

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. 23-36, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Spain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$48.2 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. HURSH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-36

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 Spain.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$32.8 million.

Other \$15.4 million.

Total \$48.2 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case SP-B-WAT was below congressional notification threshold at \$21.87 million (\$12.20 million in MDE) and included one hundred eighteen (118) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles. The Government of Spain has requested that the case be amended to include an additional one hundred fifty-three (153) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles. This amendment will push the current case above the MDE notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Two hundred seventy-one (271) M982A1 Excalibur Tactical Projectiles.

Non-MDE: Also included is a portable electronic Fire Control System (FCS); Improved Platform Integration Kit; Propelling Charge Modular Artillery Charge System; Simple Key Loaders (SKL); crypto cable; training aids; technical data; U.S. Government technical assistance; transportation; Excalibur spare parts; artillery cleaning sections; new equipment training; repair and return support equipment; support related to collateral damage estimation tables; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SP-B-WAT).

(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: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 14, 2023.

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

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Spain—Excalibur Projectiles

The Government of Spain has requested to buy an additional one hundred fifty-three (153) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at \$21.87 million, included one hundred eighteen (118) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles. This notification is for a combined total of two hundred seventy-one (271) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles. Also included is a portable elec-

tronic Fire Control System (FCS); Improved Platform Integration Kit; Propelling Charge Modular Artillery Charge System; Simple Key Loaders (SKL); crypto cable; training aids; technical data; U.S. Government technical assistance; transportation; Excalibur spare parts; artillery cleaning sections; new equipment training; repair and return support equipment; support related to collateral damage estimation tables; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$48.2 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security 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.

The proposed sale will improve Spain's capability to meet current and future threats and will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and other allied forces. The enhanced capability will also strengthen its homeland defense. Spain 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 will be Raytheon Company Missile Systems, McAlester, OK. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-36

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 M982A1 Excalibur 155 mm, High Explosive Projectile is an all up projectile with Global Positioning System (GPS)-aided precision guidance capability. The Excalibur provides the ability to accurately engage targets at distances up to 25 miles. Excalibur is commonly fired from U.S. Army and Marine Corps towed and self-propelled howitzer systems, including the M777 and M109.

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

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 Spain 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 have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Spain.

#### CONFIRMATION OF DILAWAR SYED

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, last week, the Senate confirmed Dilawar Syed to be the Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration with a bipartisan vote. Mr. Syed was the longest pending nomination in the Biden administration, waiting 827 days to be confirmed.

The Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration should

not have been a controversial nomination. Mr. Syed has served our Nation admirably as Special Representative for Commercial Diplomacy at the State Department, where he has helped American companies compete in international markets throughout the world. He has extensive background as an entrepreneur and business leader with an inspiring immigrant success story that is only possible in America. Now that he has been confirmed, he is the highest ranking Muslim American in the Biden administration.

Mr. Syed should have been confirmed unannounced years ago. But regrettably, Senate Republicans chose to play politics with changing excuses designed to obstruct the nomination. Obstruction and delay resulted in the position being vacant for over 5 years. With record numbers of entrepreneurs starting new small businesses, we need a fully staffed SBA.

Senate Republicans criticized pandemic loans that were taken out by Mr. Syed's company, Lumiata, and accused Mr. Syed of being slow to disclose the loans. Mr. Syed testified before the committee that the board of his company had taken out Paycheck Protection Program—PPP—loans from SBA, funds that they were legally eligible to receive. And to his credit, Mr. Syed and his company repaid those PPP loans when they secured an additional round of venture funding. All of this funding was disclosed to the White House during the vetting process, and Mr. Syed was transparent about his financials, even beyond the information asked by the Senate committee questionnaire. Critics tried to claim that he had misled Congress or outright lied. That is simply not true.

Despite his unfair treatment, justice ultimately prevailed, and his nomination passed with bipartisan support from five Republican Senators who were able to judge Mr. Syed on his character and business acumen rather than false attacks.

Many nominees would have given up and decided the attacks were not worth it. With his background, Mr. Syed could have taken a lucrative position in the private sector. But our Nation is fortunate that Mr. Syed did not let this long process deter him from serving the public interest. I join Mr. Syed's family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating him on his perseverance throughout this process and look forward to working with him, Administrator Guzman, and the leadership team at the Small Business Administration.

#### WILLA CATHER STATUE UNVEILING

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following speech be printed in the RECORD.

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

SEN. FISCHER WILLA CATHER UNVEILING  
REMARKS

When we are here in Statuary Hall, I like to remind people that we are not alone.

If you look above the door leading into the Rotunda, you'll see a figure. It is Clio, the muse of history.

For generations, she served as a constant reminder that our words and actions—the good and the bad—would be judged by time and leave a lasting mark on the nation.

Today Clio welcomes one of Nebraska's finest literary artists, Willa Cather.

"Let your fiction grow out of the land beneath your feet."

This quote, attributed to Cather, is an apt summation of the author's life and work.

Cather's vivid, reflective writing has become synonymous with the pioneer spirit of Nebraska.

Her fiction—epitomized by the Great Plains novels *O Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark*, and *My Antonia*—truly feels like it grew from the soil of Nebraska.

Cather herself grew from that land. Her family settled in Red Cloud while she was still a child, and her imaginative mind put its roots down there in Webster County.

For decades until her death in 1947, Cather was unable to shake her creative spirit away from its home in the open plains of the heartland.

The unveiling of Cather's statue is especially poignant for me, because Cather's fiction is not the only art to grow out of the land beneath her feet.

