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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## U.S., China say they are 'close to finalizing' part of a Phase One trade deal



FILE PHOTO: U.S. President Donald Trump poses for a photo with China's President Xi Jinping before their bilateral meeting during the G20 leaders summit in Osaka, Japan, June 29, 2019. REUTERS/ Kevin Lamarque  
The USTR provided no details on the areas of progress.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. and Chinese officials are "close to finalizing" some parts of a trade agreement after high-level telephone discussions on Friday, the U.S. Trade Representative's office and China's Commerce Ministry said, with talks to continue.

"They made headway on specific issues and the two sides are close to finalizing some sections of the agreement. Discussions will go on continuously at the deputy level, and the principals will have another call in the near future," a statement said.

Washington and Beijing are working to agree on the text for a "Phase 1" trade agreement announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on Oct. 11. Trump has said he hopes to sign the deal with China's President Xi Jinping next month at a summit in Chile.

In a separate statement posted on China's Ministry of Commerce website on Saturday morning, Beijing confirmed "technical consultations" on some parts of a trade agreement were basically completed. U.S. denies China's claim of 'weaponizing' visa decisions for Washington space meeting White House adviser Navarro fighting 'Phase One' of U.S.-China trade deal. CNBC

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Agricultural products are a major area of discussion. China's Commerce Ministry said both sides confirmed the United States will import Chinese-made cooked poultry and

catfish products, while China will lift a ban on U.S. poultry.

Beijing wants the United States to cancel some existing U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports, people briefed on the Friday call told Reuters, in return for pledging to step up its purchases of U.S. commodities like soybeans. The United States wants Beijing to commit to buying these products at a specific time and price, while Chinese buyers would like the discretion to buy based on market conditions.

The world's two largest economies are trying to calm a nearly 16-month trade war that is roiling financial markets, disrupting supply chains and slowing global economic growth. [nL2N2731RC]

"They want to make a deal very badly," Trump told reporters at the White House on Friday. "They're going to be buying much more farm products than anybody thought possible."

Trump agreed earlier this month to cancel an Oct. 15 increase in tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese goods as part of a tentative agreement on agricultural purchases, increased access to China's financial services markets, improved protections for intellectual property rights and a currency pact. [nL2N26W15C]

White House advisers are hoping to cement a binding, enforceable agreement with Beijing, including a pledge

not to force U.S. companies to transfer technology to Chinese companies to do business there.

### TARIFFS TAKE THE LEAD

Beijing was expected to ask Washington during Friday's call to drop its plan to impose tariffs on \$156 billion worth of Chinese goods, including cell phones, laptop computers and toys, on Dec. 15, two U.S.-based sources told Reuters.

Beijing is also seeking removal of 15% tariffs imposed on Sept. 1 on about \$125 billion of Chinese goods, one of the sources said. Trump imposed the tariffs in August after a failed round of talks. "The Chinese want to get back to tariffs on just the original \$250 billion in goods," the source said.

U.S. farmers have been struggling since the trade war started.

In the decade before Trump took office, China's purchases of U.S. agriculture and related products tripled, reaching \$25.2 billion in 2016. But they dropped to \$13.2 billion in 2018, after the U.S. put tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese goods. (tmsnr.rs/343C4kJ)

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Tech consultations on parts of U.S. trade deal completed: China's Commerce Ministry:

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - Chinese Vice Premier Liu He had a phone call with U.S. trade officials as both countries confirmed technical consultations on some parts of a trade agreement were basically completed, China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on Saturday.

Liu spoke with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Friday night, the statement said.

The Commerce Ministry said both sides agreed to properly address each other's core concerns.

Both sides confirmed the United States will import Chinese-made cooked poultry and catfish products, while China will lift a ban on U.S. poultry, according to the statement. The two countries also agreed on the applica-

tion of public health information systems for meat products, according to the statement.

The Commerce Ministry said top negotiators from both nations will hold a phone call again soon, and will continue to have negotiations.

