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US pecan growers seek to break out of the pie shell



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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U.S. considers tightening grip on China ties to corporate America

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The U.S. government may start scrutinizing informal partnerships between American and Chinese companies in the field of artificial intelligence, threatening practices that have long been considered garden variety development work for technology companies, sources familiar with the discussions said.

So far, U.S. government reviews for national security and other concerns have been limited to investment deals and corporate takeovers. This possible new expansion of the mandate - which would serve as a stop-gap measure until Congress imposes tighter restrictions on Chinese investments - is being pushed by members of Congress, and those in U.S. President Donald Trump's administration who worry about theft of intellectual property and technology transfer to China, according to four people familiar with the matter. Artificial intelligence, in which machines imitate intelligent human behavior, is a particular area of interest because of the technology's potential for military usage, they said. Other areas of interest for such new oversight include semiconductors and autonomous vehicles, they added.

These considerations are in early stages, so it remains unclear if they will move forward, and which informal corporate relationships this new initiative would scrutinize.

Any broad effort to sever relationships between Chinese and American tech companies - even temporarily - could have dramatic effects across the industry. Major American technology companies, including Advanced Micro Devices Inc, Qualcomm Inc, Nvidia Corp and IBM, have activities in China ranging from research labs to training initiatives, often in collaboration with Chinese companies and institutions who are major customers.

Top talent in areas including artificial intelligence and chip design also flows freely among companies and universities in both countries.

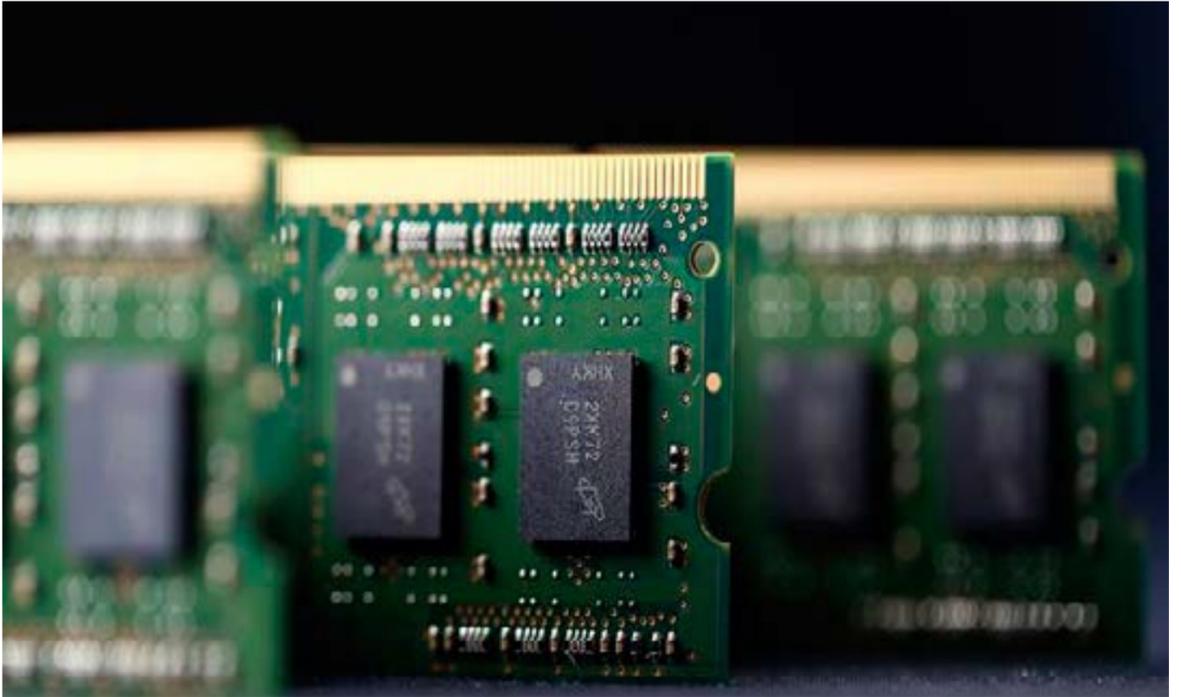
The nature of informal business relationships varies widely.

