

President who sets the domestic and international agenda for the nation.

Well, listen, the law as it relates to the State Department is made by Congress, and many smart people have described the Constitution in the area of foreign policy as an invitation to struggle. It was intentionally vague. We were supposed to have a tug and pull. And it is true that the President of the United States is the Commander in Chief and has broad foreign policy authorities. It is not true that any President can ignore a duly enacted Federal law. And that is what is being asked for us to tolerate.

And, look, I was prepared on election night to say: I hate this result. We lost the trifecta. As a party, we have got to do some soul-searching and figure out why we didn't just lose the electoral college, we lost the popular vote.

So I was prepared to do some thinking and say we are in for some conservative outcomes, we are in for some policy outcomes that I am absolutely going to hate.

But what is happening right now is unlawful. Like, I know we are outnumbered 53 to 47 in the Senate and like a 2- or 3-vote margin in the House, and we lost the Presidency. Fair enough. So there will be conservative policy for 2 or 4 years, and I don't like it, but that is—you know, that is the way the ball bounces sometimes politically.

What is happening right now is not the ball bouncing a particular way politically but someone just deciding that they are in charge of the American Government and they don't care what the law says. And I just don't think anybody should be willing to tolerate that.

I want to quote Project 2025 on Medicare because I want everybody to understand: They came for the State Department first because everybody understands that until there is an Ebola outbreak that reaches our shores, until there is international disorder that reaches our borders, until our reputation is damaged, until you see it on your screen—large or small—most people are not actively tracking the foreign aid question.

But I want you to understand that Project 2025—I mean, you heard me read the preamble. It is a really—give them credit; it is an ambitious vision. It is an ambitious document. And so they are also coming after Medicare. Medicare and Medicaid “operate as runaway entitlements that stifle medical innovation, encourage fraud, and impede cost containment, in addition to which their fiscal future is in peril. Both programs should be managed so that the individuals enrolled are empowered to make decisions for themselves and have quality options with affordable prices driven by competition and innovation. Providers who participate should retain (or have restored) the freedom to practice medicine and take care of their patients according to their patients’ unique needs. . . . The

Affordable Care Act has made insurance more expensive.”

Now, that is just flatly not true. You can hate it, and you can say it is an expansion of government, and you can say that it is an inefficient way to do it, but it is flatly not true that people are paying more in premiums. You might hate the fact that it is a big subsidy for people.

I yield the floor to the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. I thank my colleague from Hawaii.

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.

TRIBUTE TO CATE AVON

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Cate for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Cate is a native of Virginia. She is currently a junior at Madeira School in McLean, VA. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Cate for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. RISCH. 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. JAMES E. RISCH,
*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. 25-0E. 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 24-48 of August 13, 2024.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0E

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Israel.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 24-08; Date: August 13, 2024; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description: On August 13, 2024, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-08 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of thirty (30) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); and one (1) AMRAAM guidance section (spare). The following non-MDE items were also included: AMRAAM control sections and containers; Common Munitions Built-In-Test/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); ADU-891/E Adapter Group Computer Test Sets; spare parts, consumables, accessories, repair and return support, classified and unclassified publications, and technical documentation; classified software delivery and support; munitions support and support equipment; test support and support equipment; personnel training and training equipment; warranties; studies and surveys; contractor logistics support services; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$102.5 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$66 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: one hundred eight (108) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAMs; and two (2) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM guidance sections. The following non-MDE items will also be included: weapon system support, to include software, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$305 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$259 million to a revised \$325 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$46 million to a revised \$82.5 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$305 million to a revised \$407.5 million.

(iv) Significance: The inclusion of this additional MDE represents an increase in quantity over what was previously notified. The proposed sale will improve Israel's capability to meet current and future threats, strengthen its homeland defense, and serve as a deterrent to regional threats.

(v) Justification: The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is

vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives.

(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: February 3, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. 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. JAMES E. RISCH,
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. 25-06, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$900 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-06

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 Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$750 million.

Other \$150 million.

Total \$900 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Up to one hundred fifty (150) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I missiles.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: MK 21 Mod 3 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; component parts and support equipment; continued Engineering, Integra-

tion and Test (EI&T) materiel and support required to produce the SM-6 Block I missiles; special test and handling equipment; training and training equipment and aids; technical publications and data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical assistance, including related studies and analysis support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (JA-P-AVJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: JA-P-AUQ, JA-P-AUW.

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

(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: January 31, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I Missiles

The Government of Japan has requested to buy up to one hundred fifty (150) Standard Missile 6 (SM-6) Block I missiles. The following non-MDE items will also be included: MK 21 Mod 3 Vertical Launch System (VLS) canisters; component parts and support equipment; continued Engineering, Integration and Test (EI&T) materiel and support required to produce the SM-6 Block I missiles; special test and handling equipment; training and training equipment and aids; technical publications and data; U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical assistance, including related studies and analysis support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$900 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve Japan's capability to meet current and future threats by allowing the Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) to deploy the latest Standard Missile capabilities from their current and future AEGIS Weapon System (AWS) equipped surface combatants. The proposed sale will further enhance Japan's capability to protect Japan and local allied land forces and will significantly improve Japan's contribution to integrated air missile defense in the Indo-Pacific region. Japan 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 contractor will be RTX Corporation, located in Camden, AR. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-06

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 Standard Missile-6 (SM-6) is a surface Navy anti-air missile that provides area and ship self-defense. The missile is intended to contribute to raid annihilation by destroying manned fixed and rotary wing aircraft, unmanned aerial systems (UAs), land attack cruise missiles, and anti-ship cruise missiles in flight. It was designed to fulfill the need for a vertically-launched, extended range missile compatible with the AEGIS Weapon System to be used against extended range threats at sea, near land, and over land. The SM-6 combines the tested legacy of Standard Missile-2 (SM-2) propulsion and ordnance with an active radio frequency seeker allowing for over-the-horizon engagements, enhanced capability at extended ranges, and increased firepower.

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 system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed 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 Japan.

REMEMBERING DAVID KENDALL PIERCE

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, on January 14, 2025, Norwich, VT, lost a beloved member of one of the town's oldest farming families.

David Pierce grew up on a small dairy farm on a hill with a view down the valley, less than a mile from Dan & Whit's General Store in the center of town. His father, known by all as "Bub," was the farmer. His mother Janet cared for David and his sister Deb and took in other children when their parents were out of town, as well as tending to her big vegetable garden. She later became long-time town clerk of Norwich.

David attended the local Norwich elementary school through eighth grade when he went across the river to Hanover High in Hanover, NH. From an early age, David spent weekends and summers mowing and baling hay and helping with the many chores that come with raising and milking cows. Early spring was spent with his father in the maple sugar house. After high school, he attended the University of Vermont, where he studied physics and did graduate work at nearby Dartmouth College and the University of Massachusetts. He went on to teach physics and astronomy at Tabor Academy in Marion, MA, for 47 years, while still spending summers helping with the mowing and hay baling back in Norwich. He was a familiar sight driving the John Deere tractor in local