, one of the best tools we have is our public diplomacy programs.

At a time when our adversaries are pouring billions of dollars into propaganda, targeted disinformation and misinformation campaigns—often about the United States—we need an empowered Bureau of Global Public Affairs to tell the truth about U.S. foreign policy. We need to highlight the millions of dollars Americans invest in public health, infrastructure projects, and humanitarian relief around the world.

We need programs like the International Leadership Visitor Program that exposes rising leaders from across the world to America's systems of governance and democracy, leaders who share our vision of a free and open world.

We need programs that bring foreign students to American universities, not only affirming the excellence of our higher education system but bringing billions of dollars into the U.S. economy.

I could go on.

Our public diplomacy tools are simply the best bang for our buck when it comes to making sure we expose people around the world to American values, culture, and the truth about our foreign policy efforts.

We need capable, qualified leadership at the Department of State to lead these efforts. That is why we must confirm Ms. Allen as Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy without delay. As the current senior official for public diplomacy and public affairs at the Department of State, she has already advanced numerous objectives.

As a highly quality professional with a distinguished career and extensive experience in both public and private sectors, Ms. Allen is a nominee who will hit the ground running.

She began her career at the Department of State at the Office of Global Issues and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement. She served with distinction in the Obama-Biden administration for 8 years, including as White House Deputy Communications Director and Deputy Assistant to the President.

As she talked about during her confirmation hearing, she comes from a family who knows what it means to serve the American people—the granddaughter of two veterans—two veterans—of World War II, the daughter of parents who value public service regardless of party.

Ms. Allen understands the importance of making institutional changes to better educate our diplomats and integrate public diplomacy tools into policymaking.

I urge this body to support cloture on Ms. Allen's nomination so we can get her confirmed without delay and

spread the good word of American foreign policy throughout the world.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 157, Elizabeth Allen, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Margaret Wood Hassan, Thomas R. Carper, Tammy Baldwin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Chris Van Hollen, Ben Ray Lujan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Elizabeth Allen, of New York, to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "no."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 153 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Risch
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Brown	Kelly	Rounds
Cantwell	Kennedy	Sanders
Capito	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Lujan	Shaheen
Casey	Manchin	Sinema
Collins	Markey	Smith
Cooms	McConnell	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Sullivan
Crapo	Merkley	Tester
Duckworth	Moran	Tillis
Durbin	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Graham	Padilla	Welch
Grassley	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Heinrich	Ricketts	Young

NAYS—29

Blackburn	Britt	Cassidy
Boozman	Budd	Cornyn

Cotton	Hoeven	Rubio
Cramer	Johnson	Schmitt
Cruz	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lee	Thune
Ernst	Lummis	Tuberville
Fischer	Marshall	Vance
Hagerty	Mullin	Wicker
Hawley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Braun	Scott (FL)
Booker	Hyde-Smith	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. 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.

RECOGNIZING MUJERES LATINAS EN ACCION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, I would like to honor an organization that generations of Illinois families have relied on: Mujeres Latinas en Accion—or Latina Women in Action.

Mujeres is the longest standing Latina-led organization in the entire country. And this year, they are celebrating 50 years of empowering and emboldening Latinas across our State—as well as their families.

Founded in 1973 by the late Maria Mangual, Mujeres was first established as a shelter for young women escaping violence in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago, IL. Back then, some wrote off Mujeres' work as radical and unnecessary, but these critics didn't deter Maria or the dedicated women who supported her cause from building an enduring and indispensable organization. In the five decades since, Mujeres' mission, services, and footprint have only expanded to help uplift women from all walks of life.

And today, Mujeres does it all. They host support groups to help young families with parenting skills. They operate a 24-hour crisis line—and referral service—to assist survivors of domestic and sexual violence, both of which, tragically, increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have developed an education training program for women hoping to launch or expand their small businesses, as well as a community engagement and mobilization program, to amplify the voices of Latina immigrants and survivors of trauma. And, importantly, Mujeres is now a leading advocate in the effort to ensure pay equity for Latinas in the workplace. What is more, as Mujeres' mission has evolved over the years, so, too, has size of their operation. They

have opened new sites beyond Pilsen, in Brighton Park and North Riverside—so they can reach even more women and families.

The Brighton Park facility, which opened in 2019, was the product of a partnership between Mujeres and Esperanza Health Centers. This facility offers everything from adult medicine and women's health services, to pediatrics and psychiatry, and even behavioral health care services to residents, regardless of their economic or immigration status. Over the years, Mujeres has established itself as a vital resource for thousands of Illinois families. Every year, they provide critical care and services to more than 8,000 clients, in both English and Spanish.

I am forever grateful to Mujeres for their commitment to improving, and even saving, the lives of women in Illinois. I would like to thank Amalia Rioja, who introduced me to Mujeres 25 years ago, as well as all of the trailblazers who have carried Maria Mangual's legacy forward, including Liz Prieto, Linda Coronado, Virginia Martinez, Norma Seledon, Maria Pesqueira, and Linda Xochtil Tortolero.

I cannot wait to see what Mujeres accomplishes over the next 50 years.

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. 23-27, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Netherlands 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. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-27

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 the Netherlands.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$75 million.

Other \$35 million

Total \$110 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to eight (8) eight-cell MK 41 Vertical Launching Systems (VLS) Baseline (B/L) VII Strike Length Launcher Modules (either system or standalone)

Non-MDE: Also included are spare parts; handling equipment; transportation test and support equipment; software; engineering/technical assistance; personnel training and training equipment; documentation, publications, and technical data; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (NE-P-LIG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NE-P-LFN, NE-P-LAB.

(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: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 2, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Netherlands—MK 41 Vertical Launching System (VLS)

The Government of the Netherlands has requested to buy up to eight (8) eight-cell MK 41 Vertical Launching Systems (VLS) Baseline (B/L) VII Strike Length Launcher Modules (either system or standalone). Also included are spare parts; handling equipment; transportation test and support equipment; software; engineering/technical assistance; personnel training and training equipment; documentation, publications, and technical data; U.S. Government and contractor technical assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost 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 that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist the Netherlands in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will provide a defensive capability for the Netherlands while enhancing interoperability with U.S. and other allied forces. The Royal Netherlands Navy intends to use the MK 41 VLS BIL VII strike length launcher modules for their new ship class. These modules are intended for ESSM BLK1 and SM-2 capabilities in support of ongoing and emergent operational needs. The Netherlands, has previously purchased MK 41 VLS capability and actively uses it on their current ship classes. The Netherlands will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and support into its armed forces.

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

The prime contractor will be Lockheed Martin Corporation, Bethesda, MD. There

are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of the proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Netherlands. However, U.S. Government or contractor personnel in-country visits will be required on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-27

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MK 41 Vertical Launch System (VLS) is a fixed, vertical, multi-missile launching system with the capability to store and launch multiple missile variants depending on the warfighting mission, including the Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile (ESSM), Standard Missile (SM), and Tomahawk Cruise Missiles. This proposed sale would provide tactical VLS capability for the ESSM and SM. The MK 41 VLS is a modular below-deck configuration with each module consisting of 8 missile cells with an associated gas management and deluge system.

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

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Netherlands can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of the Netherlands.

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