

Donald Trump vows friendship with China - but also victory on trade as tariffs mount

WASHINGTON — President Trump vowed friendship with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Sunday despite their trade differences, as the U.S. president and his aides sought to tamp down market fears of a trade war between the two economic giants.

“President Xi and I will always be friends, no matter what happens with our dispute on trade,” Trump said in a tweet in which he also predicted that the U.S. would prevail.

“China will take down its Trade Barriers because it is the right thing to do,” Trump said. “Taxes will become Reciprocal & a deal will be made on Intellectual Property. Great future for both countries!”

Trump has also said the ongoing trade dispute may generate “a little pain” in the short term, including big losses on Wall Street.

More: Trump says there may be ‘a little pain’ as U.S. and China trade tariff threats

China has denied American accusations of unfair trade practices and vowed to retaliate if the U.S. follows through on plans to put tariffs on Chinese goods, claims that have roiled global markets over fears that prices will rise and demand will slow worldwide.

In addition to threatening penalties on American goods, China has also asked the business community in the United States and elsewhere to protest the planned Trump tariffs.

“We call on the international business community including the United States industrial and commercial circles to take prompt and effective measures and urge the U.S. government to correct its errors,” said state newspaper *People’s Daily*.



Donald J. Trump

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The two nations have long criticized each other over trade, but the stakes have grown over the past month.

The latest round began March 22 when the Trump administration announced plans for tariffs on \$50 billion in goods from China, in response to what it called Chinese theft of U.S. trade secrets.

Hours later, China responded with plans for \$3 billion of tariffs on U.S. goods.

Last week, the U.S. vowed to target Chinese-made medical devices, aircraft parts and flat-screen televisions with up to \$50 billion in tariffs; China responded with a \$50 billion threat on American soybeans, cars, and chemicals; hours later, Trump ordered his administration to consider \$100 billion in new tariffs in response to Chinese retaliation.



Donald J. Trump

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In another tweet on Saturday, Trump again claimed unfair Chinese trade practices.

“The United States hasn’t had a Trade Surplus with China in 40 years,” the president said. “They must end unfair trade, take down barriers and charge only

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Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/04/08/donald-trump-owns-friendship-china-but-also-victory-trade-tariffs-mount/497049002/>

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