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U.S., China bicker over 'extravagant expectations' on trade deal



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U.S. says to send more troops to the Middle East, cites Iran threats



Flight deck of the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) is seen as sailors swip the deck for foreign object and debris (FOD) walk-down on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in Arabian Sea, May 19, 2019. Garrett LaBarge/U.S. Navy/Handout via REUTERS

WASHINGTON/DUBAI (Reuters) - Acting U.S. Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan announced on Monday the deployment of about 1,000 more troops to the Middle East for what he said were defensive purposes, citing concerns about a threat from Iran. Fears of a confrontation between Iran and the United States have mounted since last Thursday when two oil tankers were attacked, which Washington has blamed on Tehran, more than a year after President Donald Trump said Washington was withdrawing from a 2015 nuclear deal.

"The recent Iranian attacks validate the reliable, credible intelligence we have received on hostile behavior by Iranian forces and their proxy groups that threaten United States personnel and interests across the region," Shanahan said in a statement.

The new U.S. deployment to the Middle East is in addition to a 1,500-troop increase announced last month in response to tanker attacks in May. Washington previously tightened sanctions, ordering all countries and companies to halt imports of Iranian oil or be banished from the global financial system.

Iran said on Monday it would soon breach limits on how much enriched uranium it can stockpile under the deal, which a White House National Security Council spokesman said amounted to "nuclear blackmail."

The 2015 accord, which Iran and the other signatories have maintained following Trump's decision, caps Iran's stock of low-enriched uranium at 300 kg enriched to 3.67 percent.

But Iran's Atomic Energy Organization spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Monday: "We have quadrupled the rate of enrichment (of uranium) and even increased it more recently, so that in 10 days it will bypass the 300 kg limit."

"Iran's reserves are every day increasing at a more rapid rate," he told state TV, adding that "the move will be reversed once other parties fulfil their commitments."

The move further undermines the nuclear pact also signed by Russia, Britain, Germany, China and the European Union, but Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said the collapse of the deal would not

be in the interests of the region or the world.

The nuclear deal seeks to head off any pathway to an Iranian nuclear bomb in return for the removal of most international sanctions.

Flight deck of the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) is seen as sailors swip the deck for foreign object and debris (FOD) walk-down on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in Arabian Sea, May 19, 2019. Garrett LaBarge/U.S. Navy/Handout via REUTERS

Britain said if Iran breached agreed limits, London would look at "all options." Israel, Iran's arch foe, urged world powers to step up sanctions against Tehran swiftly should it exceed the enriched uranium limit.

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said, however, the EU would only react to any breach if the International Atomic Energy Agency formally identified one.

GULF TANKERS

Trump's administration has accused Iran of being behind the explosions on tankers in the Gulf of Oman, a vital oil shipping route.

The United States released a video last week it said showed Iran's Revolutionary Guard was behind the latest attacks near the Strait of Hormuz on the Norwegian-owned Front Altair, which was set ablaze, and the Japanese-owned Kokuka Courageous.

The U.S. military released additional imagery on Monday.

"Iran is responsible for the attack based on video evidence and the resources and proficiency needed to quickly remove the unexploded limpet mine," Central Command said in a statement.

A U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the new deployment included forces who operate the U.S. military's airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities that help detect threats and scoop up sensitive imagery and intelligence. The deployment would also involve personnel who can strengthen protection of U.S. troops already deployed to the region.

Iran's armed forces chief of staff, Major General Mohammad Baqeri, denied on Monday that Tehran was behind the attacks and said if the Islamic Republic decided to block the strategic Strait of Hormuz shipping lane, it would do so publicly.

The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, said Tehran was responsible for security in the Gulf and urged U.S. forces to leave the region, state TV said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has spoken to officials from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, China, Kuwait, South Korea, Britain and other countries to share evidence of Iran's involvement in the attacks on the Norwegian and Japanese tankers, a senior State Department official said.



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U.S., China bicker over 'extravagant expectations' on trade deal

BEIJING/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - China accused the United States on Monday of harboring "extravagant expectations" for a trade deal...

Adding to tensions, the U.S. military said one of its warships sailed near the disputed Scarborough Shoal claimed by China in the South China Sea on Sunday...

Alphabet Inc's Google has also suspended business with China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd that requires the transfer of hardware, software and technical services...

The decision was a blow to the company the U.S. government has sought to blacklist around the world.

Shares in European chipmakers Infineon Technologies, AMS and STMicroelectronics fell sharply on Monday amid worries the Huawei suppliers may suspend shipments to the Chinese firm due to the U.S. blacklisting.

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The Trump administration's addition of Huawei to a trade blacklist on Thursday immediately enacted restrictions that will make it extremely difficult for it to do business with U.S. counterparts.