For example, when U.S. chipmaker Nvidia Corp - the leader in AI hardware - unveiled a new graphics processing unit that powers data centers, video games and cryptocurrency mining last year, it gave away samples to 30 artificial intelligence scientists, including three who work with China's government, according to Nvidia.

For a company like Nvidia, which gets a fifth of its business from China, the giveaway was business as usual. It has several arrangements to train local scientists and develop technologies there that rely on its chips. Offering early access helps Nvidia tailor products so it can sell more.

The U.S. government could nix this sort of cooperation through an executive order from Trump by invoking the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Such a move would unleash sweeping powers to stop or review informal corporate partnerships between a U.S. and Chinese company, any Chinese investment in a U.S. technology company or the Chinese purchases of real estate near sensitive U.S. military sites, the sources said.

"I don't see any alternative to having a stronger (reg-



ulatory) regime because the end result is, without it, the Chinese companies are going to get stronger," said one of the sources, who is advising U.S. lawmakers on efforts to revise and toughen U.S. foreign investment rules. "They are going to challenge our companies in 10 or 15 years."

James Lewis, a former Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Department of State who is now with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said if the emergency act was invoked, U.S. government officials including those in the Treasury Department could use it "to catch anything they want" that currently fall outside the scope of the regulatory regime. A White House official said that they do not comment on speculation about internal administration policy discussions, but added "we are concerned about Made in China 2025, particularly relevant in this case is its targeting of industries like AI."

Made in China 2025 is an industrial plan outlining China's ambition to become a market leader in 10 key sectors including semiconductors, robotics, drugs and devices and smart green cars. Last month, the White House outlined new import tariffs that were largely directed at China for what Trump described as "intellectual property theft." That prompted Chinese President Xi Jinping's government to retaliate with sanctions against the United States.

Those moves followed proposed legislation that would toughen foreign investment rules overseen by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), by giving the committee - made up of representatives from various U.S. government agencies - purview over joint ventures that involve "critical technology".

Republican and Democratic lawmakers who put forth the proposal in November said changes are aimed at China.

Whereas an overhauled CFIUS would likely review deals relevant to national security and involve foreign ownership, informal partnerships are likely to be regulated by revised export controls when they come into effect, sources said.

To be sure, sources said the Trump administration could change its mind about invoking the emergency act. They added that some

within the Treasury Department are also lukewarm about invoking the emergency act as they preferred to focus on passing the revised rules for CFIUS.

Chinese and U.S. companies are widely believed among analysts to be locked in a two-way race to become the world's leader in AI. While U.S. tech giants such as Alphabet Inc's Google are in the lead, Chinese firms like Internet services provider Baidu Inc have made significant strides, according to advisory firm Eurasia Group.

As for U.S. chipmakers, few are as synonymous with the technology as Nvidia, one of the world's top makers of the highly complex chips that power AI machines.

There is no evidence that Nvidia's activities represent a threat to national security by, for instance, offering access to trade secrets such as how to make a graphics processing unit. Nvidia also said it does not have joint ventures in China.

In a statement, Nvidia said its collaborations in China - including training Chinese scientists and giving Chinese companies such as telecom provider Huawei Technologies Co Ltd early access to some of its latest technology - are only intended to get feedback on the chips it sells there.

"We are extremely protective of our proprietary technology and know-how," Nvidia said. "We don't give any company, anywhere in the world, the core differentiating technology."

Qualcomm did not respond to requests for a comment, while Advanced Micro Devices and IBM declined to comment.

