



Tough talk on global trade escalates as Trump claims results

Michael Mitchell

March 29, 2018

U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to slap tariffs on many Chinese products could hit the big-name American technology companies that have built their businesses on Chinese manufacturing.

China plans to take legal action against the US under the World Trade Organization framework, the Commerce Ministry said in a statement Friday.

"We have a tremendous intellectual property theft problem", Trump said. "In this respect, dialogue with the U.S. is key". A costly trade war could be damaging to his goal of presenting China as a beacon of global free trade, giving into Trump's demands would mean harming his strong-man image.

The administration said the president will direct the USA trade office to publish a list of proposed tariffs for public comment within 15 days.

Ahead of Trump's announcement, China warned that it will take "all necessary measures" to defend itself. Xia Yeliang, economist and former visiting fellow at the Cato Institute in Washington, DC, postulated in an interview that China would suffer more in the end, since it "largely copies and steals American intellectual property" and will likely have to pay for its offenses.

"If there's a trade war between the United States and China, don't blame Donald Trump: China started it long before he became president", the daily wrote". Chinese penalties on U.S. soybeans will especially hurt Iowa, a state that backed Trump in the 2016 presidential elections and is home to U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad.

Policy makers across the world are warning of a brewing trade war that could undermine the broadest global recovery in years. "In last night's proclamation, the White House appears to have preserved the option - but by no means any obligation - to spare major US trade partners from steel tariffs".

Wei Jianguo, vice chairman of Beijing-based think tank China Centre for International Economic Exchanges, told China Daily that Beijing could impose tariffs on more USA products, and is

considering a second and even third list of targets. "Very significant and very important for the future of the country, really across industries", Lighthizer said.

In addition, Mr Trump will also direct the US Treasury to propose measures that could restrict Chinese investments in the United States, Mr Eissenstat said.

The products subject to the new tariffs have not yet been officially identified and Thursday's announcement did not immediately impose new import duties. "We have a great relationship". But now many worry about economic blowback from his combative approach.

"It's probably one of the reasons I was elected".

It said it was "strongly disappointed" and it "firmly opposes" Mr Trump's tariff plans.

"They're helping us a lot in North Korea".

TAIPEI-Taiwan should educate its youth about the risks presented by China where there is neither freedom nor democracy, Taiwan's main body in charge of policy making towards its giant neighbor said on Friday.

"In terms of the broader calculus of the harm that is done by what is the theft. of intellectual property is nearly incalculable", the official said.

Meanwhile, The Wall Street Journal today said China is to blame, and not Trump, if there happens to be a trade war between it and the US.

"We are confident in our capability to face up to any challenge". "Bolton will surely contribute to the tension in China-U.S. relations".

The U.S. proclamation imposes on Friday a 25 percent tariff on imported steel and a 10 percent on aluminum, resorting to 232 investigations.

In its decision previous year, the Commerce Department accused Australian and Brazilian producers of dumping product on the USA market and unfairly benefiting from subsidies. "There is no victor".

White House officials said the actions came after years of efforts failed to convince China to change its behaviour.

China has also been infuriated by a new USA law which encourages contacts and exchanges between US and Taiwanese officials even though they do not have formal ties.

"Administrations before us and this administration has tried very, very hard to work with the Chinese", Navarro said.