

*Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2019*

**Remarks in a Meeting With Vice Premier Liu He of China and an Exchange With Reporters**

*February 22, 2019*

*President Trump.* Thank you very much. It's a great honor to be with the Vice Premier of China, a very highly respected man in China. And we're negotiating trade and the trade agreement. And we have many representatives from China and—as you'd know, and most of you know who they are—many representatives from the United States.

I think we're getting along very well. Ultimately, I think the biggest decisions and some even smaller decisions will be made by President Xi and myself. And we expect to have a meeting sometime in the not-too-distant future.

And I can only say talks are going along well, but we're going to have to see what happens. I think there'll be some points that this group won't agree on, because maybe they're not supposed to agree on, or allowed to agree on. And I think President Xi and I will work out the final points, perhaps. And perhaps not.

So I just want to say, Mr. Vice Premier, it's a great honor to have you.

*Vice Premier Liu.* Thank you.

*President Trump.* And we thank you very much.

*Vice Premier Liu.* Thank you, Mr. President.

*President Trump.* Would you like to say something?

*Vice Premier Liu.* Okay. Thank you very, very much, Mr. President. It's a great honor to meet you. I came here—first I bring the message from our President. If you don't mind, I ask the interpreter to read the letter to you.

*President Trump.* Thank you. Please.

So you can hear fine? You'll speak for them too.

*Interpreter.* Okay. Message from President Xi Jinping to President Donald J. Trump:

"Mr. President,

"As China and the U.S. are holding another round of high-level economic and trade talks, I entrust Vice Premier Liu He to be my Special Envoy and ask him to bring you my warm greetings and best regards.

"Not too long ago, you sent to me a special letter of festive greetings, together with the lovely video made for me and my wife by your grandchildren on the Chinese Lunar New Year. We enjoyed the performance greatly and were happy to see that the little ones have kept improving in their Chinese. We watched the video more than once and feel that we must—*[inaudible]*—for these adorable grandchildren of yours.

"I'm also pleased to note that, to follow through on what has been agreed upon between the two of us in Argentina, our economic teams have, since lately, engaged in intensive consultations and made significant progress. This has been well received in both our countries and in the wider international community. It is my hope that our two sides will continue to

work together in the spirit of mutual respect and win-win cooperation and could redouble our efforts so as to meet each other halfway and reach an agreement that works for our mutual benefit.

"Mr. President, I stand ready to be in close touch with you through various means. Please let me know if you have any specific thought in mind.

"To conclude, my wife Peng Liyuan and I wish to extend our season's greetings to you, Melania, and your family. May you all enjoy happiness and success in the Year of the Pig."

*President Trump.* Thank you very much. That's very nice. Say, "Thank you very much." I would really appreciate if you would just give my warmest regards.

The video he's talking about is a video made by Ivanka and Jared, and it's—their children speak fluent Chinese, even though they're very young. They were taught, at a very young age, Chinese. And when President Xi met Arabella, who's the oldest, he said this was like perfect Chinese from a—at the time, it was 5-year-old—from a 5-year-old girl from Beijing. And I thought that was nice. And they actually made a little video that they sent to President Xi.

And if you want, we could even give them—I'm sure the press wouldn't like to see the video, but—[*laughter*]—if you would, just in case you would, I think it would be fine. If you'd like to do that, Jared, you could just give it to a few of the people. But it was—I thought it was a very nice thing. And it shows a great friendship between the two countries. And that was really just a "Happy New Year" wish that was given in Chinese by Arabella—mostly by Arabella—and her two brothers. So I think it was—I think it's cute. I wouldn't mind if you gave it. [*Laughter*]

We're having very good talks. There's a chance that something very exciting could happen. This is a deal that would be signed by me. I've been in touch with Congress. I've been telling many of the people in Congress exactly where we are. We're right now getting a 25-percent tariff on \$50 billion worth of goods coming in, mostly technology and high technology.