In an interview with Fox News Channel recorded last week and aired on Sunday night, Trump said the United States and China "had a very strong deal, we had a good deal, and they changed it. And I said 'that's OK, we're going to tariff their products.'"

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said he didn't know what Trump was talking about.

"We don't know what this agreement is the United States is talking about. Perhaps the United States has an agreement they all along had extravagant expectations for, but it's certainly not a so-called agreement that China agreed to," he told a daily news briefing.

The reason the last round of China-U.S. talks did not reach an agreement is because the United States tried "to achieve unreasonable interests through extreme pressure," Lu said. "From the start this wouldn't work."

China went into the last round of talks with a sincere and constructive attitude, he said.

"I would like to reiterate once again that China-U.S. economic and trade consultation can only follow the correct track of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit for there to be hope of success."

No further trade talks between top Chinese and U.S. negotiators have been scheduled since the last round ended on May 10 - the same day Trump raised the tariff rate on \$200 billion worth of Chinese products from 10 percent.

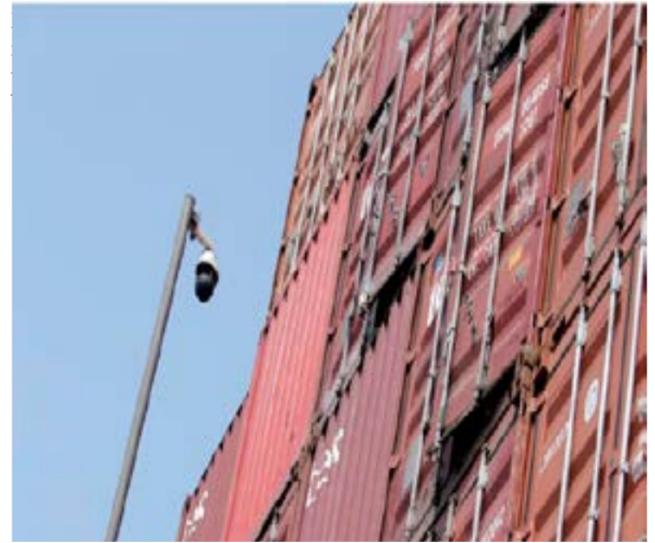
Trump took the step after the United States said China backtracked on commitments in a draft deal that had been largely agreed.

STERNER TONE

Since then, China has struck a sterner tone, suggesting that a resumption of talks aimed at ending the 10-month trade war between the world's two largest economies was unlikely to happen soon.

Beijing has said it will take "necessary measures" to defend the rights of Chinese companies but has not said whether or how it will retaliate over the U.S. actions against Huawei. Later on Monday, the official China Daily also lambasted the latest U.S. actions in a strongly worded editorial, saying that with its treatment of Huawei, the U.S. government had revealed all its ugliness in its dealings with other countries.

"It seems as if the U.S. takes it for granted that it has the absolute say over everything in its dealings with the rest of the



world, which has to take whatever the U.S. dishes out no matter how arbitrary and despotic that is," China Daily said.

"But China will not take it and neither will Huawei." The editor of the Global Times, an influential tabloid run by the ruling Communist Party's People's Daily, tweeted on Monday that he had switched to a Huawei phone, although he said his decision did not mean that he thinks it is right to boycott Apple and that he was not throwing away his iPhone.

"While the U.S. spares no efforts to subdue Huawei, out of personal belief, I chose to support the well respected company by using its product," Hu Xijin tweeted.

A surveillance camera is seen next to containers at a logistics center near Tianjin Port, in northern China, May 16, 2019. REUTERS/Jason Lee

Trump, who said the interview with Fox News host Steve Hilton had taken place two days after he raised the tariffs, said he would be happy to simply keep tariffs on Chinese goods, but that he believed China would eventually make a deal with the United States "because they're getting killed with the tariffs."

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Editor's Choice



A sign left on a window saying 'Pink Floyd built a wall so why can't Trump' is seen during the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump in the County Clare village of Doonbeg



Men work inside a HL-2M Tokamak nuclear fusion reactor under construction in Chengdu



U.S. President Trump returns from overseas travel at the White House in Washington



Najila Trindade de Souza, who accuses Brazilian soccer player Neymar of rape, is carried by her lawyer Danilo Garcia de Andrade after giving testimony in a police station, in Sao Paulo



People take cover after reports of shots fired at Toronto Raptors victory parade in Toronto



A migrant from India registers to get his permission to cross the country at the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) in Tapachula



People take pictures as they visit a panda pavilion at the Moscow Zoo on a hot summer day in the capital Moscow, Russia REUTERS/Tatyana Makeyeva TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A graduating student listens as former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg delivers the Commencement Address at MIT in Cambridge

Adoptees Still Pushing For Citizenship; Legislation Re-introduced In 2018



Members of the Adoptee Rights Campaign took their story to the Hill for a briefing co-hosted by Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Adam Smith (D-Wash.), as well as former Rep. Bill Delahunt, who led the effort to pass the Child Citizenship Act in 2000. The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018 was introduced on March 8. Photo from the Adoptee Rights Campaign.

