

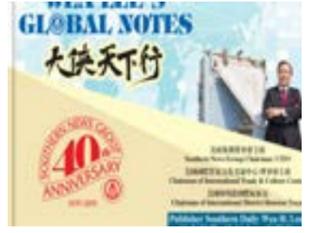


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WTO finds Washington broke trade rules by putting tariffs on China; ruling angers U.S



FILE PHOTO: A logo is pictured on the headquarters of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland, June 2, 2020. REUTERS/Denis Balibouse

GENEVA/BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The World Trade Organization found on Tuesday that the United States breached global trading rules by imposing multibillion-dollar tariffs in President Donald Trump's trade war with China, a ruling that drew anger from Washington.

The Trump administration says its tariffs imposed two years ago on more than \$200 billion in Chinese goods were justified because China was stealing intellectual property and forcing U.S. companies to transfer technology for access to China's markets.

But the WTO's three-member panel said the U.S. duties broke trading rules because they applied only to China and were above maximum rates agreed to by the United States. Washington had not then adequately explained why its measures were a justified exception, the panel concluded.

"This panel report confirms what the Trump administration has been saying for four years: the WTO is completely inadequate to stop China's harmful technology practices," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said in response.

China's Commerce Ministry said Beijing supported the multilateral trading system and respected WTO rules and rulings, and hoped Washington would do the same.

The decision will have little immediate effect on the U.S. tariffs and is just the start of a legal process that could

take years to play out, ultimately leading to the WTO approving retaliatory measures if it is upheld - moves that China has already taken on its own.

The United States is likely to appeal Tuesday's ruling. That would put the case into a legal void, however, because Washington has already blocked the appointment of judges to the WTO's appellate body, preventing it from convening the minimum number required to hear cases.

The WTO panel was aware it was stepping into hot water. It noted that it had looked only into the U.S. measures and not China's retaliation, which Washington has not challenged at the WTO.

"The panel is very much aware of the wider context in which the WTO system currently operates, which is one reflecting a range of unprecedented global trade tensions," the 66-page report concluded.

The panel recommended the United States bring its measures "into conformity with its obligations", but also encouraged the two sides to work to resolve the overall dispute.

Trump says 'will have to do something' about WTO after China ruling
Defiant USTR says WTO China tariff ruling shows trade body's inadequacy
"Time is available for the parties to take stock as proceedings evolve and further consider opportunities for mutually agreed and satisfactory solutions," it said.

During a two-year trade war with Beijing, Trump threatened tariffs on nearly all Chinese imports - more than \$500 billion - before the

two countries signed a "Phase 1" trade deal in January. Extra tariffs are still in place on some \$370 billion worth of Chinese goods, and \$62.16 billion in duties have been collected since July 2018, U.S. Customs data here show.

Trump has described the WTO as "horrible" and biased towards China, often threatening to quit.

As he left the White House for a campaign rally, Trump said he would "have to do something about the WTO because they've let China get away with murder."

He said he needed to take a closer look at the ruling, but added: "I'm not a big fan of the WTO - that I can tell you right now. Maybe they did us a big favor."

The decision could help fuel a Trump decision to leave the WTO or underpin U.S. arguments for reforming the 25-year-old trade body, said Margaret Cekuta, a former USTR official who helped write a crucial report on China's intellectual property abuses that preceded Trump's tariffs.

"It gives the administration ammo to say the WTO is out of date. If they can't rule on intellectual property rights, then what is their position in the broader economy going forward?" said Cekuta, now a principal with the Capitol Counsel lobbying firm.

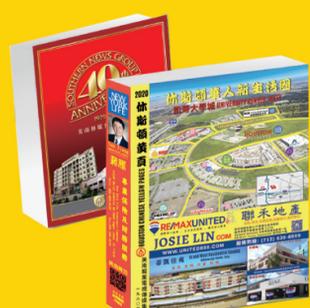
Trump, critical of multilateral institutions, has already quit the U.N. cultural organisation UNESCO and plans to leave the World Health Organization.

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Tik Tok Will Partner With Oracle

A deal to satisfy the Trump administration's national security concerns about the short form video App, Tik Tok, was struck when the computer technology giant Oracle joined Tik Tok as its business partner in the United States. The news comes after weeks of speculation about the Chinese app's future in the United States.

President Trump had demanded that the app be sold or else shut down in the United States. The news about the Oracle deal came out after Microsoft announced that it would not buy Tik Tok's U.S. operation.

Tik Tok has exploded in popularity in

western countries and has become the first Chinese social media platform to gain significant market share. It was downloaded 315 million times in the first three months of this year. But Trump said the app posed a threat to national security because it could be used as a spy tool by Beijing. Tik Tok has denied those allegations and said its data centers are located entirely out of China.