Chinese Commerce Minister Zhong Shan, China's central bank Governor Yi Gang, and the National Development and Reform Commission's deputy head Ning Jizhe also joined the phone call, according to the statement.

China's Vice Premier Liu He exits the office of the U.S. Trade Representative following a morning round of negotiations on the second day of last ditch trade talks in Washington, U.S., May 10, 2019. REUTERS/Leah Millis/File Photo



Michael Flynn says he is not ready to be sentenced, U.S. says he is ready

(Reuters) - Lawyers for former U.S. national security adviser Michael Flynn accused the federal government of stalling their efforts to defend him, and said the former top aide to Donald Trump is not ready to be sentenced for lying about his discussions with a Russian ambassador.

FILE PHOTO: Former U.S. national security adviser Michael Flynn passes by members of the media as he departs after his sentencing was delayed at U.S. District Court in Washington, U.S., December 18, 2018. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts Flynn's lawyers lodged their objections to the government's conduct in a joint status report filed on Friday with the Washington, D.C., federal court.

Lawyers for the government countered that Flynn is ready for sentencing, perhaps as

soon as Oct. 21. Both sides agreed that Flynn's cooperation with various government probes is finished.

Flynn pleaded guilty in December 2017 to lying to the FBI about his conversations the prior December with Sergey Kislyak, who was Russia's ambassador to the United States, about U.S. sanctions imposed on Moscow by President Barack Obama.

That plea came in connection with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's since-completed probe into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election.

Flynn's sentencing was originally scheduled for December 2018, and U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan will need to decide whether a further delay is warranted.

Citing the status report, Sullivan scheduled a Sept. 10 conference to discuss the case.

In the report, Flynn's lawyer, Sidney Powell, said she has not had enough time to review the case, and accused the government of unfairly refusing to hand over information relevant to the defense.

She said this includes transcripts and recordings of phone calls supposedly underlying the charges against Flynn, and which the government has "steadfastly refused to produce." Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice countered that the government has "exceeded" its disclosure obligations, and was unaware of any classified information that Flynn needed to review.

The Justice Department proposed that Flynn be sentenced between Oct. 21 and 23 or between Nov. 1 and 15. Flynn's lawyers asked for 90 days before issuing of another status report.

Flynn's discussions with Kislyak occurred in the run-up to Trump's January 2017 inauguration, after Flynn had worked on Trump's election campaign.

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# Editor's Choice



Uon Chhin and Yeang Sothearin, former journalists from the U.S.-funded Radio Free Asia (RFA), who have been charged with espionage, arrive at the Municipal Court of Phnom Penh for their verdict, in Phnom Penh



Syrian displaced families, who fled violence after the Turkish offensive in Syria, are seen upon their arrival to a refugee camp in Bardarash on the outskirts of Dohuk



Palestinian demonstrator uses a sling to hurl back a tear gas canister during protest at the Israel-Gaza border



Demonstrators disperse as Iraqi security forces use tear gas during a protest over corruption, lack of jobs, and poor services, in Baghdad



Protesters stand on a concrete wall during a protest over corruption, lack of jobs, and poor services, in Baghdad



Champions League - Group F - SK Slavia Prague v Borussia Dortmund



Liberal Party leader and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau trains with boxer Ali Nestor in Montreal



A demonstrator gestures as he stands close to burning tires blocking a road, during a protest over unemployment, corruption and poor public services, in Baghdad

**Ads For “Trumpcare” Are Seen Everywhere – But It Does Not Exist**



Groups that promote Trumpcare medical coverage are lying to the public. (Photo/Axios.com)

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

Do a quick search for health insurance, and you’ll find plenty of ads for “Trumpcare” plans that cost \$59 or less per month. But there’s a catch: Trumpcare doesn’t exist, and many of these advertised plans offer bare-bones coverage.

