

# U.S., CHINA END TALKS ON TARIFF BATTLE WITH NO WORD ON OUTCOME

The U.S. wants China to change plans for government-led creation of Chinese leaders in robotics and other advanced technologies. No changes were announced.

Vishnu Varathan in a report.

Three days of U.S.-Chinese talks aimed at ending a costly tariff battle wrapped up Wednesday in an optimistic atmosphere after President Donald Trump said they were "going very well!"

Beijing has tried to defuse pressure for more sweeping change by offering concessions including purchasing more American soybeans, natural gas and other exports. That might offer relief to rural areas that supported Trump in the 2016 election and were targeted by Chinese tariffs.

No details were immediately announced, but Asian stock markets rose after talks planned for two days were extended to three. Hong Kong's main market index closed up 2.1 per cent and Tokyo rose 1.1 per cent.

However, the official Trump put in charge of the talks, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, has focused on pressing Beijing to scrap or change rules Washington says block market access or improperly help Chinese companies.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Lu Kang, announced the talks had ended. Lu said he had no details and an official statement would be issued later.

Those include initiatives such as "Made in China 2025," which calls for state-led creation of Chinese global champions in robotics, artificial intelligence and other fields. Washington, Europe, Japan and other trading partners say those violate Beijing's market-opening obligations. American leaders also worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

The talks that started Monday were the first face-to-face meeting since Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, agreed Dec. 1 to suspend further punitive action against each other's imports for 90 days while they negotiate over the fight sparked by American complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

U.S. companies also want action on Chinese policies they complain improperly favour local companies. Those include subsidies and other favours for high-tech and state-owned industry, rules on technology licensing and preferential treatment of domestic suppliers in government procurement.

"Talks with China are going very well!" Trump said late Tuesday on Twitter.

The U.S. demands strike at the heart of a state-led development model the ruling Communist Party sees as a great success over the past three decades and is reluctant to give up.

Washington is pressing Beijing for changes including rolling back plans for government-led creation of Chinese global champions in robotics and other fields. Europe, Japan and other trading partners echo U.S. complaints those violate Beijing's market-opening obligations.

"These issues are much more difficult to solve immediately but are, frankly, much more compelling to U.S. companies," said Jake Parker, vice-president for China operations of the U.S.-China Business Council, which represents American companies that do business with China.

Chinese officials have suggested Beijing might alter its industrial plans but reject pressure to abandon what they consider a path to prosperity and global influence.

Beijing also faces pressure over technology from the European Union. The 28-nation trade bloc filed its own challenge in the World Trade Organization in June against Chinese licensing rules it said hamper the ability of foreign companies to protect and profit from their technology.

Neither side has given any indication its basic position has changed. Economists say the 90-day window is too short to resolve all the conflicts between the biggest and second-biggest global economies.

Companies that have been

disappointed by Beijing's failure or delays in carrying out commitments want an enforcement mechanism with "some kind of penalty for not doing what they promised," said Parker.

"That's not something that's going to be done by March," said Parker. "It's probably going to take a little longer."

For its part, Beijing is unhappy with U.S. export and investment curbs, suggesting it might demand concessions.

Chinese officials complain about controls on "dual use" technology with possible military applications. They say China's companies are treated unfairly in national security reviews of proposed corporate acquisitions, though almost all deals are approved unchanged.

This week's talks went ahead despite tension over the arrest of a Chinese tech executive in Canada on U.S. charges related to possible violations of trade sanctions against Iran.

The American delegation was led by one of Lighthizer's deputies, Jeffrey D. Gerrish. It included agriculture, energy, commerce, treasury and State Department officials.

Trump imposed tariff increases of up to 25 per cent on US\$250 billion of Chinese imports. China responded by imposing penalties on \$110 billion of American goods, slowing customs clearance for U.S. companies and suspending issuing licenses in finance and other businesses.

Chinese exports to the United States held up despite the tariff hikes, but that was due partly to exporters rushing to fill orders before any more increases hit. Forecasters expect American orders to slump this year.

Cooling economic growth in both countries is increasing pressure to reach a settlement.

Car and property sales have slumped as Chinese growth fell to a post-global crisis low of 6.5 per cent in the quarter ending in September.

The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3.4 per cent in the third quarter but surveys show consumer confidence weakening.