Tik Tok's deal with Oracle is expected to be clarified by the U.S. Commerce Department as to which types of business dealings involving Tik Tok will be prohibited in the country.

In the meantime, the Chinese state



media reported that the owner of Tik Tok, ByteDance, would not sell to any U.S. company.

All of the deal must satisfy all regulatory and national security concerns of the

United States.

We hope this deal will go through and let hundreds of millions of users continue to enjoy the Tik Tok App.



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Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

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U.S. Army Pools Resources To Aid In Race For Coronavirus Vaccine



A research assistant with the Emerging Infectious Disease Branch (EIDB), at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR), studies coronavirus protein samples, June 1, 2020. The EIDB is part of WRAIR's effort to produce a COVID-19 vaccine candidate. (Photo/Mike Walters/U.S. Army)

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

A supply cart rolls down the long corridors at the institute just outside Washington, D.C., past labs and displays picturing nineteenth century scientists, letters and artifacts. There are closed doors with small signs on the wall. One says "Viral diseases." Another simply, "Malaria." Inside one of these offices is the scientist heading Army efforts to aid in the race for a vaccine for the current pandemic: Kayvon Modjarrad, a civilian doctor. He's a large man, with wireless glasses and an easy-going manner. His parents came from Iran to New York City back in the 1970s. He became interested in vaccines after taking a class as a medical student.

"I decided that I wanted to work on vaccines," he says, "because it is the most cost effective and impactful public health tool that we have to saving lives." Modjarrad says he knew he was interested in medicine early on, "I got my first Fisher-Price doctor's kit when I was four for the Persian New Year." Modjarrad is developing the Army's coronavirus vaccines, but is also part of Operation Warp Speed, the government's efforts to help private companies in the U.S. and internationally create coronavirus vaccines.



Agi Hajduczki is a research scientist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Infectious Diseases. She is part of a team working on a COVID-19 vaccine. (Photo/Tom Bowman/NPR)

"The most cost effective and impactful public health tool"

"So our institution and our network of sites here in the US and internationally are involved with many different companies," he says. That means sharing the Army's expertise. Labs. Research animals. Locations for human trials, in Washington, D.C., San Diego and San Antonio. The Army also has partners and labs in Europe,

Asia and Africa. Modjarrad and other officials liken the vaccine effort to a horse race, with multiple companies coming out of the gate at the same time. "Sort of whole of government approach has been putting our bets on multiple horses because we're not interested in one particular horse," he says. "We're interested in a horse, at least one horse, making it across the finish line as fast as possible and being safe and effective and accessible for our entire public and population."

"It's not like after the Phase three trial, 'Hey, the vaccine is ready for everyone,'" Modjarrad says. "We start to phase it into the population and we still collect information on how people are responding to that vaccine until we get to a point where it becomes broadly available to the entire population."



Kayvon Modjarrad is the scientist heading Army efforts to aid in the race for a vaccine for the current pandemic. (Photo/Samir Deshpande/Walter Reed Army Institute of Infectious Diseases)

Modjarrad says that this pandemic will pass, there will be multiple vaccines and people will be protected from this going on in the future, "but we have to be prepared" for future pandemics, he says, "these emerging infectious threats, Zika, Ebola coronavirus, a new strain of influenza. It's not going away." The Army has a long history of producing vaccines. Modjarrad worked on vaccines for Zika and MERs. And one recently approved for Ebola. And then there's Walter Reed, the namesake. He was an Army major in the early 1900s who discovered that yellow fever was spread by mosquitoes, not poor sanitation as some believed at the time. The virus had a devastating effect on soldiers and those working in tropical climates.

"So we sprayed and killed all mosquitoes," Modjarrad says. "People weren't dying. They built the Panama Canal."

Diversity and inclusion
Modjarrad's boss, Nelson Michael, director

of the Center for Infectious Disease Research, is in a nearby office. There are colored maps of Africa and the world in Michael's office. A picture of him in his uniform, when he was an Army colonel. He's often on the phone talking with participants of Operation Warp Speed, a name that has caused some to worry the speed has more to do with politics than science. President Trump himself has fed that perception by suggesting a vaccine



could be ready before Election Day, a view scientists say is unlikely.

