



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

6/6/19

His Excellency Hulusi Akar
Minister of National Defense
Ministry of National Defense
Republic of Turkey
Ankara

Dear Mr. Minister:

It was a pleasure to welcome you to the Pentagon in April and to receive your phone call on May 28, 2019. I appreciate our discussions, and I thank you for your letter of April 6, 2019. The United States greatly values the U.S.-Turkey dialogue and our strategic partnership. We were disappointed, however, to learn that Turkey sent personnel to Russia for training on the S-400 system. If Turkey procures the S-400, as we discussed during our call on May 28, 2019, our two countries must develop a plan to discontinue Turkey's participation in the F-35 program. While we seek to maintain our valued relationship, Turkey will not receive the F-35 if Turkey takes delivery of the S-400. You still have the option to change course on the S-400.

In advance of our June 2019 meeting in Brussels, I have attached a summary of actions the United States will take to suspend Turkey's participation in the F-35 program by July 31, 2019. This timeline will enable many, but not all, Turkish F-35 students currently in training to complete their courses prior to departing the United States by July 31, 2019. We have also informed the Ministry of National Defense that we do not recommend starting any new training programs for Turkish personnel on the F-35 in the United States as we anticipate they would be recalled in the near future.

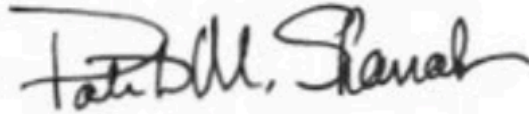
To facilitate an orderly cessation of Turkish participation in the programmatic management activities of the F-35 program, we will not plan for Turkish participation in the annual F-35 Chief Executive Officer Roundtable on June 12, 2019 and planned updates to the program's governing documents will proceed without Turkey's participation.

All actions taken on the F-35 are based on risks the S-400 presence in Turkey would have and they are separate from Russia-related Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) sanctions. There is strong bipartisan U.S. Congressional determination to see CAATSA sanctions imposed on Turkey if Turkey acquires the S-400.

In addition to threatening the security of platforms like the F-35, Turkey's procurement of the S-400 will hinder your nation's ability to enhance or maintain cooperation with the United States and within NATO, lead to Turkish strategic and economic over-dependence on Russia, and undermine Turkey's very capable defense industry and ambitious economic development goals. Pursuing this path will cause a loss in jobs, gross domestic product, and international trade. President Trump committed to boost bilateral trade from \$20 billion currently to more

than \$75 billion, however that may be challenging if the United States imposes CAATSA sanctions.

I would like to ensure that we manage this matter in a respectful way, to preserve other aspects of our deep security cooperation. I look forward to your response and our continued discussion as we chart our course ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat M. Shanahan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pat" and last name "Shanahan" clearly distinguishable.

Patrick M. Shanahan
Acting

Attachment:
As stated