**Why it matters:** For people who buy health insurance on their own instead of receiving it through an employer, searching for a plan is already challenging. And deceptive marketing only makes it harder, especially when these plans will leave consumers on the hook for potentially ruinous medical bills.

**Reality check:** The primary way the Trump administration has altered the insurance market is by expanding niche products — including short-term plans, association plans and health reimbursement arrangements.

**THE PROS AND CONS OF TrumpCare**



Misleading advertisements like the one above serve to misled and confuse the public since there is no “Trumpcare” medical insurance program.

**After seeing Trumpcare ads in search engines,** I submitted contact information to get quotes about coverage options. Over the the next week, I was bombarded with 70 phone calls and 12 texts from insurance brokers.

•Every broker I spoke to admitted there is no such thing as Trumpcare, and that it is a marketing ploy from the lead generator site.

•When I asked how I could get the plan that was advertised for \$59 or less per month, brokers said the ads were in reference to short-term plans or fixed indemnity plans that offer little to no coverage for serious illness or injury.



**What they’re saying:** “These websites that are selling ‘Trumpcare’ are capitalizing on the fact that very few people know

what’s going on,” said Louise Norris, an independent insurance broker in Colorado.

•One family who recently bought a short-term plan through Health Insurance Innovations, a platform that has used fraudulent brokers, was on the hook for more than \$244,000 in medical bills even though they thought they were protected, Bloomberg reported.

**The other side:** Jeff Smedsrud, co-founder of HealthCare.com, a site that has advertised “Trumpcare” plans, said he didn’t think it was misleading to use that framing for plans that are sold through its brokers.

•“Could it lead to confusion? I don’t think it has. Anything is possible,” he said. “I’ll certainly look at what we do. I may have our team change our mind on that.”



**The graphic above is misleading and deceptive – there is no “TrumpCare.”**

**The bottom line:** “It’s impossible to expect consumers to discern between the good guys and the con artists,” said Sabrina Corlette, a health insurance researcher at Georgetown University. “And it’s not the good guys that pop up on the first page of your Google search results.” (Courtesy axios.com)

**Related**

**Trumpcare Facts And Information – Important Update Regarding Short Term Health Insurance (Trumpcare) Plans -- Updated August 1, 2018**

**(Editor’s Note:** The term “Trumpcare” is used loosely in the health insurance industry to refer to short term health in-

urance. It should not be confused with a national healthcare program offered through the U.S. government. The information below is offered by way of clarifying the use of the term, “Trumpcare.”) On August 1st, HHS (Health and Human Services) announced a rule change that impacts short term health insurance, or what is sometimes being referred to as, “Trumpcare plans”. Effective October 1st, 2018, short term health plans will now be allowed to have a full one year policy term, instead of being limited to three months. We have outlined in multiple articles within this site, as well as within our Trumpcare update below, the pros and cons of short term health plans. They’re not for everyone, and they are not as tightly regulated as other insurance products. While this expansion from 3 month to 12 month policy terms will

professionals. Especially when it comes to short term plans, or ACA alternatives. We believe that in terms of risk vs. reward, there’s a lot of risk purchasing a plan from a small company that no one has ever heard of. Larger well established companies providing short term health insurance coverage, like United Healthcare, we feel are a much more safe and secure choice for short term health insurance.

Short term health insurance is portrayed by almost all news media outlets as being “junk insurance”. This is simply not accurate or fair, but it makes for great click-bait. The problem, is that news outlets don’t have the ability or time to give you all of the facts and details about all insurance products. So our advice, is to research things in detail before making any decision or judgement. (Courtesy trumpcare.com)



**There is no U.S. national healthcare program called “Trumpcare.” The term is used loosely in the health insurance industry to refer to short-term health insurance.**

help ease some of the regulatory burden on consumers who have been relying on short term health insurance to reduce their healthcare costs, it will also incentivize some of the less than ethical operators in the business to ramp up their practices. This is why we continually encourage individuals to only speak to, or share any personal information with, reputable, licensed health insurance pro-

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-Jennifer Lai, M.D.