"There's been a lot of concern about what's being sacrificed by moving so quickly," he acknowledges. "And I can tell you, one thing is very clear it's being sacrificed and it's money." Michael says in the past vaccine development would take so long — often years — in part because companies and governments were wary of making an investment. A vaccine would be manufactured only after all approvals were done. The coronavirus changed all that. "Now, everyone's throwing financial caution to the winds and billions of dollars are in play," Michael says. "But now you have, of course, a worldwide pandemic that's costing trillions of dollars and impacting, you know, millions of people's lives." Michael is also concerned about another controversy: Are human trials getting to a good cross section of the population, especially by race? "If you look at the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 infection and the disease it causes, COVID-19, there is a disproportional impact on people of color in the United States," he says. "So you are at much greater risk if you're over 65, if you have comorbidities, hypertension, obesity."

All those working on the vaccine, whether private or government efforts "want to do better. I can tell you that."



Nelson Michael, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research, says a strong public health campaign will be needed to convince Americans the vaccine is safe and effective. (Photo/Tom Bowman/NPR)

Michael acknowledges the suspicions especially in the Black community, who have been victims of government studies. The most horrific was the Tuskegee Experiment, which from the 1930s in the 1970s followed hundreds of Black men with syphilis over the course of their lives, failing to tell them about the diagnosis and refusing to treat them. For this vaccine, says Michael, the government has created community engagement groups to reach out to African American and Native Americans in particular. "I'd say Native populations are also very mistrustful because of the history," Michael adds. "And you know there are lots of issues, of course, that are hitting our country right now all at the same time, systemic racism."

But he says there likely to be an even greater challenge once a vaccine is approved. "I am more concerned about how we're going to execute a vaccine campaign than I am about how we're going to test this vaccine," he says. "How are we going to convince Americans that they should sign up for their vaccine?" Some polls show at least 30% of Americans say they won't take the vaccine. There are scientists who say at least 40% of Americans must take the vaccine. Michael puts that percentage even higher. "What we really need is to have somewhere between 70% and 90% of Americans that either have been vaccinated and have immunity that way or have been exposed and survived and have immunity because of natural infection," he says. A vaccine from at least one of the private companies is expected earlier next year. The Army also continues to work on its own vaccine that can target future coronaviruses. No matter what, a strong public health campaign will be needed, Michael says, to convince Americans the vaccine is safe and effective. One part of that is to reach out to those people Americans tend to trust most: Their family doctor. (Courtesy <https://www.npr.org/>)

Editor's Choice



Red fire retardant blankets a basketball post and a playground in the aftermath of the Almeda fire in Talent, Oregon. REUTERS/Adrees Latif



An aurora is seen in the sky in Rovaniemi, Finland. REUTERS/Alexander Kuznetsov/All About Lapland



Attendees dance to the music as they wait for U.S. President Donald Trump to take the stage during a campaign event at the Arizona Grand Resort and Spa in Phoenix, Arizona. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst



U.S. President Donald Trump is reflected in a glass of water during a campaign event at the Arizona Grand Resort and Spa in Phoenix, Arizona. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst



Bryan Alvarez holds a sign for oncoming traffic as utility workers repair power lines in the aftermath of the Obenchain Fire in Eagle Point, Oregon. REUTERS/Adrees Latif



A tree blocks the road as the remains of fire damaged trees stand while smoke billows in the aftermath of the Beachie Creek fire near Detroit, Oregon. REUTERS/Shannon Stapleton



New York Giants wide receiver Sterling Shepard (87) catches a pass in front of Pittsburgh Steelers strong safety Terrell Edmunds (34) and linebacker Devin Bush (55) during the first half at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Vincent



British artist Grayson Perry poses in front of "Very Large Very Expensive Abstract Painting", which forms part of an exhibition of new work based on recent travels in the U.S., at the Victoria Miro gallery, London, Britain. REUTERS/Toby Melville

Appeals Court Rules Government Can End Humanitarian Protections For Some 300,000 Immigrants



A panel of judges in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, pictured in San Francisco, ruled on Monday that the Trump administration can end humanitarian protections for immigrants from four countries, clearing a path for their eventual deportation. (Photo/Jeff Chiu/AP)

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

A federal appeals court panel ruled on Monday that the Trump administration can end humanitarian protections for some 300,000 immigrants living in the United States, clearing the way for their potential deportation starting next year. The 9th Circuit Appeals Court's decision affects citizens from El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Sudan, many of whom have lived in the U.S. for decades, have U.S.-born children and are considered essential workers during the coronavirus pandemic. At issue is the termination of Temporary Protected Status, a form of humanitarian relief created by Congress and administered by the Department of Homeland Security. TPS provides a work permit and stay of deportation to foreign nationals living in the U.S. whose countries of origin are facing natural disaster, armed conflict or other "extraordinary and temporary conditions" that make it unsafe for them to return. The Trump administration terminated TPS designations of El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Sudan in 2017 and 2018. (It later ended TPS for Honduras and Nepal, and a separate case brought last year by citizens

of those countries is ongoing.)