We're getting a 10-percent tariff on \$200 billion worth of goods. The 10 percent goes up as of March 1. It goes to a 25 percent number. So we'd be getting 25 percent on \$250 billion. And there's about \$267 billion that's untariffed, untouched, which we'll discuss later.

But if we could make a deal, we wouldn't have to bother with that discussion. So we'll see what happens. But we've had very good talks. As you know, Mr. Lighthizer has done a great job. But it's only a great job, Bob, if you get it finished, right?

*United States Trade Representative Robert E. Lighthizer.* Yes, sir.

*President Trump.* And if it's a deal that's a good deal for both.

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* Yes, sir.

*President Trump.* And, Steve, great. But it's only great if you get it done.

Wilbur, Sonny—Sonny doesn't care; he just wants a lot of products being bought from the farmers. [*Laughter*] Is that right, Sonny? That's what you care about. Sonny is more interested in the farmers than he is any other aspect.

But Larry Kudlow, Mr. Ambassador—the longest serving Governor in the history of the country, as you know. And now he's Ambassador to China. But he was the Governor of Iowa for 24 years, right?

*United States Ambassador to China Terry E. Branstad.* Twenty—well, I would have been, except you appointed me as Ambassador. [Laughter]

*President Trump.* Okay, but you were still the longest—

*Ambassador Branstad.* Twenty-two years and 4 months, yes.

*President Trump.* It's the longest serving Governor in the history of our country. I believe—

*Ambassador Branstad.* That's right. That's right.

*President Trump.* —as I remember from the time. And you've done a great job as Governor, and you're doing a great job as the Ambassador to China.

And I might tell the story that when the Ambassador was a young man from Iowa, he was in China. And he was dealing with people from China, both in Iowa and in China. And he met a man who was a young man, and he is now the head of China, President Xi. And he said to his wife—he came home—and this was how many years ago, Mr. Ambassador?

*Ambassador Branstad.* Well, 1970—1985 is when he came to Iowa.

*President Trump.* Right, but—

*Ambassador Branstad.* Nineteen-eighty-five.

*President Trump.* —you met him in 1978 or so, right?

*Ambassador Branstad.* I went to China in '84, and then he was in Iowa in '85.

*President Trump.* So he met him, and he came home, and he told his wife, "I just met the next President of China." And they say, "How would you know?" He said, "Because the competence of this man is so enormous that I believe he's going to be the next President of China." And years go by, and he became the next President of China. And they like each other.

So when it came time to picking an Ambassador from China, I say: "I think I have the right guy. He happens to be Governor of the great State of Iowa." And you have done a fantastic job. But I thought that story was incredible.

So, many years ago, he said that he knows who the next President of China is going to be. I thought—I just think it's a great story. And his wife confirms it fully, so that's good.

So I just want to thank everybody for being here. We're going to have discussions right now. We're talking. And again, I think we're making a lot of progress. I think there's a very, very good chance that a deal could be made. We'll be meeting at some point with President Xi, assuming we go further along the line, Bob. Could you say a couple of words to that as to the potential of a meeting, whether or not we will meet?

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* We've made progress on some very important structural issues and some progress on purchases. We have a few very, very big hurdles that we still have to face, but if we make—if we continue to make progress, that would be a great outcome, and I think the Vice Premier agrees with that.

*Vice Premier Liu.* Yes, we too have made great progress.

*President Trump.* Made great progress. I think we have made great progress. Steve Mnuchin, what would you say?

*Secretary of the Treasury Steven T. Mnuchin.* I would just add, the Vice Premier and his team have agreed to extend their trip for 2 days, so we will be meeting all day tomorrow and into Sunday—

*President Trump.* Oh. Good, good.

*Secretary Mnuchin.* —so we can continue on a very important—this is—the Ambassador has done a very good job at documenting multiple MOUs that will be binding and enforceable and cover all different types of industries. If we can successfully conclude this, this will be very good for U.S. business and finally allowing China to open up to U.S. business.

*President Trump.* Why do you bother putting it in a form of a letter of intent or whatever you want to call it? To me, it's a waste of time.