Nvidia is far from being the only U.S. tech giant, much less the only chipmaker, that lends expertise to China. But it is clearly in the sights of the Chinese. When the country's Ministry of Science and Technology solicited pitches for research projects last year, one of the listed objectives was to create a chip 20 times faster than Nvidia's

"Five years ago, this might not be a concern," said Lewis, "But it's a concern now because of the political and technological context." Korea, South Korea, April 27, 2018. Korea Summit Press Pool/Pool via Reuters

免費講座 癌症整合治療

- 什麼是免疫系統
- 什麼是細胞自然凋亡作用
- 臨床案例
- 癌症傳統治療方法有哪些
- 如何運用身體自身力量對抗癌症

傳統的癌症治療手段如化學療法、放射療法等，都是針對人體內快速生長的細胞起作用。因此，在抑制癌細胞的同時，會不可避免的對人體內其他一些健康的細胞，如發囊細胞、口腔黏膜細胞、腸胃黏膜細胞等等造成傷害，進而產生脫髮、惡心、嘔吐等等的副作用。使得許多病患承受了除腫瘤外附加的痛苦，因此，如何在對抗癌症的同時保持患者的生活品質，已經成為當今癌症治療研究的核心問題之一。

日本立川大介腫瘤醫生，運用整合療法，將傳統治療手段與激活患者自身免疫力相結合，在多年的臨床運用中取得了諸多成效。此次，立川大介醫生受邀於海之滴，前來美國舉辦癌症整合治療講座。

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US pecan growers seek to break out of the pie shell

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — The humble pecan is being rebranded as more than just pie.

Pecan growers and suppliers are hoping to sell U.S. consumers on the virtues of North America's only native nut as a hedge against a potential trade war with China, the pecan's largest export market.

The pecan industry is also trying to crack the fast-growing snack-food industry.

The retail value for packaged nuts, seeds and trail mix in the U.S. alone was \$5.7 billion in 2012, and is forecast to rise to \$7.5 billion by 2022, according to market researcher Euromonitor.

The Fort Worth, Texas-based American Pecan Council, formed in the wake of a new federal marketing order that allows the industry to band together and assess fees for research and promotion, is a half-century in the making, said Jim Anthony, 80, the owner of a 14,000-acre pecan farm near Granbury, Texas.

Anthony said that regional rivalries and turf wars across the 15-state pecan belt — stretching from the Carolinas to California — made such a union impossible until recently, when demand for pecans exploded in Asian markets.

Until 2007, most U.S. pecans were consumed domestically, according to Daniel Zedan, president of Nature's Finest Foods, a marketing group. By 2009, China was buying about a third of the U.S. crop.

The pecan is the only tree nut indigenous to North America, growers say. Sixteenth-century Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca wrote about tasting the nut during his encounters with Native American tribes in South Texas. The name is French explorers' phonetic spelling of the native word "pakan," meaning hard-shelled nut.

Facing growing competition from pecan producers in South Africa, Mexico and Australia, U.S. producers are also riding the wave of the Trump Administration's policies to promote American-made goods.

Most American kids grow up with peanut butter but peanuts probably originated in South America. Almonds are native to Asia and pistachios to the Middle East. The pecan council is funding academic research to show that their nuts are just as nutritious.

The council on Wednesday will debut a new logo: "American Pecans: The Original Supernut."

Rodney Myers, who manages operations at Anthony's pecan farm, credits the pecan's growing cachet in China

and elsewhere in Asia with its association to rustic Americana — "the oilfield, cowboys, the Wild West — they associate all these things with the North American nut," he said. China earlier this month released a list of American products that could face tariffs in retaliation for proposed U.S. tariffs on \$50 billion worth of Chinese goods. Fresh and dried nuts — including the pecan — could be slapped with a 15-percent tariff, according to the list. To counter that risk, the pecan council is using some of the \$8 million in production-based assessments it's collected since the marketing order was passed to promote the versatility of the tree nut beyond pecan pie at Thanksgiving. While Chinese demand pushed up prices it also drove away American consumers. By January 2013, prices had dropped 50 percent from their peak in 2011, according to Zedan. U.S. growers and processors were finally able in 2016 to pass a marketing order to better control pecan production and prices. Authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, federal marketing orders help producers and handlers standardize packaging, impose quality control and fund research, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees 28 other fruit, vegetable and specialty marketing orders, in addition to the pecan order. Critics charge that the orders interfere with the price signals of a free, unfettered private market. "What you've created instead is a government-sanctioned cartel," said Daren Bakst, an agricultural policy researcher at the conservative Heritage Foundation. Before the almond industry passed its own federal marketing order in 1950, fewer almonds than pecans were sold, according to pecan council chair Mike Adams, who cultivates 600 acres of pecan trees near Caldwell, Texas. Now, while almonds appear in everything from cereal to milk substitutes, Adams calls the



