

US, China sketch outlines of deal to end trade war

By Jeff Mason
Reuters

WASHINGTON - The United States and China have started to outline commitments in principle on the stickiest issues in their trade dispute, marking the most significant progress yet toward ending a seven-month trade war, according to sources familiar with the negotiations.

The world's two largest economies have slapped tit-for-tat tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of goods, slowing global economic growth, skewing supply chains and disrupting manufacturing.

As officials hold high level talks on Thursday and Friday in Washington, they remain far apart on demands made by President Donald Trump's administration for structural changes to China's economy.

But the broad outline of what could make up a deal is beginning to emerge from the talks, the sources said, as the two sides push for an agreement by March 1. That marks the end of a 90-day truce that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to when they met in Argentina late last year.

Negotiators are drawing up six memorandums of understanding on structural issues: forced technology transfer and cyber theft, intellectual property rights, services, currency, agriculture and nontariff barriers to trade, according to two sources familiar with the progress of the talks.

At meetings between U.S. and Chinese officials last week in Beijing, the two sides traded texts and worked on outlining obligations on paper, according to one of the sources.

The process has become a real trade negotiation, the source said, so much so that at the end of the week the participants considered staying in Beijing to keep working. Instead



NEGOTIATIONS: Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, second from left, Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, third from left, and Chinese Vice Premier and lead trade negotiator Liu He, second from right, pose for a photo before the opening session of trade negotiations at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, on Feb. 14. Mark Schiefelbein/Pool via Reuters

they agreed to take a few days off and reconvene in Washington.

The sources requested anonymity to speak candidly about the talks.

Commitments in writing

The MOUs cover the most complex issues affecting the trading relationship between the two countries and are meant, from the U.S. perspective, to end the practices that led Trump to start levying duties on Chinese imports in the first place.

One source cautioned that the talks could still end in failure. But the work on the MOUs was a significant step in getting China to sign up both to broad principles and to specific commitments on key issues, he said.

The United States has accused Beijing of forcing U.S. companies doing business in China to share their technology with local partners and hand over intellectual property secrets. China denies it engages in such practices.

Trump administration officials also object to nontariff barriers in China, including industrial subsidies, regulations, business licensing procedures, product standards reviews and other practices that they say keep U.S. goods out of

China or give an unfair advantage to domestic firms.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has pushed for China to open its financial services markets to more foreign firms, including credit card giants Visa and MasterCard, which have waited years for China to make good on promises to allow them to operate there.

On currency, U.S. officials including Mnuchin have warned China against devaluing its yuan to gain a competitive advantage after the Chinese currency weakened significantly against the dollar last year, partly counteracting Trump's tariffs.

The two sides were discussing an enforcement mechanism for the deal, the source said. Reuters reported last month that the United States was pushing for regular reviews of China's progress on pledged trade reforms and could reinstate tariffs if it deems Beijing has violated the agreement.

The parties also were looking at a 10-item list of ways that China could reduce its trade surplus with the United States, including by buying agricultural produce, energy and goods such as semiconductors, according to two other sources familiar with the talks.



HATEFUL COMMENTS: French President Emmanuel Macron looks at a grave vandalized with a swastika during a visit to the Jewish cemetery in Quatzenheim, France, on Feb. 19. Frederick Florin/Pool via Reuters

French TV cuts Facebook live feed from Jewish cemetery after abuse

By Luke Baker
Reuters

PARIS - A French TV channel said on Wednesday it had been forced to cut short a live Facebook broadcast from a desecrated Jewish cemetery in eastern France because of an onslaught of anti-Semitic commentary.

Separately, two swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans were found painted in red on a monument at a different cemetery near Lyon.

"Our country is confronted with a resurgence of anti-Semitism undoubtedly without precedent since the Second World War," President Emmanuel Macron said later on Tuesday in an annual speech to Jewish leaders in France.

France 3 television said it went live from the first cemetery in the village of Quatzenheim on Tuesday as President Emmanuel Macron was visiting to pay his respects after more than 90 graves were vandalized with swastikas and anti-Semitic abuse.

But as it broadcast footage online to its more than 1.3 million Facebook followers, the feed was inundated with anti-Semitic commentary and abuse.

"We are talking about explicit death threats, comments that were openly anti-Semitic and racist, including 'Heil Hitler,' 'dirty Jew' or 'dirty Jews,' comments that were addressed at Emmanuel Macron and representatives of the Jewish community," the channel said in a statement explaining its decision.

"Within minutes, the number of vile and illegal comments had gone well beyond our capacity to moderate them," it explained, adding that it would have taken 10 or 20 staff to handle the onslaught.

"We refuse to traffic in hatred."

 **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency will hold its Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 3:00 pm at the Guam Public Library Board Conference Room in Hagatna.

Persons requiring special accommodations should contact the GCAHA Office at 300-1204-8 or fax at 300-1209.

