

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2018

Statement on China-United States Trade

June 18, 2018

On Friday, I announced plans for tariffs on \$50 billion worth of imports from China. These tariffs are being imposed to encourage China to change the unfair practices identified in the section 301 action with respect to technology and innovation. They also serve as an initial step toward bringing balance to our trade relationship with China.

However and unfortunately, China has determined that it will raise tariffs on \$50 billion worth of United States exports. China apparently has no intention of changing its unfair practices related to the acquisition of American intellectual property and technology. Rather than altering those practices, it is now threatening United States companies, workers, and farmers who have done nothing wrong.

This latest action by China clearly indicates its determination to keep the United States at a permanent and unfair disadvantage, which is reflected in our massive \$376 billion trade imbalance in goods. This is unacceptable. Further action must be taken to encourage China to change its unfair practices, open its market to United States goods, and accept a more balanced trade relationship with the United States.

Therefore, today I directed the United States Trade Representative to identify \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods for additional tariffs at a rate of 10 percent. After the legal process is complete, these tariffs will go into effect if China refuses to change its practices and also if it insists on going forward with the new tariffs that it has recently announced. If China increases its tariffs yet again, we will meet that action by pursuing additional tariffs on another \$200 billion of goods. The trade relationship between the United States and China must be much more equitable.

I have an excellent relationship with President Xi, and we will continue working together on many issues. But the United States will no longer be taken advantage of on trade by China and other countries in the world.

We will continue using all available tools to create a better and fairer trading system for all Americans.

Categories: Statements by the President : China, trade with U.S.

Names: Xi Jinping.

Subjects: China : President; China : Trade policy; China : Trade with U.S.; China : U.S. tariff structure, strengthening efforts; Commerce, international : Free and fair trade; Science and technology : Global competitiveness; Trade Representative, Office of the U.S.

DCPD Number: DCPD201800432.