

but, nonetheless, because the President of the United States, duly elected, picked him as his Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers and Kevin Hassett was honest, he was credentialed—he just was wrong on issues, but that shouldn't stop us from supporting for that position.

In 2021, PAT TOOMEY, the ranking member of the Housing, Banking, and Urban Affairs Committee, voted for Cecelia Rouse, President Biden's CEA nomination. The way I voted for a more conservative economist than I wanted, Senator Toomey voted for a more liberal economist than he wanted because she was qualified, she was credentialed, and she was an honest person.

Next step: The Senate confirmed both of them—Dr. Hassett's nomination, 81 to 16. I led our side of the aisle, with my fellow Democrats here, in an overwhelming—only 16 of them voted against, out of 48 or 49 then, because I stood in the committee and said: We owe this to the White House. The tradition is such in the Senate that you support the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers.

Dr. Rouse's nomination passed 95 to 4. Senator TOOMEY did the same.

So we all used to agree in this body until somebody made it much more partisan. Never before in this nomination was there this kind of partisanship. We have agreed that the President is entitled to have his choice of CEA Chair.

I see no reason why that should change today. Dr. Bernstein's Republican peers and Democratic peers all came together and supported him. There is no reason the Senate shouldn't, in that same bipartisan fashion, vote to confirm his nomination. There are no really good reasons at all to do that.

I urge my colleagues to support Dr. Jared Bernstein's nomination to be Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers.

NOMINATION OF HERNAN D. VERA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Hernan Vera to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. With his years of experience defending equal justice under law, Judge Vera will make an excellent addition to the Federal bench. He received a B.A. from Stanford University and a J.D. from the UCLA School of Law before clerking for Judge Consuelo B. Marshall on the Central District of California. Following his clerkship, Judge Vera entered private practice and focused on complex business disputes with an emphasis on commercial civil litigation and intellectual property issues. He then spent 12 years working for Public Counsel, the Nation's largest pro bono law firm, and eventually became the firm's CEO. During his time with Public Counsel, he exclusively represented low-income clients and litigated hundreds of matters involving consumer fraud, housing, employment, and other civil rights issues.

In 2020, Judge Vera was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court. Since his appointment to the bench, he has presided over more than 200 cases that have gone to verdict or judgment, including cases involving juvenile dependency issues and allegations of child abuse and neglect.

Judge Vera has extensive litigation experience and a proven track record of independent decisionmaking on the bench. And having dedicated such a significant portion of his career to pro bono work, he will bring a unique perspective to the Central District of California.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Vera "well qualified" for the Federal bench, and he has the strong support of his home State Senators: Mrs. FEINSTEIN and Mr. PADILLA.

I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled at 5 p.m. begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON VERA NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Vera nomination?

Mr. BROWN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 157 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Ernst	Moran
Blackburn	Fischer	Mullin
Boozman	Graham	Murkowski
Braun	Grassley	Paul
Britt	Hagerty	Ricketts
Budd	Hawley	Risch
Capito	Hoeven	Romney
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Collins	Johnson	Rubio
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lee	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lummis	
Cruz	Marshall	
Daines	McConnell	

Sullivan	Tillis	Wicker
Thune	Vance	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Tuberville

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. MARKEY assumed the Chair.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

VOTE ON BERNSTEIN NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bernstein nomination?

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 158 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—1

Tuberville

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Illinois.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. 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.

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. 23-46, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of France for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$160 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-46

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 France.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.
Other \$160 million.
Total \$160 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case FR-P-GWR for non-MDE E-2C Hawkeye sustainment support was originally valued at \$99.6 million, below the congressional notification threshold. The Government of France has requested the case be amended to include additional non-MDE E-2C Hawkeye sustainment items and services. This case amendment will increase the total case value above the total non-MDE notification threshold and thus notification of the entire FMS case is now required.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included is an Engine Component Improvement Program (CIP); software

updates; technical publication; U.S. Government and contractor technical and product support and assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (FR-P-GWR).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: FR-P-SBG, FR-P-SBI, FR-P-SBL.

(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: June 13, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

France—E-2C Hawkeye Sustainment Support

The Government of France has requested to buy additional non-MDE E-2C Hawkeye sustainment items and services that will be added to a previously implemented case. The original Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case, valued at \$99.6 million, included E-2C Hawkeye sustainment support. Therefore, this notification is for E-2C Hawkeye sustainment support, which includes an Engine Component Improvement Program (CIP); software updates; technical publications; U.S. Government, and contractor technical and product support and assistance; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$160 million.

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

The proposed sale will improve France's capability to meet current and future threats in the European domain by maintaining its E-2C fleet in fully mission-capable status and sustain interoperability with U.S. and NATO forces. France will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

The principal U.S. contractor will be Northrop Grumman, Melbourne, FL. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of the proposed sale will require occasional government personnel to visit France on a temporary basis and one contractor personnel to be permanently assigned in France in conjunction with program technical Oversight and support requirements, including program and technical reviews as well as training and maintenance support.

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 informa-

tion 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. PRESIDENT: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-13 concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.8 billion. 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. 23-13

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 Kuwait.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$1.8 billion.
Total \$1.8 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MOE): None.

Non-MDE: Continuation of contractor engineering technical services; contractor maintenance services; Hush House (an enclosed, noise-suppressed aircraft jet engine testing facility) support services; and Liaison Office Support for the Government of Kuwait's F/A-18 C/D/E/F program, to include: F/A-18 avionics software upgrades; engine component improvements; ground support equipment; engine and aircraft spares and repair parts; publications and technical documentation; Engineering Change Proposals (ECP); U.S. Government and contractor programmatic, financial, and logistics support; maintenance and engineering support; F404/F414 engine and engine test cell support; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (KU-P-GHY).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: KU-P-GGX, KU-P-GHI, KU-P-GHJ, KU-P-SBG.

(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: June 13, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kuwait—Follow-On Technical Support

The Government of Kuwait has requested to buy continuation of contractor engineering technical services; contractor maintenance services; Hush House (an enclosed, noise-suppressed aircraft jet engine testing