Dr. Lai is a board-certified pediatrician who earned her medical degree from The University of Texas School of Medicine in San Antonio and completed her pediatric internship and residency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her special clinical interests include General Pediatrics, caring for newborns, managing autism, and treating childhood obesity. She cares for young patients at Kelsey-Seybold’s Tanglewood Clinic, near the Galleria.

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Federal Agencies Have Until November 19th To Come Up With A Solution- Congressional OK Also Needed

Trump Lowering The Number Of Refugees Permitted Into U.S. To 18,000



The Trump administration also plans to prioritize refugees who have been persecuted for religious beliefs, Iraqis who have helped the U.S. overseas, and legitimate refugees from Northern Triangle countries, per the release.

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

The Trump administration is proposing to cut the number of refugees permitted to resettle in the U.S. next year to just 18,000 — down from a record-low of 30,000 last year, according to a State Department press release on Thursday.

Why it matters: The administration also plans to prioritize refugees who have been persecuted for religious beliefs, Iraqis who have helped the U.S. overseas, and legitimate refugees from Northern Triangle countries, per the release. This would be the fourth time the Trump administration lowered the refugee cap, and it had reportedly discussed lowering it to zero. There are more displaced people in the world today than at any point since World War II, according to the United Nations.

In addition, Trump issued an Executive Order on Thursday evening instructing

the federal government to resettle refugees only in jurisdictions where state and local governments have consented to receive those refugees, with "limited exceptions."



Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan said in a statement that the new refugee cap will allow DHS "to focus on addressing the ongoing crisis at the southern border, reducing a staggering asylum backlog that unfairly delays relief for those with meritorious claims..."

Between the lines: The asylum system and high number of applicants was also mentioned in the State Department press release. Advocates for cutting the refugee cap often argue that the high numbers of asylum seekers the U.S. allows in compensates for cutting the refugee cap — both forms of humanitarian protection for those who have been forced to flee their home nations.

"The current burdens on the U.S. immigration system must be alleviated before it is again possible to resettle large number of refugees," the press release said. Jared Kushner has also argued that the money spent on bringing refugees into the U.S. would be better spent helping countries already hosting refugees.

The big picture: Trump has made it more difficult for victims and refugees to find help in the U.S.

His administration has repeatedly tried to thwart asylum seekers through new regulations.

Denial rates for visas intended for victims of crime or human trafficking have risen.

The administration has also ended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for hundreds of thousands of immigrants from nations such as El Salvador, Haiti, Sudan and Nicaragua — although the courts have kept the protected status alive for now.

Related

Millions of immigrant files physically stored in underground Missouri cave Officials are trying to carry out President Trump's months-old directive demanding that sponsors of immigrants pay the government for the costs when those immigrants used certain public benefits. But to tabulate that, they have to go through a cave in Missouri.



Acting Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Ken Cuccinelli. Photo: Chen Meng-tong/China News Service/Visual China Group via Getty Images

The bottom line: The majority of those immigration files — including sponsors' information — are located on physical sheets of paper often stored in a large, underground facility in Kansas City's limestone caves, multiple current and former government officials tell Axios. "The cave stores more than 20 million immigration files, and we add 1.5 million new files every year," a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Facebook post from 2014 says.

The state of play: An interagency working group has had monthly calls with the White House to work out a system, an administration official tells Axios. But

it's proved a complicated — if not impossible — task.

"An alien's file could be hundreds of pages long," the official said. "It's almost comical."

USCIS' former chief counsel, Ur Jadou, said the agency has databases with some immigrant data points, and it has digitized a handful of forms — but there is no simple way to find an immigrant's sponsor.

Family-based visas — one of the most common visas requiring sponsors — are handled entirely on paper, another former USCIS official said.

The response: A spokesperson said USCIS is continuing to work on digitizing records. (Courtesy Axios.com)

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