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Strictly Personal and Confidential – Via FedEx

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Re: Your Spontaneous Proposal at the NATO Summit that Allies Produce More Weapons

This is a plea from a 229-member monthly public-policy study group that I have facilitated for the past 19 years. Its participants from around the country include many attorneys and professors.

Most of us saw live your July 11 Press Conference at the end of the NATO Conference and were surprised to hear you say (as confirmed by the Official White House Transcript) –

The other thing that we talked a lot about is that — and I raised it, and there wa- — I — I didn't hear any — I can't swear that everyone agreed, because not everybody got to talk about it. But we haven't — we need a new industrial policy in the West. For example, we talked about how both the EU, as well as NATO, has to be able to begin to build their own munition capacity, has to be able to generate their own capacity to provide for weapons and the ability to — it came as a surprise to some of us how we had fallen behind in the West in terms of the ability to construct new materiel, new weaponry, and new — new — everything from — from vehicles to weapon systems.

And so, one of the things that came out of this was — we're going to be meeting again with a number of my colleagues — my European colleagues — is: What do we do to increase the capacity of the West, and particularly in Europe, and Japan to be able to generate kind of ability to produce their own weapons systems — not just for themselves but to be able to generate that?

It's the same — this is — that's what Russia is trying to figure out. The- — they went to China, and they didn't get the weapons, but then they went to North Korea.

But we're going to be in a position where the West is going to become the industrial base for it to be able to build — the — the ability to have all the defensive weapons that we need. That was a discussion as well.

It is respectfully suggested that before you make such spontaneous proposals in such forums as the NATO summit, you consider –

(1) What this does to our control over the foreign policy of allies since we by-and-large produce all their weapons and therefore have control over how they are used -- indeed, you have trumpeted in Michigan that you have control over Israel's war against Gaza by refusing, inter alia, to supply them with 2,000-pound bombs;

(2) Why you think the world would be a safer place if many European nations, Japan, etc., were producing their own weapons -- why they each wouldn't feel emboldened to conduct their own foreign policies which could lead to the old bane of many "European Wars" re which past generations of American Presidents shunned involvement from 1776 to World War I;

(3) Whether our allies will produce America's most-advanced weapons -- perhaps without even royalties for our technology; and

(4) What a disaster this would be for balance-of-payments problems if we forego one of our major exports – weapons. Indeed, we already sent you on 10/23/2023 by FedEx our letter entitled "Exporting American Jobs And Sale of Our Crown Jewels To Pay For Consumer-Goods Imports."

Thank you for your consideration. We hope during your final six months in office that you will continue doing your best to serve America while exercising more caution to think before you speak.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Karls
JD, Harvard Law School, 1967
Who's Who in American Law, 1988-2003
Who's Who in America, 1988-2003
Who's Who in the World, 1994-2003