*Secretary Mnuchin.* Well, we want to make sure. These are very important issues. There's hundreds of issues that we're dealing with—everything from financial services to currency, to forced technology transfer, to aircrafts, to express shipping, to different industries. So these are very complicated issues that the Ambassador is negotiating.

*President Trump.* Currency manipulation is a very important subject which a lot of people didn't even think in terms of.

*Vice Premier Liu.* [Inaudible]

*Secretary Mnuchin.* Yes. And that's one of the areas, Mr. President, we actually concluded and reached an agreement, one of the strongest agreements ever on currency. But we have a lot of work to do over the next 2 days on many issues.

*President Trump.* Have you discussed and reached a final agreement on currency?

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* We have on currency, but we have a lot more work to do over the next two days.

*President Trump.* To stabilize currencies.

Okay. Wilbur Ross.

*Secretary of Commerce Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.* Well, I'm very encouraged by what's going on. I think that the tariff situation is an important one, but this could be a good substitute for it if we can fill in all of the blanks. But there's a lot more to be done, as everybody has said. So it's a little early for champagne.

*President Trump.* No, I agree with that.

Secretary, go ahead. For the farmers' side.

*Secretary of Agriculture George E. "Sonny" Perdue.* I think the work that's being done on both sides is very, very important. And I'm happy to hear the progress, obviously. I think everybody understands, Mr. President, this deal will be consummated—if there is a deal—by you and President Xi. And we understand that.

Obviously, you have some great negotiators on your side, as does the Vice Premier, in that regard. There are a lot of details to work through, but ultimately, you and President Xi are going to have to really do the deal.

*President Trump.* I think we're doing very well with regard to farmers and the buying of products from our farmers at a certain point. They've already made a big commitment to do that. But this will be a very, very substantial farm deal. This will be the biggest farm deal ever

made, if you think about it. I don't think anything would be close, because it's China. So hopefully, if we arrive at a deal, they'll be buying lots of every form of farm product.

Mr. Ambassador, would you say something, if you'd like?

*Ambassador Branstad.* Well, I think this is probably a very historic time. And these are the two biggest economies in the world. And if these difficult structural issues can get worked out, I think it will be tremendously beneficial not only to China and the United States, but to the whole world economy.

So I know people have been working very hard. We've had many, many sessions, both in Beijing and here. And I appreciate the hard work and the diligence that's going on.

*President Trump.* Thank you. Yes, it's going very well.

Peter, would you like to say something? This is a gentleman that loves tariffs, by the way. He's like me. *[Laughter]* He and I—he loves tariffs. Peter, go ahead.

*Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy Director Peter K. Navarro.* I agree with you, sir. Tariffs are simple and they're enforceable.

*President Trump.* Right. Right. Okay. That's all you have to say? Right? But it's true.

*Director Navarro.* I wish the team luck.

*President Trump.* Good. They're doing a good job.

Larry.

*National Economic Council Director Lawrence A. Kudlow.* No, I'll just echo. And you know, a good deal that is enforceable, that's so important to the United States and to you. But if you get a good deal and we can reduce these barriers, I think it will be good for growth and prosperity for the U.S. and for China, sir.

*President Trump.* I think the relationship has been very good. That's what I will say, more than anything else. As to whether we make a deal or not, who knows? But I think we have a good chance. But I think the relationship is outstanding. I think the relationship that we have now with China is better than it's ever been. And that's being—you know, making a big statement. Our relationship, the President—the President's relationship with me, President Xi's relationship with me—I think that it's the strongest it's ever been.

One of the things that's so important to me is the fentanyl and that President Xi has agreed to criminalize the sale of fentanyl. Right now it's not a criminal product, because I guess they call it "industrial," or they call it something. But it's not a criminal product. And China has much tougher laws than we do in this country on drugs, so they don't have a big drug problem in China. They have a thing called the death penalty.