pecan "the forgotten nut." "We're so excited to have an identity, to break out of the pie shell," said Molly Willis, a member of the council who owns an 80-acre pecan farm in Albany, Georgia, a supplement to her husband's family's peanut-processing business.



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Editor's Choice Pictures



Tyson Fury & Terry Flanagan Press Conference



Students hold posters with pictures of South Korea's President Moon Jae-in and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un during a pro-unification rally ahead of the upcoming summit between North and South Korea in Seoul



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attends a news conference at the Alliance's headquarters, in Brussels



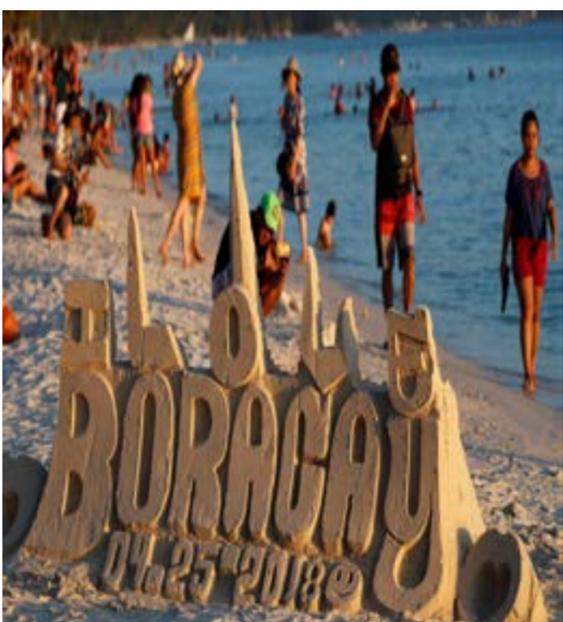
A mourner pays respects at a makeshift memorial on Yonge Street after a van attacked multiple people in Toronto



People wave South Korean flags as a convoy transporting South Korean President Moon Jae-in leaves the Presidential Blue House for the inter-Korean summit in Seoul



A man displays the Korean unification flag as he watches a news report on the inter-Korean summit, near the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas, in Paju



A sand sculpture is seen along the beach, a day before the temporary closure of the holiday island Boracay, in the Philippines



Models wait backstage before designer Lino Villaventura presents her collection during the Sao Paulo Fashion Week



The Wider Image: Beloved princes become Buddhist novices in Thailand

Texas is another step closer to having a transportation option that would sharply slice the travel time between the largest cities in the Lone Star State.

Out of hundreds of applicants across the world, the Texas Triangle, created by Hyperloop Texas, was one of 10 routes chosen to be a part of the Hyperloop One Global project. It would connect Dallas, Austin, San Antonio and Houston with a Hyperloop freight route to Laredo.

In theory, Hyperloop technology would transport someone from Austin to Dallas in less than 20 minutes by gradually accelerating pods via electric propulsion through a low-pressure tube, the technology company said.

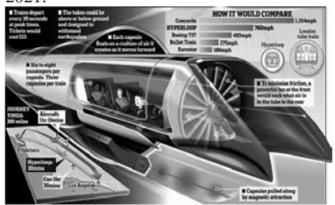
Hyperloop Texas representatives said the technology would help to eliminate mass congestion on Austin, Dallas and Houston's roadways.

HyperLoop One said the winners of the global competition showcased the best innovation and creativity. Three other U.S. companies also showed those skills, landing in the top 10. They're listed below:

-Midwest Connect: Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh
-Rocky Mountain HyperLoop: Cheyenne-Denver-Pueblo

-Miami/Orlando Hyperloop: Miami-Orlando Next, all of the winners will work with Hyperloop One to improve their proposals and provide ridership forecasts. Through workshops, the teams will also work on the feasibility aspect of the routes.