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

The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2018 will provide U.S. citizenship for adoptees whose parents failed to finalize citizenship for them during their childhood despite being adopted as young children by U.S. citizens.

"International adoptees who were adopted by American parents and raised as Americans should have the same rights of citizenship as biological children," said Hirono in a press release yesterday. "I'm proud to work with Senator Blunt to close the loophole in the Child Citizenship Act and right this wrong."

The loophole has received widespread attention in the last few years with high profile cases like Adam Crapser who was deported to Korea, despite having been adopted by American citizens as a toddler. Crapser, like Korean adoptee Philip Clay, was deported after an arrest that flagged their citizenship status. Once deported to their country of birth adoptees face any number of challenges, starting with not knowing the language and not being connected to anyone there. At age 42, Clay jumped from the 14th story of a Korean apartment building to his death May 21, 2017.

Despite these high profile cases, The Adoptee Citizenship Act failed to pass during the 114th Congress in late 2016. But adoptees haven't given up advocating for the passage of this bill.



An estimated 35,000-75,000 international adoptees are impacted and living in the United States without citizenship despite being adopted by American citizens and raised in this country their entire lives, according to statistics from the Adoptee Rights Campaign.

In 2000, the Child Citizenship Act was passed to help remedy this problem for intercountry adoptees, making citizenship automatic for children adopted internationally. But the passage of that law was only made applicable for international adoptions from 2000 forward, leaving all those adopted prior to that

without citizenship and vulnerable to deportation if they did not go through the naturalization process while they were minors.

"Closing the existing loopholes in the Child Citizenship Act will ensure international adoptees are treated equally under U.S. law," said Rep. Adam Smith, in a press release today. This bill will positively impact thousands of Americans, by granting citizenship they should have had in the first place and fostering stability in their lives and communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this important legislation."



In 2016, an immigration judge ruled that Korean American adoptee, Adam Crapser, will not be granted relief from pending deportation to South Korea. Crapser, who is married and has three small children, was adopted by an American couple at the age of three and is alienated from his birth country and culture.

Fortunately for Kim-Alessi, she has her permanent resident status, which allows her to remain in this country and be gainfully employed. But she is not allowed to vote, collect government benefits or apply for federal employment.

"This bill is going to monumentally life-changing," said Kim-Alessi who in recent years had succumbed to the idea that she would remain a permanent legal resident her entire life. "Since I've never been a citizen, it's hard to opine in all the ways this would impact me." (Courtesy

<https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/>)

Related

Bill aims to protect Korean-American adoptees from deportation



Korean-American adoptees are drawing attention to a petition and calling on Congress to support a law to prevent deportations of legal adoptees. File Photo by Kevin Dietsch/UPI | License Photo

NEW YORK, May 29 (UPI) -- Tens of thousands of international adoptees in the United States, many of them of Korean descent, are under threat of potential deportation because of neglected paperwork.

Adoptees legally adopted by U.S. citizens need better protection, and a new law could lift them out of immigration limbo, said Jenny Town, a leading analyst in Washington on North Korea affairs, and managing editor of 38 North.

The Adoptee Citizenship Act of 2019 would allow certain adoptees, whose applications for U.S. citizenship were never filed with the government before 2000, to acquire automatic citizenship, she said.



Town, herself a Korean-American adoptee, has been circulating the petition, calling on Congress to support the new law. But the request is being made at a time when the Trump administration continues to pursue a wall at the Mexico border, and the president's supporters want to curtail immigration.

The act, if passed, would also allow deported adoptees to return to the United States.

Town is concerned the current mood in Washington could hurt their chances.

"On the policy side of immigration, people view this as criminals coming back, or trying to come back, regardless of the type of crime," Town said.

The petition is being circulated online following the high-profile deportation of Adam Crapser, a South Korea-born adoptee brought to the United States at age 3 but deported in 2016 over criminal convictions, including unlawful possession of a firearm and assault.



Town said Crapser is one of many cases of deportations. Other adoptees were forcibly removed because of minor violations, even unpaid parking tickets, she said.

Town, who was adopted when she was 3 years old, said the South Korean experience with inter-country adoptions offers a cautionary tale.

