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May 13, 2022

Dear Chairs Menendez and Reed, and Ranking Members Risch and Inhofe,

On behalf of AJC, I am writing to express concern about reports that the U.S. Department of State is actively considering a request made by the Republic of Turkey to purchase 40 Lockheed Martin-made F-16 fighter jets and nearly 80 modernization kits for its existing enormous fleet of warplanes and the State Department’s notice of pending Foreign Military Sales for air to air missiles and radar/avionics upgrades to Turkey.

Turkey’s purchase of Russian S-400’s and its repeated failure to act as a reliable ally triggered Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) sanctions and congressional holds to prevent new American weapons acquisitions. Rather than seeking to repair its relationship with Washington, Turkey insists on keeping Russian weapons systems and even buying more. Less than one year after CAATSA sanctions were imposed, Erdogan declared his intent to buy additional Russian S-400s.

Selling Turkey new F-16s and upgrade kits or other major weapons sales to Turkey would undermine American law, values, and interests. Turkey has already used its existing fleet of American F-16s to violate Greek airspace. A broad array of Turkey experts consistently express concerns about co-locating upgraded F-16s in the same theater at Russian S400s.

While some assert that denying Turkey access to American F-35s was punitive action enough, Ankara’s sustained desire to purchase additional weapons – from any supplier, including Russia – does not bode well for U.S. or NATO interests. Access to American weapons systems — including upgraded F-16s — is a privilege that Turkey must earn, not a right to which it is entitled. I urge you to consider legislative measures to prevent sales of new F-16s or upgrade kits unless Turkey can be proven to be in compliance with CAATSA and assurances can be made that advanced American technology will not be left vulnerable to Russian and Chinese systems.

Thank you for your consideration of my views on this matter.

Respectfully,

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| Text  Description automatically generatedJulie RaymanSenior Director of Policy and Political AffairsAmerican Jewish Committee  |

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May 13, 2022

Dear Chairs Meeks and Smith, and Ranking Members McCaul and Rogers,

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