



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 31, 2022

The Honorable
Chris Pappas
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Pappas:

Thank you for your November 1, 2021 letter regarding Turkey's request to purchase new F-16s and upgrade its existing F-16 fleet. The Department of State is committed to carrying out U.S. export control laws with all our defense trade partners, and to implementing the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) sanctions imposed in December 2020 in response to Turkey's S-400 transaction with Russia. The Department consistently raises at senior levels our strong objection to Ankara's decision to purchase the S-400 and stresses to Ankara the importance of utilizing its military capabilities to bolster NATO efforts and advance our mutual goals.

Turkey is a longstanding NATO Ally with whom we share many strategic interests. Ankara continues to make important contributions to Alliance missions including recently in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and Afghanistan. Turkey's support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and cooperative defense relations are an important deterrent to malign influence in the region, while Turkey's activities assist many of our efforts in the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia. Despite the very real challenges in U.S.-Turkish relations, Turkey remains an important ally, acting as both a bridge and a buffer to a region in constant flux.

At the same time, there are areas in which the Department profoundly disagrees. Ankara's involvement in some recent conflicts is unhelpful and it undermines regional security. The Department continues to express our strong disapproval of Ankara's decision to acquire the S-400 and to warn that further purchases of Russian military equipment would risk triggering additional sanctions. The Administration continues to press Turkey to align its foreign policy with U.S. and NATO goals.

The Department is aware Turkey submitted a Letter of Request to the Department of Defense. The Department is early in its review process of the proposed sale, which would require a Congressional notification if we were to approve it. The Department of State affirms our commitment to established defense trade authorization procedures, including Congressional oversight and the Conventional Arms Transfer policy. We look forward to providing additional information as it becomes available.

We hope that this information is useful to you and welcome the opportunity to brief you on these issues further. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Naz Durakoglu". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and "D".

Naz Durakoglu
Senior Bureau Official
Bureau of Legislative Affairs