While many children needed homes, others were "recruited from poor families" in past decades.

"The system wasn't regulated," Town said. "That's where the problem stems from." (Courtesy <https://www.upi.com/>)

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The Transportation Security Administration updated its policy on cannabis over the Memorial Day weekend, making changes to the medical marijuana section of its “What Can I Bring?” webpage from reading “no” to “yes” (with “special instructions”). Specifically, the agency is clarifying that hemp-derived CBD products may now be carried on planes under certain circumstances. Previously, the TSA made no distinction between marijuana and hemp-derived preparations and warned on its website that cannabis products cannot be taken as carry-on items or in checked bags. But since the 2018 Farm Bill federally legalized hemp and its derivatives, that’s no longer the case. Now the agency’s webpage specifies that possession of “certain” cannabis products are illegal under federal law, and TSA agents are required to report suspected violations such as possession of “certain” products to law enforcement.



Here’s the new policy as it appears on TSA’s website:

Medical Marijuana

Carry On Bags: Yes (Special Instructions)

Checked Bags: Yes (Special Instructions)

Possession of marijuana and certain cannabis infused products, including some Cannabidiol (CBD) oil, remain illegal under federal law. TSA officers are required to report any suspected violations of law, including possession of marijuana and certain cannabis infused products.

Products/medications that contain hemp-derived CBD or are approved by the FDA are legal as long as it is produced within the regulations defined by the law under the Agriculture Improvement Act 2018.

TSA’s screening procedures are focused on security and are designed to detect potential threats to aviation and passengers. Accordingly, TSA security officers do not search for marijuana or other illegal drugs, but if any illegal substance is discovered during security screening, TSA will refer the matter to a law enforcement officer.

“Products/medications that contain hemp-derived CBD or are approved by the FDA are legal as long as it is produced within the regulations defined by the law under the Agriculture Improvement Act 2018,” a new section states.

Report: TSA Moves To Allow Hemp-Derived CBD On Flights



CBD buds of chocolate by Chronic Candy are displayed at the Big Industry Show at the Los Angeles Convention Center.(RICHARD VOGEL/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE)

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



It’s not clear how the agency plans to enforce the new policy, unless it intends to train agents to test CBD preparations for the presence of THC and maintain a database

of products that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

A TSA spokesperson told Marijuana Moment in an e-mail that the policy change was spurred by the FDA’s approval of a cannabis-derived anti-seizure medication, Epidiolex.

“TSA was made aware of an FDA-approved drug that contains CBD oil for children who experience seizures from pediatric epilepsy,” the spokesperson wrote. “To avoid confusion as to whether families can travel with this drug, TSA immediately updated TSA.gov once we became aware of the issue.”

But the FDA approved the CBD prescription drug nearly a year ago, calling into question the notion that the TSA acted “im-

mediately.”

The rest of the TSA page on cannabis mostly retains language from the earlier version. The agency’s efforts are “focused on security and are designed to detect potential threats to aviation and passengers,” it says, so it doesn’t use resources to seek out illicit drugs.



However, “if any illegal substance is discovered during security screening, TSA will refer the matter to a law enforcement officer.”

The TSA has gone back-and-forth on its marijuana policy as more states opt to legalize the plant for medical or adult use. In April 2017, the agency took advocates by surprise after it updated the medical marijuana section of the “What Can I Bring?” page to include a green “yes,” indicating that medical cannabis was permitted in carry-ons or checked bags.

“TSA security officers do not search for marijuana or other drugs,” the page said at the time. “In the event a substance that appears to be marijuana is observed during security screening, TSA will refer the matter to a law enforcement officer.”

But shortly after the page started attracting press attention, TSA temporarily removed the medical cannabis section and tweeted that a “mistake was made in the database.” The agency later posted an updated version of the page, which specified that marijuana was not in fact allowed on planes.

“With the legalization of industrial hemp and its derivatives, multiple federal agencies are now revisiting their policies to clarify what is and isn’t allowed.

The US Patent and Trademark Office released a memo earlier this month stipulating that certain hemp products may qualify for registered trademarks. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau said in April that CBD cannot currently be added to alcoholic beverages, as the FDA has yet to release updated guidelines on adding hemp-derived products into the food supply.



Hemp growing at a farm.

The US Department of Agriculture has told industry stakeholders that they are allowed to import hemp seeds from other countries, and the agency also said it was accepting intellectual property protection applications. Both the FDA and the USDA are in the process of developing broader regulatory guidelines for hemp and its derivatives, with the FDA set to hold a public hearing on the issue this Friday. (Courtesy <https://www.bostonglobe.com/>)

Medical Marijuana

Carry On Baggage: Yes
Checked Baggage: Yes

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