Dear Senator/Representative,

As the NATO summit takes place in Ankara, Turkey, I am writing on behalf of American Jewish Committee (AJC) to reiterate our gratitude for your leadership in sustaining the transatlantic alliance, strengthening the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and reaffirming the shared democratic values that bind North America and Europe. At a time of intensifying threats from authoritarian regimes, terror groups and malign state actors, allied unity and credible deterrence remain indispensable.

As you engage your counterparts and allied officials during the Summit, we welcome your attention to several issues that are top of mind for AJC:

Support for Ukraine:

AJC has long supported Ukraine, being the first Jewish organization outside Ukraine to call for U.S. recognition of its independence in 1991 and advocating for democratic development and security over decades. Since Russia's illegal and unjust invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, AJC has been unwavering in its solidarity with the Ukrainian people, supporting Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic future.

As you engage with European allies at the NATO summit, AJC urges continued strong, bipartisan support for Ukraine, including through:

- **Defense Assistance:** Provide robust military and security support to deter further aggression and protect civilians.
- **Sanctions:** Maintain strong sanctions against Russia and countries assisting its war effort (e.g., Iran) to weaken the Russian war machine and hold perpetrators accountable.
- **NATO Integration:** Support Ukraine's path toward NATO membership, signaling unity against aggression and strengthening deterrence.

Additionally, AJC is deeply concerned by the growing partnership between Russia and Iran and its implication on security and stability across Europe and the Middle East. As such, AJC strongly encourages Congress to increase sanctions against persons and entities supporting Russia's invasion, strengthen efforts to combat the sharing of

information and technology transfer between Russia and Iran, and demand accountability for Russia's brutal aggression, including related to religious persecution and child abductions.

EU Designation of Hezbollah as a Terrorist Organization:

AJC has long urged the European Union (EU) to designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization. The EU's 2013 designation of only Hezbollah's so-called "military wing" was an important step, but it left in place an artificial distinction that Hezbollah itself rejects and that continues to constrain a unified transatlantic response to Iran-backed terrorism. AJC appreciates the EU's recent designation of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organization, an important step toward confronting Tehran's terror apparatus and the networks it enables across the Middle East and beyond, including Hezbollah, however, further action is needed to close any enforcement gaps.

As you engage with European allies at the NATO summit, AJC encourages support for full EU designation of Hezbollah, including through:

- **Ending the False Distinction:** Encourage EU counterparts to reject the fiction of separate "military" and "political" wings and designate Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.
- **Disrupting Hezbollah Networks:** Support stronger European action to prevent Hezbollah from fundraising, recruiting, laundering money, trafficking weapons and narcotics, and conducting surveillance or operational activity on European soil.
- **Countering Iran's Terror Architecture:** Frame full EU designation as the necessary next step following the EU's designation of the IRGC, given Hezbollah's longstanding role as a chief terrorist proxy of the Iranian regime and operational partner.

Additionally, AJC is concerned that continued hesitation by the EU creates space for Hezbollah to exploit European jurisdictions while Iran and its proxies deepen coordination across multiple theaters. The IRGC provides critical support, training, funding, and strategic direction to Hezbollah, making clear that confronting one arm of Iran's terror network while leaving another partially unaddressed weakens the impact of coordinated action. As such, AJC encourages you to use the Summit to reinforce that allied security requires closing these loopholes, aligning EU policy with the United States and other partners, and denying Hezbollah the legitimacy, financing, and freedom of movement it seeks.

Realignment on Turkey:

AJC and our partners have long worked to advance a vision for the Eastern Mediterranean rooted in democratic values, energy security, and deeper cooperation. A Turkey anchored in the transatlantic community, and conducting itself in a manner consistent with these shared objectives, would strengthen that architecture. A Turkey drawn closer to Russia, Iran, or other malign actors erodes it.

Turkey remains an important NATO Ally, and its constructive participation in the Alliance is preferable to its drift toward U.S. adversaries. At the same time, Alliance cohesion depends on actions consistent with NATO's values and security interests. You are well positioned to raise these concerns directly with allied counterparts, and we encourage them to do so.

Several dimensions of Ankara's recent conduct warrant scrutiny and raise questions about whether deeper defense cooperation would advance allied interests or undermine them. As you interact with European allies, AJC supports robust engagement with Turkey to ensure its conduct is consistent with Alliance commitments and to hold it accountable when it undermines them, including by:

- **Scrutinizing Defense Cooperation:** Condition any deeper defense cooperation - including F-35 readmission, engine or defense technology transfers, and relief from CAATSA sanctions - on a demonstrated return to conduct consistent with Alliance commitments, including the complete removal of the Russian S-400 system on NATO territory.
- **Upholding Allied Interests:** Raise concerns about Ankara's continued occupation of northern Cyprus, its destabilizing actions in the Eastern Mediterranean, and its incursions on Greek sovereignty, each of which strains cohesion among allied partners.
- **Defending Alliance Unity:** Press Turkish officials to refrain from rhetoric that threatens Israel or lends legitimacy to extremist actors - statements and conduct inconsistent with the responsibilities of a NATO partner.

Rewarding Ankara's behavior before it reverses course would weaken allied confidence and Alliance cohesion at a moment when democratic allies should be focused on common threats. As such, AJC encourages Congress to ensure that expanded defense cooperation follows from, rather than precedes,Turkey's return to conduct consistent with U.S. law and NATO commitments, and to use their engagement at the Summit to reinforce a secure, interconnected, and pro-Western Eastern Mediterranean.

U.S.-Iran MOU

AJC's Statement on the U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding lays out a few pivotal areas that AJC experts are watching closely as negotiations with Iran continue. As you

engage in key conversations during the Summit, understanding how NATO allies are looking at these challenges will help inform shared priorities and positions going forward, especially as Congress undergoes robust transparency and oversight of U.S. policy toward Iran.

Your leadership on these critical issues is greatly appreciated and deeply important as we engage on key items of international concern ahead of the NATO summit in Ankara next week.

Sincerely,



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