In 2006, my sister-in-law Nadine McHenry's art was selected as part of the annual Willa Cather Conference organized by the Cather Foundation.

"I am a Nebraska painter and my feet stand on the same prairie grasses that Cather stood on," Nadine wrote of her painting exhibition.

Nadine's impressionistic paintings are a blend. They blend an imaginative representation of Cather's prose with Nadine's own personal experience on our family's ranch in the Nebraska Sandhills.

Four of the paintings—"Longing," "Isolation," "Pioneering the Way," and "Way Ahead"—draw new vigor out of Cather's century-old works, each created as an expression of a different quote by the novelist.

Nadine's art illustrates the profound resonance of Cather's writing for those of us who call Nebraska home.

That resonance—the talent and imagination immortalized in Cather's indelible novels—is what endows her with the significance to be placed in the U.S. Capitol as a representation of Nebraska's best.

I'll end with words from Cather's "Song of the Lark," words that strike a sense of understanding into the heart of any Nebraskan who has read her work.

"What was any art but a mold to imprison for a moment the shining, elusive element which is life itself?"

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA NATHANSON

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Ella Winter famously remarked to author Thomas Wolfe, "Don't you know you can't go home again?" The remark, in abbreviated form, became the title of one of his most famous books, published after he died. The two writers never met Martha D. Nathanson, who grew up in Park Heights, went to Indiana University in Bloomington to earn

her bachelor's degree and J.D., and then returned home and dedicated her life to making Baltimore a better, safer, healthier, and happier place.

Martha is retiring from LifeBridge Health, where she has been responsible for government relations, focusing on legislative and regulatory policy at all three levels of government, covering all aspects of healthcare delivery and community and economic development in the areas surrounding all of LifeBridge Health's facilities, including Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. Martha's expertise, political skills, finesse, and natural ability as a community organizer have made her a formidable force for bringing better healthcare and other vital services to underserved communities, including Lower Park Heights. I don't know whether LifeBridge's Northwest Hospital would be the outstanding facility it is today without Martha's tireless advocacy.

Before Martha joined LifeBridge some 25 years ago, she was director of risk management and legislative and regulatory affairs for Kirson Medical Equipment Company, where she developed legal, regulatory, and joint commission—JCAH—compliance programs and drafted and negotiated contracts with providers. She also worked as an attorney advisor at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and as an associate attorney at Ober Kaler in Baltimore. I have relied on and am grateful for Martha's wise counsel on healthcare and community and economic development issues in Baltimore over the years.

Martha's vocation and avocation are one and the same. In addition to her professional career, she serves on the board of CHAI—Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.—served as chair of the Board of Park Heights Renaissance and is a founding member of the Northwest Baltimore Partnership. She also serves on the board of advisers of the University of Maryland School of Social Work and the Safe Streets Community Advisory Board. She has bought, renovated, and sold houses in her neighborhood and is active in CREW Baltimore, which promotes the business interests and professional advancement of women in all disciplines of the commercial real estate industry by providing educational and networking opportunities and contributing resources to support the local community. Given all of this, it is no surprise that Martha was named as one of Maryland's 100 Top Women by the "Daily Record" in 2017.

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give. Martha Nathanson has given so much to her beloved hometown, and Baltimore is so much better for her tireless efforts. Since she is not the "retiring" kind, I know she will stay active in community affairs. But now, she will have more time for biking and trekking and environmental causes and, most important, for her family. I know that she is especially "over the moon" about

being a grandmother. I want to thank her for her service and friendship and wish her all the best as she begins the next chapter in a wonderful life of service.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. SUSAN  
PETERSON THOMAS

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to thank Dr. Susan "Sue" Peterson Thomas for her many years of service to the State of Kansas and Kansas State University—K-State—as well as honor her for all that she accomplished during her career.

The daughter of a dairy farmer and former mayor of Abilene, KS, Sue began her journey at K-State as a student, where she graduated with a bachelor of science degree in political science and history. She would go on to earn a master of public administration degree from the University of Kansas, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from K-State.

Sue's service to the State of Kansas began in 1978, where she worked for Mike Hayden during his time as the speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives and Governor of Kansas. She also served on the transition teams for Governor Hayden and Governor Sam Brownback.

Sue would go on to work for her alma mater, beginning her distinguished career at K-State in 1989. During her 33 years of service to the university, Sue worked her way up to chief government relations officer, where she was directly responsible for all university liaison activities with the State and Federal legislature. She also served as a political science instructor since 1992, where she taught Kansas politics and government to over 1,000 students.

During her time at K-State, Sue was responsible for multiple different projects that have had a tremendous impact on the university. She was instrumental in securing State funding to renovate Farrell Library and add 153,000 square feet of new space to the library on K-State's Manhattan campus; she coordinated the successful legislative effort to merge the Kansas College of Technology in Salina into K-State, forming the K-State Salina campus; she led the efforts to secure State and Federal funding for the construction and equipment of Pat Roberts Hall, the home of K-State's Biosecurity Research Institute. The fruits of her labor culminated at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility's ribbon-cutting ceremony this last May, which she worked tirelessly on, helping pass multiple pieces of legislation that were crucial to the State's efforts to land the facility adjacent to K-State's campus in Manhattan.

Throughout her career, Sue has been recognized at the local, State, and national levels. She has been awarded the prestigious Marvin D. "Swede" Johnson Achievement Award, the Flinchbaugh Family Wildcat Pride