And China has much tougher laws than we do. But they've agreed to criminalize the sale of fentanyl, including the sale of fentanyl to the United States. And that is a tremendous thing, because as you know, most of it, if not all of it, comes from China. That would be a tremendous thing, in terms of our war on drugs. So I very much appreciate that. And that's another thing we'll be finalizing, hopefully, at the meeting that we have.

So subject to where they are—and we're going to have a meeting now—but subject to where they are, we will be having at least an additional meeting. And then, ultimately, we'll have a meeting with myself and President Xi to discuss the final terms and things that haven't been agreed to. But I think a lot of those things have been agreed to, but they want he and I to

agree to them in a final form. But the fentanyl is so important to us. The criminalization of fentanyl is so important to us, and we appreciate that.

I want to just thank everybody for being with us. Mr. Vice Premier, I want to thank you very much.

*Vice Premier Liu.* Thank you. Thank you.

*President Trump.* Their trip is being extended, as Steve said. Their trip is being extended by 2 days, unexpectedly, because they are making great progress. So they'll be here for an extra couple of days. So what would that include? That would be Sunday, Monday? Or——

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* It will be all day Saturday and all day Sunday.

*President Trump.* All day Sunday. So they'll be leaving on Sunday night and Monday morning. So great progress being made. Let's see what happens. Thank you all very much. I appreciate it.

### *China-U.S. Trade*

*Q.* Mr. President, do you expect to extend the deadline because of the progress here? Or do you—will you still stick with March 1?

*President Trump.* Well, I set the deadline of March 1, and right now it's at 10 percent. And I think that if—I mean, you can tell this to President Xi—I think—and if I see progress being made, substantial progress being made, it would not be inappropriate to extend that deadline, keep it at 10 percent, instead of raising it to 25 percent. And I would be inclined to doing that. I haven't even spoken to my people about it. Most people assume it will just kick in automatically, the 25 percent. But I'm the one that said it, and I think it was a reasonable period of time.

But it—we're covering things that we didn't even know we'd be covering. We're going very deep into the trade and covering items that a lot of people wanted to cover and nobody thought we'd ever get to. But we have a one-time shot at making a great deal for both countries. And so we are going to give it.

So it depends on where we are. If we're doing well, Jeff [Jeff Mason, Reuters], if we're doing very well on the negotiation, I could see extending that. And I don't think it would have to be a long-term extension because I would imagine that if it took, Steve, another month or so or less——

*Secretary Mnuchin.* Yes, I think our expectation is to conclude this quickly. And if we get to the point, over the next few days, of making progress——

*President Trump.* Yes.

*Secretary Mnuchin.* ——recommending a meeting for you and President Xi in March.

*President Trump.* Yes. So dependent on how they do over the next few days, I would certainly consider that. Okay?

*Q.* Mr. President, do you have a—do you think it's——

### *U.S. Military Presence in South Korea*

*Q.* Is drawing down U.S. troops a consideration—[inaudible]?

*President Trump.* Say it?

Q. Is drawing down U.S. troops a consideration——

*President Trump.* I don't understand.

Q. Is drawing down U.S. troops a consideration in your upcoming summit with North Korean Kim Jong Un? And——

*President Trump.* No, it's not. No. That was not a consideration. That's not—that is not one of the things on the table.

*North Korea*

Q. What is on the table?

*President Trump.* Oh, you really want me to discuss that now?

Q. I do. [*Laughter*]

*President Trump.* Everything is on the table. Everything.

Q. Is the first thing——

*Secretary of Labor R. Alexander Acosta*

Q. Mr. President, do have any concerns about the Labor Secretary's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein case?

*President Trump.* I really don't know too much about it. I know he's done a great job as Labor Secretary. And that seems like a long time ago. But I know he's been a fantastic Labor Secretary. That's all I can really tell you about it. That's all I know about it.

*Kraft Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Robert K. Kraft*

Q. What about the charges against Bob Kraft? He's a friend of yours.

*President Trump.* Well, it's very sad. I was very surprised to see it. He's proclaimed his innocence totally, and—but I'm very surprised to see it.