President Trump met with Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele. The government extended protections from deportation to more than 200,000 Salvadoran citizens living and working in the United States in an announcement in 2019. Under the program called Temporary Protected Status — usually reserved to help foreign nationals from countries embroiled in wars or facing natural disasters — thousands of Salvadorans were allowed to stay in the U.S. following earthquakes in 2001. The Trump Administration is extending the validity of work permits for El Salvadorans with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) through January 4, 2021.

Several TPS beneficiaries from the four countries and their children filed a lawsuit challenging the terminations, both for pro-

cedural reasons and on the grounds that the rule was motivated by animus toward "non-white, non-European immigrants" that they said was evidenced by comments made by Trump and other administrative officials. A district court previously issued a preliminary injunction. Monday's decision by a three-judge panel of the appeals court lifts the injunction, meaning immigrants from the affected countries could be subject to removal starting in January.

Plaintiffs and their lawyers said on Monday that they are preparing to appeal the decision in the entire 9th Circuit.

Defining "temporary"

The National TPS Alliance, a grassroots advocacy group, said the ruling clears the way for the administration to "de-document and tear apart" some 400,000 families.

The group explains that TPS provides protection for short periods of up to 18 months, but the federal government has continuously extended it for the countries mentioned in the lawsuit "based on repeated findings that it remains unsafe to return."



As a result, it said, most TPS holders have been living in the U.S. for more than a decade, contributing to their communities and raising their families. Many of the more than 200,000 U.S.-citizen children of TPS holders have never been to the country their parents are from, and would have to choose between their families and their homes.

"This government has failed me and the other 250,000 US citizen children of TPS holders," said Crista Ramos, lead plaintiff in the case.

The role of race

Two out of the three panel judges ruled that the plaintiffs failed to prove that racial animus was a factor when the administration canceled TPS. According to a summary of the decision issued by the court:

The [judges] explained that, while the district court's findings that President Trump expressed racial animus against "nonwhite, non-European" immigrants, and that the White House influenced the TPS termination decisions, were supported by record evidence, the district court cited no ev-

idence linking the President's animus to the TPS terminations—such as evidence that the President personally sought to influence the TPS terminations, or that any administration officials involved in the TPS decision-making process were themselves motivated by animus.

Beth Werlin, the executive director of the American Immigration Council, expressed disappointment with the court's refusal to acknowledge a connection between Trump's remarks and the administration's decision to end TPS.



"The racial animus that led to these decisions is real and cannot be ignored," Werlin said.

Impact on families and communities

Immigration advocacy groups are slamming the court's ruling, noting it will impact hundreds of thousands of TPS holders as well as their families and communities. In a statement, Werlin said the decision will "plunge their lives into further turmoil at a time when we all need greater certainty."

As the global pandemic stretches on, immigrants with protected status make up a large portion of the country's frontline workers. More than 130,000 TPS recipients are essential workers, according to the Center for American Progress.

"TPS recipients have deep economic and social roots in communities across the nation," said Ali Noorani, president and CEO of the National Immigration Forum. "And, as the U.S. responds to the COVID-19 pandemic, TPS recipients are standing shoulder to shoulder with Americans and doing essential work."



Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union, the largest property services

union in the country, noted that thousands of such immigrants own homes and businesses, and clean and protect major properties as long-standing union members.

"It is deeply disturbing, and frankly enraging, that the Ninth Circuit is allowing the Trump administration to end Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Sudan, opening the prospect of deportation for hundreds of thousands of people who have made the United States their legal home for decades," said President Kyle Bragg.

Support for ending temporary status

The Federation for American Immigration Reform, which advocates for lower levels of immigration, welcomed the ruling as "a victory for the American people and an unmistakable rebuke to activist judges who seek to make immigration policy from the bench."

"This ruling represents a win for the idea that the American people should be able to provide needed and appropriate temporary humanitarian relief, with the full expectation that their generosity will not be taken advantage of when the emergency is over," FAIR president Dan Stein said in a statement.



El Salvador extension

TPS holders from El Salvador, one of the affected countries, already have a slightly longer window to stay in the U.S. The Trump administration announced last fall it would extend the validity of work permits for El Salvadorans with TPS through Jan. 4 2021. It is also giving El Salvadorans with protected status one extra year after the conclusion of TPS-related lawsuits to repatriate.

El Salvador has the highest number of TPS recipients in the U.S., while their home country has the world's highest murder rate per capita, according to the National Immigration Forum. The group says Monday's ruling will impact an estimated 300,000 Salvadorans, more than half of whom have lived in the U.S. for at least 20 years. (Courtesy npr.org)

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