If all goes according to plan, HyperLoop One would have three routes in service by 2021.



Hyperloop One, the only company in the world that has built a full-scale Hyperloop system, announced the winners of its Hyperloop One Global Challenge on September 14, 2017, to identify the strongest new Hyperloop routes in the world. Following a close assessment of the proposals by a panel of experts in infrastructure, technology and transportation, ten teams from five countries were chosen from among hundreds of applicants. Hyperloop One will commit meaningful business and engineering resources and work closely with each of the winning teams/routes to determine their commercial viability. Additionally, as a direct result of the Global Challenge, Hyperloop One and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), with support from AECOM, will enter a public private partnership to begin a feasibility study in Colorado.

Transportation Option Would Reduce The Travel Time Between The Two Largest Cities In The State
Texas' 20-Minute Hyperloop Ride From Houston To Dallas Closer To Reality

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Artist's rendering showing elevated Hyperloop running parallel to a freeway.

Hyperloop One Global Challenge winners represent the United States, the United Kingdom, Mexico, India and Canada.

"The Hyperloop One Global Challenge started as a call to action for innovators, engineers, trailblazers and dreamers around the world who shared our vision of creating a new mode of transportation," said Shervin Pishevar, co-founder and Executive Chairman of Hyperloop One.

"The Global Challenge became a movement of thousands of people from more than 100 countries over six continents. Like us, they believe that Hyperloop will not only solve transportation and urban development challenges within communities, it will unlock vast economic potential and transform how our cities operate and how we live. Our successful test this summer made Hyperloop a reality, and now we're ready to bring our Hyperloop system to the world."



Photo shows Hyperloop pod entering the Hyperloop evacuated tube.

Hyperloop One will now work closely with each winning team to validate and analyze their proposals further, and provide initial ridership forecasts, business case and preliminary technical analysis of the route and corridor, tailored to the needs of the individual route.

Hyperloop One's business and technical leaders will host in-country workshops with each team, and connect them with Hyperloop One's global partner network to sharpen the feasibility and scope of the potential routes. Another 11 finalist teams will continue to develop their proposals with the support of Hyperloop One.

The Hyperloop One Global Challenge kicked off in May 2016 as an open call to individuals, universities, companies and governments to develop comprehensive proposals for deploying Hyperloop One's innovative transportation technology in their region. The winning teams/routes were chosen based on specific criteria including well-defined routes and implementation strategies, key stakeholder involvement from public and private sectors, compelling business cases, and innovative and creative applications of a Hyperloop system.

"The excitement around Hyperloop is in its potential to reimagine transportation by eliminating the barriers of distance and time," said Michael S. Burke, AECOM's

chairman and chief executive officer. "That half of the winning teams are supported by AECOM demonstrates the power of our connected expertise and is further evidence that these are the kinds of problems AECOM is built to take on and solve. We're excited to be part of Hyperloop One's efforts to create impactful use cases for a technology that can transform what it means to get from point A to B anywhere in the world."

Hyperloop One and the Colorado Department of Transportation, supported by AECOM, will enter into a public-private partnership that will begin a feasibility study that examines transportation demand, economic benefits, proposed routes and potential strategies, regulatory environments and alignment with overall CDOT high-speed travel, rail and freight plans.



The Hyperloop pod with passengers.
"The results of the Hyperloop One Global Challenge far exceeded our expectations," said Rob Lloyd, CEO of Hyperloop One. "We had tremendous interest in this competition, and these ten teams each had their unique strengths in showcasing how they

will alleviate serious transportation issues in their regions. We're also excited about the partnership with CDOT and AECOM, which was a direct result of the Global Challenge and a testament to the power of open innovation. This is unprecedented and demonstrates how quickly the public-private sectors can partner to make Hyperloop systems a reality around the world. Studies like this bring us closer to our goal of implementing three full-scale systems operating by 2021."