"Paid with government funds by Guam CAHA"

GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRY

Regular Board Meeting,
Tuesday, February 26, 2019
at 8:30 AM

at the Tertaje Professional Building, 194 Herman Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209 Health Professional Licensing Office Board Conference Room, Hagatna, Guam.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

5-day

GUAM DAILY POST • TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

GRMC seeks dismissal of Bengzon lawsuit

By Kevin Kerrigan
kevin@postguam.com

The attorney for Guam Regional Medical City on Monday called on Judge Elyze Iriarte of the Superior Court of Guam to dismiss the request for a restraining order filed by former GRMC CEO Margaret Bengzon.

Attorney Todd Thompson told the court that Bengzon's claim "must be dismissed" because she did not have a contract with Guam Healthcare Development Inc. which does business as GRMC.

Bengzon is seeking reinstatement as chief executive officer of the

private hospital and a return to the "status quo" before she was ousted "until such time as the issue of shareholder ownership may be resolved by the (Philippine) SEC or Philippine Courts."

"There is no remedy for a contract breach," said Thompson, "because there is no contract."

He maintained that Bengzon was an "at-will" employee at GRMC and that left her vulnerable to dismissal at any time.

"The presumption in the law is that an 'at-will' employment relationship

exists," the attorney said, "unless that is rebutted, and it hasn't been."

There "is no exception to the 'at-will' relationship," he argued. "Therefore, you haven't met your pleading burden."

'Not the way to do it'

Bengzon's attorney, Philip Torres, acknowledged that "there is no contract," but "that doesn't explain the issue in this case," he said. The issue, he said, is "whether Ms. Bengzon has standing to be in this courtroom on the actions taken by the corporation."

"It's not an easy question," he said,

because Guam "does not have a well-developed employment law."

But, he argued, "clearly directors have fiduciary duties to each director ... and to remove somebody without giving them proper notice and send them a letter after the fact ... is not the way to do it."

He pointed out that nine of the shareholders of the Philippine parent company, Professional Services Inc., "have been indicted in the Philippines for fraud." And he maintained that the actions taken by those shareholders to remove Bengzon were not in accordance with the bylaws and already have caused harm.



Margaret Bengzon

Anderson receives posthumous Ancient Order of the Chamorro Award

By John O'Connor
john@postguam.com

Longtime talk radio host Jon Anderson was posthumously honored with the Ancient Order of Chamorro Award, the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed on a non-native resident of Guam.

His wife, Mahina Anderson, accepted the award with their family. Jon Anderson died earlier this month at Guam Regional Medical City. He was 76 years old.

His broadcast career on Guam began in 1977 when he became general manager of KUAM. Four years later, he and some partners bought a radio station that became K-57, where he launched the first news-talk format on the island.

For nearly two decades as host of the K-57 Breakfast Show, Jon ruled the morning drive time on Guam.

Following his career at K-57 he



AWARD: Acting Gov. Joshua Tenorio presents Jon Anderson's wife, Mahina, left, the Ancient Order of the Chamorro Award that was posthumously given to her husband for his years of service to the island Monday in the Governor's Conference Room in Adelup. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

served as editor-in-chief of the Marianas Variety newspaper before retiring in 2014.

Journalism scholarship

The Anderson family has created

a scholarship in his name to support future journalists.

Mahina said her husband understood the importance of providing people with the information

they needed to participate in their government.

"The strength of a democracy relies on its population being informed enough to choose the right leaders, and to hold them accountable while in office," notes a biography of Jon Anderson in a program for Sunday's memorial service. "The media, as the fourth estate, is key to ensuring residents are up-to-date on their government, and aware of stories both good and bad that are affecting their lives."

"His contributions, dedication and legacy will live on through those he helped, informed, mentored and loved," states the Jon A. Anderson Journalism Scholarship website. "His family has decided to remember Jon by creating a scholarship in his name to support future journalists."

The scholarship will be for journalism students and is administered by the University of Guam Endowment Foundation. The foundation is working with the Anderson family to create the parameters of the scholarship and will make that information available for interested applicants as soon as it is available. Anyone wanting to donate to the scholarship can visit the website at www.supportuog.org/collections/donate/products/jon-a-anderson-journalism-scholarship.

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In Loving Memory of

James Shiokitzi Ikerdew

December 6, 1941 - February 2, 2019

Was called home by our Heavenly Father on
February 2, 2019 at the age of 77.

He will be greeted at the Gates of Heaven by His
Father and Mother: Ngerbul and Ingas

Adopted Father and Mother: Ikerdew and Omchuwong

Sisters/Brothers: Namie, Christina, Rikel, Dengir, Otoichi, Ngrabeketel, Pasqual, and Rubeang Ngruchelbed

His love and memories will forever be remembered in the hearts of his
Loving Wife: Damiana M. Ikerdew

Children (Grandchildren) [Great-Grandchildren]:

Damaris I. Simeon (Shanily and Willander Espangel) [Telens & Julian Espangel],
(Deisha Simeon & Joseph Chokal) [Jeriah Chokal], (Olivia Simeon) [Peter Simeon ♀],
(Austin Simeon)

Jason A. Ikerdew (Tubby Ikerdew ♀)

James will be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, family,
and friends on Guam and The Republic of Palau.

Last Respects will be held Saturday, February 23, 2019 at San Augustin's Funeral
Home, Harmon from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Burial will be at 1:45 pm at Nimitz Hill.