Q. Mr. President, Mr. President, with the trade deal——

*Investigation Into Russia's Interference in 2016 Presidential Election*

Q. Have you spoken with Bill Barr about the release of the Mueller report? Have you spoken with him about that?

*President Trump.* No, I have not. No.

Q. You've said nothing to him about it?

*President Trump.* I have not.

Q. Do you expect to?

*President Trump.* At some point, I guess I'll be talking about it. But you know the nice part? There was no collusion. There was no obstruction. There was no anything. So that's the nice part. There was no phone calls, no nothing. We have a—I won a race. You know why I won the race? Because I was a better candidate than she was. And it had nothing to do with Russia, and everybody knows it's a hoax. It's one of the greatest hoaxes ever perpetrated on this country.

So I look forward to seeing the report. If it's an honest report, it will say that. If it's not an honest report, it won't.

Yes, go ahead.

Q. And, Mr. President——

### *China-U.S. Trade*

Q. You've been at this and your teams have been at this trade deal for a long time.

*President Trump.* Yes, well, it's not a long time when you consider it's probably the biggest deal ever made.

Q. It seems like it's getting close to the finish line. At this point, when you boil it all down, do you believe it's more likely that a deal does happen or a deal doesn't happen?

*President Trump.* Well, I think I can speak for the United States—the question is an interesting one: Is it more likely that a deal happens or doesn't happen? Speaking for the United States, I would say it's probably more likely that a deal does happen. But that doesn't mean it's going to happen.

Speaking for China, if you'd like to add—answer that question, you can. But I would say that it's more likely that a deal will happen. The fact that they're staying—and this is a very high delegation. This is a man who is revered all throughout China, as the Vice Premier. So the fact that they're willing to stay for a quite a bit longer period—doubling up the time—that means something. I think there's a good chance that it happens.

Go ahead. You—would you like to answer that question?

Q. Mr. President——

*President Trump.* Wait, wait. Would you like to answer that question?

*Vice Premier Liu.* Thank you, Mr. President. May I speak Chinese instead of English?

*President Trump.* Yes, please. Speak Chinese, and you—you'll speak louder.

*Interpreter.* Okay.

*President Trump.* They can't hear you.

*Interpreter.* I will.

[*At this point, Vice Premier Liu spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter as follows.*]

*Vice Premier Liu.* So from China, we believe it is that——

*President Trump.* You have to speak louder. I'm sorry.

*Vice Premier Liu.* From China, we believe that is very likely that it will happen and we hope that ultimately we'll have a deal. And the Chinese side is ready to ready to make our utmost effort.

*President Trump.* I think we both feel that way. I think we both feel that there's a very good chance that the deal will happen.

### *Syria*

Q. Mr. President, on troops in Syria, why are you reversing course—[*inaudible*]?



*President Trump.* I'm not reversing course. I have done something that nobody else has been able to do. In another short period of time, like hours—you'll be hearing "hours and days"—you'll be hearing about the caliphate. It will—it's 100-percent defeated. Nobody has been able to say that. That doesn't mean there aren't some very bad people walking around and strapping on bombs and all of these things. But we've done a job that nobody else has been able to do.

I heard Lindsey Graham this morning congratulating me on having defeated the—you know, the caliphate. And frankly, I'm getting a lot of congratulations.

At the same time, we can leave a small force along with others in the force—whether it's NATO troops or whoever it might be—so that it doesn't start up again. And I'm okay—it's a very small, tiny fraction of the people we have. And a lot of people like that idea, and I'm open to ideas.

But the 2,500 people that we've had there will be going to different parts of the world. They may be going over to Iraq, where we have a very powerful base, a base that cost billions of dollars to build, frankly, and that we'll be using. But we have had tremendous success in defeating the caliphate.

And now everybody is admitting, I did more in the last 3 or 4 weeks than people have done in years. And it's been very successful, but we want to make sure it stays that way.

Yes, please.