"We are excited to partner with Hyperloop One in exploring the next step of feasibility of this innovative technology, potentially transforming how Colorado moves," said Shailen Bhatt, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Transportation. "The Hyperloop technology could directly align with our goals of improving mobility and safety in Colorado, and we have been encouraged by the continued progress the technology is taking."



The winning routes connect 53 urban centers and nearly 150 million people representing Canada, India, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. Their combined distance spans 6,628 km (4,121 miles).

The winning routes connect 53 urban centers and nearly 150 million people representing Canada, India, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. Their combined distance spans 6,628 km (4,121 miles), the full list of potential Hyperloop routes are:

Route	Length (km)	Length (miles)	Urban Centers	Population
US Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh Team: Midwest Connect	785	488	3	13,800,000
US Dallas-Laredo-Houston Team: Texas Triangle	1030	640	5	18,771,000
US Cheyenne-Denver-Pueblo Team: Rocky Mountain Hyperloop	580	360	10	4,831,000
US Miami-Orlando Team: Miami/Orlando Hyperloop	414	257	2	8,500,000
India Bengaluru-Chennai Team: AECOM India	334	208	6	17,710,000
India Mumbai-Chennai Team: Hyperloop India	1102	685	10	43,190,000
UK Edinburgh-London Team: HypED	666	414	4	19,151,514
UK Glasgow-Liverpool Team: Northern Arc	545	339	6	9,715,488
Mexico Mexico City-Guadalajara Team: Mexloop	532	330	4	33,530,000
Canada Toronto-Montreal Team: HyperCan	640	400	3	13,326,000

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Meet Dr. Amy En-Hui Chen



Amy En-Hui Chen, M.D.
Family Medicine
Mandarin
Meyerland Plaza Clinic

Dr. Chen is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. She completed her internship and residency at Baylor College of Medicine. Her special clinical interests include women's health, preventive medicine, adolescent medicine, hypertension, and obesity management.

"The goal of my practice is to establish a nurturing, positive environment where my patients feel comfortable to discuss their health issues and situations. I enjoy getting to know my patients and developing lifelong relationships with them. I believe in educating patients to better understand their health conditions and disease processes, while making them an active partner in their ongoing care. I emphasize preventive care and lifestyle changes to help improve their overall health and quality of life."

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As Trade War Looms, Trump Says China Will Do The 'Right Thing'

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

WASHINGTON (AP)— Amid global fears of an escalating trade dispute between the U.S. and China, President Donald Trump suggested that Beijing will ease trade barriers “because it is the right thing to do” and that the economic superpowers can settle the conflict that has rattled financial markets, consumers and businesses.

But fostering more uncertainty, the president’s top economic advisers offered mixed messages Sunday as to the best approach with China, which has threatened to retaliate if Washington follows through with its proposed tariffs, even as Trump emphasized his bond with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

“President Xi and I will always be friends, no matter what happens with our dispute on trade,” Trump wrote. “China will take down its Trade Barriers because it is the right thing to do. Taxes will become Reciprocal & a deal will be made on Intellectual Property. Great future for both countries!” But Trump did not explain why, amid a week of economic saber-rattling between the two countries that shook global markets, he felt confident a deal could be made.



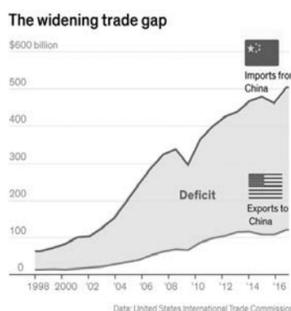
U.S. President Donald Trump and China's President Xi Jinping arrive at a state dinner at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Nov. 9, 2017. (Courtesy/REUTERS)

The president made fixing the trade imbalance with China a centerpiece of his presidential campaign, where he frequently used incendiary language to describe how Beijing would “rape” the U.S. economically. But even as Trump cozied up to Xi and pressed China for help with derailing North Korea’s nuclear ambitions, he has ratcheted up the economic pressure and threatened tariffs, a move opposed by many fellow Republicans.

