

Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, John W. Hickenlooper, Chris Van Hollen, Mark Kelly.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 552.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The senior assistant 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. 552, Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Mark R. Warner, Patty Murray, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Angus S. King, Jr., Debbie Stabenow, John W. Hickenlooper.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 20, be waived.

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

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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. 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 still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an 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. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
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. 23-57, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$250.2 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. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-57

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: NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$0.

Other \$250.2 million.

Total \$250.2 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(i) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales case W4-D-QAF was below the congressional notification threshold at \$40.26 million (\$0 in MDE) and included Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) system equipment and support, including: AN/APG-68 radar processors; Global Hawk engine controllers; classified and unclassified spare components and parts; consumables and accessories; repair and return support; facilities support including storage; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) has requested that the case be amended to include non-MDE communications equipment spares and additional items and services. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the total case value notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required.

The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: The following non-MDE items are included: AGS system equipment and support; AN/APG-68 radar processors; Global Hawk engine controllers; communications equipment spares; classified and unclassified spare components and parts; consumables, accessories, repair and return support; facilities support including storage; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(ii) Military Department: Air Force (W4-D-QAF).

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

(iv) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(v) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 16, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

NATO Support and Procurement Agency—Alliance Ground Surveillance Program Equipment and Support

The NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) has requested to buy communications equipment spares and additional items and services that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales case, valued at \$40.26 million, included Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) system equipment and support, including: AN/APG-68 radar processors; Global Hawk engine controllers; classified and unclassified spare components and parts; consumables and accessories; repair and return support; facilities support including storage; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. This notification is for the combined non-MDE AGS system equipment and services, including: AN/APG-68 radar processors; Global Hawk engine controllers; communications equipment spares; classified and unclassified spare components and parts; consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; facilities support including storage; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and survey and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$250.2 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of NATO partners that are a force for political stability and economic progress in the North Atlantic region.

The proposed sale will improve NATO's capability to meet current and future threats by improving and sustaining Allied intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities. NATO will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment 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 contractor will be Northrop Grumman located in Mojave, CA. 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 additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to NATO.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-57

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. This sale includes sensitive classified and unclassified spare components to sustain the aircraft, engine, and AN/APG-68 Synthetic Aperture Radar.

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 advance capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that NATO 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 NATO.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. 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 still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an 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. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
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. 24-45, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Ukraine for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$100 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.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-45

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 Ukraine.

(II) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0
Other \$100 million.
Total \$100 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
None.

Non-MDE: Equipment and services for sustainment support of U.S. Army supplied vehicles and weapon systems, utilizing Blanket Orders, Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA), and/or Simplified Non-Standard Acquisition Program (SNAP), as well as other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (UP-B-KUP, UP-B-KWA).

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

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc. Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technologies Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 16, 2024.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Ukraine—Blanket Order Sustainment of U.S. Army Supplied Systems

The Government of Ukraine has requested to buy equipment and services for sustainment support of U.S. Army supplied vehicles and weapon systems, utilizing Blanket Orders, Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA), and/or Simplified Non-Standard Acquisition Program (SNAP), as well as other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$100 million.

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

Ukraine has an urgent need to strengthen local sustainment capabilities to maintain high operational rates for U.S.-provided vehicles and weapon systems. This sustainment support will directly contribute to Ukraine's battlefield effectiveness through improved logistics and will contribute to more resilient and rapid repair cycle times.

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

The principal contractor(s) will be determined from approved vendors. 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 additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Ukraine.

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

VERMONT SHOOTING

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, on November 25, 2023, three Palestinian American students—Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid, and Tahseen Ali Ahmad—were shot by a local resident while they were walking along a quiet street in Burlington, VT. The three friends had gone to Burlington to celebrate Thanksgiving with Hisham's uncle and grandmother, who lives there. Instead, shots rang out, and they fell to the ground bleeding, for no apparent reason other than that they were speaking a mix of Arabic and English and wearing Palestinian kaffiyehs. Hisham was paralyzed from the chest down and now uses a wheelchair.

This despicable crime shocked and outraged Vermont. This despicable act of violence is a tragic reminder that even relatively tranquil and tolerant communities like Burlington cannot escape the curse of Islamophobia, racism, and other forms of hate, such as anti-Semitism and homophobia. We all have a responsibility to speak out against hatred, extremism, intolerance, and stereotypes that divide our communities and can lead to violence.

The alleged perpetrator of this senseless attack was quickly arrested and is in jail awaiting trial. We can be reasonably confident that justice will be done. But the lives of Hisham, Kinnan and Tahseen have been changed forever.

One of the things that is especially insidious about this crime is that if these three young Palestinians had been shot and wounded or killed back home in the West Bank, the chances that anyone would be arrested or appropriately punished is next to zero, nor would they have access to anything remotely resembling the quality of medical care Hisham is receiving in this country.

Hisham wrote about his experience and what daily life is like for Palestinians in the West Bank in a moving guest essay published in the New York Times on May 16, 2024. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD. I encourage all Senators read it.

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

[May 16, 2024]

I WAS SHOT IN VERMONT. WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN IN THE WEST BANK?

(BY HISHAM AWARTANI)

That frigid autumn night in Burlington, Vt., was not the first time I had stared down the barrel of a gun. It was not even the first time I had been fired at. Half a world away, in the West Bank, it had happened before.

On a hot day in May 2021, a classmate and I, both of us 17 at the time, were protesting near a checkpoint in Ramallah. Bullets, both rubber and metal, were flying into the crowd, even though we were unarmed. I was