

## U.S. signed ‘another very important part’ of immigration deal with Mexico

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Trump's ongoing war with elements of the United States media could bubble back into view this week with the publication of a book by CNN White House correspondent Jim Acosta.

"We have an agreement on something that they will announce very soon".

Mexican officials on Monday denied any such side agreement on controlling migrants.

"Mexico, in turn", he continued, "has agreed to take strong measures to stem the tide of Migration through Mexico, and to our Southern Border".

Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard, who led the Mexican negotiating team in *Washington* last week, said he had rebuffed the United States demand for such a measure, but agreed to revisit the matter in 45 days.

President Donald Trump on Monday afternoon continued to tease an unannounced agreement between the U.S. and Mexico, despite the Mexican Foreign Minister's declaration that there was no secret or outstanding deal between the two nations.

"I don't know exactly what he's talking about", said Juan Carlos Hidalgo, a Latin America analyst at the Cato Institute.

**Trump** defended the agreement reached by US and Mexican negotiators to head off the 5% tax on all Mexican goods that **Trump** had threatened to impose Monday as he tried to pressure the country to do more to stem the flow of Central American migrants across the USA southern border.

Ebrard told a news conference on Monday that **Trump** was referring to possible further measures to pressure countries other than the USA to share the burden.

He did not provide details but threatened tariffs if Mexico's Congress did not approve the plan.

But **Trump** warned that if there is *a problem* and the "approval is not forthcoming", tariffs against Mexican imports will be imposed.

"The president has completely overblown what he reports to have achieved".

"If you feed a bully, the bully is going to come back again", Hidalgo told VOA.

Of course, this approach also means **Trump** can basically claim anything he wants, and Mexico will be forced to try to make rhetorical lemonade.

While the USA and Mexico reached a tentative deal about asylum-seekers hoping to enter the US last year, the **Trump** administration believed Mexico was not holding up its end of the bargain and the president threatened to levy major tariffs on Mexican goods as a way to bring them to the negotiating table.

Soldiers stand guard to watch for passing migrants riding in public transportation in Tapachula, Chiapas state, Mexico, Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Friday's joint declaration says Mexico agreed to the "deployment of its National Guard throughout Mexico, giving priority to its southern border". "What did we win?"

The episode revealed the complicated political dynamics at play as **Trump** and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador tussle over who made out best in the agreement hashed out under Trump's threat of new tariffs on Mexico.

The agreement would expedite a program known as the Migration Protection Protocols, which sends people seeking asylum in the United States to wait in Mexico as their cases are processed. It's unknown whether the two leaders discussed wine tariffs; neither of them mentioned the issue to reporters at their meeting.

"We are your most important market and you are our most important market". **Trump's** announcement came after three days of Mexico-U.S. negotiations in *Washington*. But calling **Trump** a liar would open up a whole new can of worms.

Asked about the tweet, Mr Ebrard said that he thought President Trump was referring to possible regional measures to be taken in conjunction with Central American nations from which most of the migrants hail from.

But **Trump** said on Monday he would go ahead with the proposed tariffs if Mexico's Congress did not back part of the deal that may need politicians' approval.