The Trump administration has said it is taking action as a crackdown on China’s theft of U.S. intellectual property. The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind. China has pledged to “counterattack with



great strength” if Trump decides to follow through on his latest threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods — after an earlier announcement that targeted \$50 billion. Beijing also declared that the current rhetoric made negotiations impossible, even as the White House suggested that the tariff talk was a way to spur China to the bargaining table. The new White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, said Sunday that a “coalition of the willing” — including Canada, much of Europe and Australia — was being formed to pressure China and that the U.S. would demand that the World Trade Organization, an arbiter of trade disputes, be stricter on Beijing. And he said that although the U.S. hoped to avoid taking action, Trump “was not bluffing.”



“This is a problem caused by China, not a problem caused by President Trump,” Kudlow said on “Fox News Sunday.”

But he also downplayed the tariff threat as “part of the process,” suggested on CNN that the impact would be “benign” and said he was hopeful that China would enter negotiations. Kudlow, who started his job a week ago after his predecessor, Gary Cohn, quit over the tariff plan, brushed aside the possibility of economic repercussions.

“I don’t think there’s any trade war in sight,” Kudlow told Fox.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin said on CBS’ “Face the Nation” that he didn’t expect the tariffs to have a “meaningful impact on the economy” even as he left the door open for disruption. He allowed that there “could be” a trade war but said he didn’t anticipate one.

Another top White House economic adviser, Peter Navarro, took a tougher tack, declaring that China’s behavior was “a wake-up call to Americans.”

“They are in competition with us over economic prosperity and national defense,” Navarro said on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” “Every day of the week China comes into our homes, our business and our government agencies. ... This country is losing its strength even as China has grown its economy.”

Trump’s latest proposal intensified what

was already shaping up to be the biggest trade battle in more than a half century.



Trump told advisers last week that he was unhappy with China’s decision to tax \$50 billion in American products, including soybeans and small aircraft, in response to a U.S. move to impose tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods. Rather than waiting weeks for the U.S. tariffs to be implemented, Trump backed a plan by Robert Lighthizer, his trade representative, to seek the enhanced tariffs.

The rising economic tensions pose a test to what has become Trump’s frequent dual-track foreign policy strategy: to establish close personal ties with another head of state even as his administration takes a harder line. The president has long talked up his friendship with Xi, whom he has praised for consolidating power in China despite its limits on democratic reforms. Further escalation could be in the offing. The U.S. Treasury Department is working on plans to restrict Chinese technology investments in the U.S. And there is talk that the U.S. could also put limits on visas for Chinese who want to visit or study in this country.

For Trump, the dispute runs the risk of blunting the economic benefits of his tax overhaul, which is at the center of congressional Republicans’ case for voters to keep them in power in the 2018 elections. China’s retaliation so far has targeted Midwest farmers, many of whom were bedrock Trump supporters. (Courtesy apnews.com)

Related

Trump and Xi -- “Always Friends”

A new Trump tweet doesn’t explain why he’s optimistic about resolving an escalating trade clash between the world’s two biggest economies.

Trump says he and Chinese President Xi Jinping “will always be friends, no matter what happens with our dispute on trade.” Trump insists “China will take down its Trade Barriers because it is the right thing to do. Taxes will become Reciprocal & a deal will be made on Intellectual Property. Great future for both countries!”



The U.S. bought more than \$500-billion in goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150-billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130-billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.

China has pledged to “counterattack with great strength” if Trump decides to follow through on his latest threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$100-billion in Chinese goods — after an earlier announcement that targeted \$50-billion.

The Trump administration also is pushing for a crackdown on what it says is China’s theft of U.S. intellectual property. Conflicting messages about the trade fight have come out in recent days from some top members of Trump’s team.



Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said he was “cautiously optimistic” that the U.S. and China could reach an agreement before any tariffs went into place. But he also said “there is the potential of a trade war.”

The new White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, has said the U.S. is “not in a trade war” and that “China is the problem. Blame China, not Trump.” (Courtesy https://www.theglobeandmail.com)

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