### *China-U.S. Trade*

Q. Tech transfers—going back to the trade deal—we've heard that you haven't made a whole lot of progress on the tech transfers—

*President Trump.* Do you want to talk about the transfers? Tech—

Q. Does that still have to be part of the deal—

*President Trump.* Yes, I'll let Bob answer that. Go ahead, Bob.

Q. Thanks.

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* The answer is, yes. It's one of the structural issues. It has to be done properly. I mean, we've made a lot of progress. So whoever told you we weren't is—just didn't know what they're talking about.

### *Election Fraud*

Q. Mr. President, why haven't you condemned the North Carolina election fraud? This is a big story. The Republican candidate is calling for a new election. Why have you not condemned that, given you've condemned other kinds of voter fraud?

*President Trump.* Well, I condemn any election fraud. And when I look at what's happened in California with the votes, when I look at what happened—as you know, there was just a case where they found a million fraudulent votes. When I look at what's happened in Texas—

Q. There haven't been any cases—this is an actual case.

*President Trump.* Excuse me. Excuse me. When I look at what's happened in Texas. When I look at that catastrophe that took place in Florida where the Republican candidates

kept getting less and less and less and less. And fortunately, Rick Scott and Ron ended up winning their election, but it was disgraceful what happened there.

So I look at a lot of different places all over the country. I condemn any voter fraud of any kind, whether it's Democrat or Republican. But when you look at some of the things that happened in California, in particular. When you look at what's happened in Texas with all of those votes that they recently found were not exactly properly done, I condemn all of it. And that includes North Carolina, if anything—you know, I guess they're going to be doing a final report. But I'd like to see the final report. But any form of election fraud, I condemn.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any concerns about——

#### *China-U.S. Trade*

Q. Mr. President, when do you want to have that meeting with President Xi? And do you expect to have that at Mar-a-Lago?

*President Trump.* Probably at Mar-a-Lago. Probably fairly soon, during the month of March. Bob, do you have a date? Steve, do you have a date?

*Secretary Mnuchin.* Well, we're planning it with your schedule, Mr. President.

*President Trump.* Okay, so there—we have two schedules. And we'll be planning that with the schedule.

#### *Former Personal Attorney to the President Michael D. Cohen*

Q. Do you have any concerns about Michael Cohen's testimony before Congress this week?

*President Trump.* No. No. No.

Q. Mr. President, are you still considering a ban——

*President Trump.* It's lawyer-client, but you know, he's taking his own chances.

#### *ZTE Corp./Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.*

Q. Where do things stand with Huawei and ZTE? Would you still consider a ban of Chinese technology?

*President Trump.* Well, ZTE paid a big fine of \$1.2 billion, which nobody has ever even heard of before. And we want everybody to compete. And I guess it will be somewhat of a subject that we're talking about here, Bob. We'll be talking about it. We may or may not include that in this deal.

Q. Include what?

Q. Would you drop criminal charges?

*President Trump.* The Huawei and ZTE.

Q. Would you drop criminal charges against Huawei as part of this deal?

*President Trump.* We're going to be discussing all of that during the course of the next couple of weeks. And we'll be talking to the U.S. attorneys. We'll be talking to the Attorney General. But we'll be making that decision. Right now it's not something that we're discussing.

Q. [Inaudible]

## *Border Security*

Q. Do you think that congressional Republicans will stick with you on the—on your emergency declaration and vote against the joint resolution?

*President Trump.* Oh, I think they'll stick. Yes. Everybody knows we need border security. We need a wall. I think it's a very bad subject for the Democrats. We need a wall.

We've apprehended more people than we have in many, many years. "Apprehended," meaning we've gotten. With a wall, we wouldn't even have to apprehend them if we had the proper structure. It's costing us a lot of money with the military; we have a lot of military there. We have tremendous border control and border security there.

We have—I'll tell you what, the people of border security, people of ICE, the law enforcement, generally speaking, have done an incredible job at the border. We have caravans heading up, and we're able to head out the caravans. We've done a great job. But if we had the wall, it would be much easier. And frankly, it would be a job that would be perfect. And it would cost actually, ultimately, a lot less money. Okay.