## LARRY KLAYMAN

ATTORNEY AT LAW



### Corsi v. Mueller advances in court

By Larry Klayman

Dr. Jerome Corsi, my friend of 25 years and my client, is an American hero. Rather than accepting a fraudulent plea deal from Special Counsel Robert Mueller, where he was offered no prison time if he pleaded to one felony count of perjury he did not commit, but only if he would implicate President Donald Trump in so-called Russian collusion, he told Mueller and his leftist pro-Clinton and Obama Democratic prosecutors to stick it where the sun don't shine. Jerry simply could not find it in his Christian heart to lie before the Creator and his Son; nor could he agree to be branded falsely as a felon, losing his right to vote. To the contrary, he has made it clear he would risk being imprisoned by a runaway Deep State prosecutor for the remainder of his life, rather than to lie under oath and implicate the president in alleged wrongdoing.

But Jerry did not stop there! Realizing that he was in a unique position to finally take on Mueller and his fellow hack prosecutors, he did something the president himself should have done long ago, but for the bad advice he has gotten for the better part of the last two years by his television-centric lawyers. Dr. Corsi pushed back and decided to take Mueller on legally and frontally!

Over the last month leading up to today, Jerry authorized my co-counsel David Gray and me to file criminal complaints against Mueller and his leftist prosecutors before Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker, the head of the Criminal Division, the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, the Office of Professional Responsibility, and the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to address and remedy this gross prosecutorial misconduct. For good measure, he also authorized David and me to file bar complaints with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) of the District of Columbia Bar.

While it is doubtful that ODC will take any action against Mueller, the complaint was filed on principle. The District of Columbia Bar, run by leftists who have donated heavily to the Clintons, Barack Obama and a myriad of Democrats, are generally not interested in enforcing its Rules of Professional Responsibility against their own ilk like Mueller and his comrades. On the other hand, they "specialize" in going after conservatives, like counselor to the president and attorney Kellyanne Conway who is under scrutiny for simple statements, allegedly false, she made on Fox News. Meanwhile, Democratic partisans like Clinton lawyer David Kendall and Michael Cohen's attorney Lanny Davis get a green light to behave unethically.

But the complaints before DOJ are likely to bear fruit, that is, if the president himself finally takes charge and orders investigations. If not, we are prepared to go to court to obtain an order compelling investigations by DOJ, which if done honestly should, in principle, lead to the "prosecution of the prosecutors" on the Mueller team.

In addition, Jerry also instructed me to file a lawsuit before the federal court in Washington, D.C., over the illegal and unconstitutional surveillance of him and his family without probable cause that he had committed a crime, orchestrated by Mueller and his lackeys in the Deep State Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). For added measure, the complaint, which we filed before Christmas, also sued for the criminal grand jury leaks that have been coming from the special counsel intended to smear Jerry and his family – to try to bludgeon him to capitulate.

Since a judge I had successfully appeared before, the Honorable Richard J. Leon, had previously ruled in my favor that this type of illegal surveillance was unconstitutional – "almost Orwellian" he called it – I asked that this new Corsi lawsuit be assigned to him. This jurist, given the expertise on the issues he had acquired, it was thought, was best suited to hear the case. And, incidentally he was not a Clinton or Obama appointee, nearly all of whom in this federal court are extremely biased and partisan and most assuredly would approve of Mueller's tactics so long as it was to further the removal of Trump as our 45th president.

The one wild card in designating the complaint as related and thus preliminarily assigned to Judge Leon was that I had learned that the judge himself was illegally surveilled by the Deep State. I had asked him in the prior lawsuits (which he later dismissed for no good reason and now are on appeal), if he had been coerced by the Deep State to get rid of them.

Immediately after I filed the Corsi complaint, Judge Leon set the matter down for a hearing, which DOJ lawyers later tried to postpone on the phony excuse that its legal counsel could not work given the partial government shutdown. On behalf of Dr. Corsi, I opposed this, and Judge Leon agreed. And an initial hearing on the issue of the related case assignment thus went forward Thursday. See the courtroom artist drawing of Jerry and me appearing before Leon:

To make a long story short, Judge Leon declined to keep the case, in my opinion apparently still frightened that the Deep State FBI and intel agencies had "harvested him" and might retaliate if he presided over our complaint. While he made a point of making light of my concerns, upon granting DOJ's request to have the case reassigned, and before I could speak further, he could not wait to rush off of the bench.

Our case was thus "thrown back into the pond" and re-emerged with it being "randomly" assigned to the Honorable Ellen Segal Huvelle. Hopefully, she will be a neutral arbiter of justice and allow our case to go before a jury of Jerry's peers. We will see to it, with your strong support, that we provide every opportunity for this to happen.

For if heroes like Dr. Corsi, my proud and brave client, do not risk their lives and pledge their sacred honor to protect the Republic from tyrants like Mueller and his anti-Trump leftist and hateful leftist prosecutors, all will be lost!

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