Q. So you don't think that the joint resolution—

Q. Mr. President—

*President Trump.* What?

## *Telecommunications Industry/China-U.S. Trade*

Q. Okay, I have question from China Daily. I—you—

*President Trump.* China Daily.

Q. —you tweeted yesterday that the U.S. would not block out, currently, more advanced technology in terms of 5Gs, 6Gs. What do you mean?

*President Trump.* Well, I'd like to have all companies be able to compete. I don't want to artificially block people out based on excuses or based on security. I don't want to have a security problem.

Q. Including Huawei?

*President Trump.* Wait. I'm talking about everybody, really—including. But I'm talking about everybody.

Q. Yes.

*President Trump.* I don't want to use artificial blocking. We want to have great 5G. Ultimately, that's going to morph into 6G. And probably 6G will be obsolete in about 2 months—[laughter]—the way it's going, you know, the way that whole world moves. But 6G, at some point in the future, will be obsolete.

But I want to have competition with China, fair competition. I don't want to block out anybody if we can help it. Now if there's going to be a security reason or something, then we have no choice, but that is one of the things we'll be discussing today. We want to have open competition. We've always done very well in open competition.

Go ahead.

## *Currency Manipulation*

Q. Mr. President, your officials mentioned that was a deal on currency. Can you explain to us what that was?

*President Trump.* Well, we'll let you know at the appropriate time, but we have a deal on currency and currency manipulation.

Yes.

### *Border Security*

Q. Will you definitively veto that resolution that was introduced today that would block your national emergency if it passes?

*President Trump.* On the wall?

Q. Yes.

*President Trump.* Will I veto it? One hundred percent. One hundred percent. And I don't think it survives a veto; we have too many smart people that want border security, so I can't imagine it could survive a veto. But I will veto it, yes.

### *Pakistan*

Q. Mr. President—

*President Trump.* Yes.

Q. Last year you had dropped all U.S. assistance to Pakistan because of terrorists coming from there.

*President Trump.* No, I stopped paying Pakistan the \$1.3 billion that we were paying them. In the meantime, we may set up some meetings with Pakistan. Pakistan was very taking very strong advantage of the United States under other Presidents, and we were paying Pakistan \$1.3 billion a year. I ended that payment to Pakistan because they weren't helping us in a way that they should have.

And honestly, we've had—we've developed a much better relationship with Pakistan over the last short period of time than we had. But I did; I ended the payment. We were paying Pakistan \$1.3 billion a year. I ended that about 9 months ago. A lot of people don't know that, but I ended it 9 months ago.

### *Pakistan-India Relations/Terrorist Attack in Pulwama District, India*

Q. But terrorists are still coming from Pakistan, attacking in Afghanistan and India—*[inaudible]*—use force in Afghanistan and Indian forces.

*President Trump.* But what are you talking about? What are you trying to refer to? You'll have to speak up. I can't hear you.

Q. You have terrorists coming from Pakistan have attacked Indian forces in Kashmir. What did you—

*President Trump.* That's right. No, it's a terrible thing going on right now between Pakistan and India. It's a very, very bad situation, and it's a very dangerous situation between the two countries. And we would like to see it stop. A lot of people were just killed, and we want to see it stopped. We're very much involved in that. Yes, if that's what you're referring to.

Q. People in India are seeking right to self-defense—

*President Trump.* No, India is looking at something very strong. And I mean, India just lost almost 50 people and—with an attack, so I can understand that also. But we're talking, and a lot of people are talking, but it is a very, very delicate balance going on right now. There's a lot of problems between India and Pakistan because of what just happened in Kashmir.

Q. But do you have——

Q. Mr. President, Mr. President——

*President Trump.* Are you talking about Kashmir?

Q. Yes.

*President Trump.* Yes. In Kashmir, it's very dangerous. Yes, please. Wait.

*Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.*

Q. Mr. President, on Huawei, sir, just one quick follow-up: Are you planning an Executive order on Huawei?

*President Trump.* Well, we're not doing anything right now. We may or may not put that in the trade agreement. We may be discussing it, but we'd only do that in conjunction with the Attorney General of the United States, because that is a matter that is outside of what we're doing. So we do that with the Attorney General, if we do anything. And I guess there's a question as to whether or not that's being included in the agreement.

Yes, go ahead.

*Amazon.com, Inc./New York City Economy*

Q. Mr. President, we haven't gotten your response yet to Amazon pulling out of New York City, your home city, your home State——

*President Trump.* I think it's a big loss to New York City. I think it's a big loss. I think it's a—if you look at the deal, the deal was not a great deal from the standpoint of—they could've made a better deal than that, a much better deal. But still, I think it's a loss for New York City.

And the \$3 billion wasn't a check; it was a form of taxes over a period of time that now they'll never see, because you know, they were going to take in a lot of jobs; they were going to take in a lot taxes. So I think it's a big loss for New York City. It's the kind of thinking that our country is going to, on the left, on the radical left. But ultimately, it's not good for jobs, and it's not good for the economy.

But I think it was a big loss for New York City. I come from New York City. I love New York City. I think it was big loss for New York City.

Yes, sir.

*Arrest of Lt. Christopher P. Hasson, USCG*

Q. Mr. President, when were you briefed, sir, on the Coast Guard member who was arrested for threatening Democrats and other members of the media?

*President Trump.* I'm actually getting a very final briefing and a very complete briefing in about 2 hours after this.

Q. And do you have any thoughts on this man——

*President Trump.* I think it's a shame.

Q. —who went after members of the media?

*President Trump.* Yes. I think it's a very sad thing, I mean, when a thing like that happens. And I've expressed that, but I'm actually a very complete briefing in about 2 hours.

Q. Do you think that you bear any responsibility for moderating your language when it comes to that?

*President Trump.* No, I don't. I think my language is very nice. [*Laughter*]

Yes.

### *China-U.S. Trade*

Q. From People's Daily China—

*President Trump.* From China. From China.

Q. Trade conflict have been 1 year. Now negotiation is going on. So what's your—what do you think?

*President Trump.* Who are you with in China?

Q. People's Daily China newspaper.

*President Trump.* People's Daily.

*Vice Premier Liu.* Okay.

Q. Yes. And then, what do you think—that cooperation is still the good solution between the two—

*President Trump.* Great cooperation.

Q. Yes?

*President Trump.* We have great cooperation, both ways, with China. And a lot of good things are happening. I mean, I think you see that. So many people, every day, "They are going to make a deal; they aren't going to make a deal." They don't know. They have no idea. It's fake news. You know, it's one of those things.

Do they have fake news in China? I think so. [*Laughter*]

But it's a question: Are they going to make a deal? Aren't they? I think we have a very good chance of making a deal. But both parties want to make it a meaningful deal. We don't want to make a deal that doesn't—I can speak for the Vice Premier, I can speak for President Xi, I can speak for myself: Both parties want to make this a real deal, and we want to make it a meaningful deal, not a deal that's done and doesn't mean anything.

We want to make this a deal that's going to last for many, many years and a deal that's going to be good for both countries. But we want to make it meaningful.

Now, with that being said, China has the advantage of having many years of tremendous success at the expense of the United States, so they understand that. And I never blamed China for that; I blamed our past leaders. Our leaders have done a lousy job with trade. Our country lost \$800 billion last year with trade, generally. Eight hundred billion dollars.

So the Vice Premier understands that. So this same agreement should have been made 20 years ago, not now. Because, for 20 years, the United States has been really taken advantage of. And I'm not blaming China, but we should've done the same thing to them. But we didn't do

that. We had Presidents that didn't do their job. You want to know the truth? We had Presidents that did not do their job.

Yes, go ahead.

### *China-U.S. Trade*

Q. Will the MOUs be a long-term deal? How long do you—would your MOUs stay in place?

*President Trump.* I think the MOU is going to be very short term, no. I—we expect to go into—I don't like MOUs because they don't mean anything. To me, they don't mean anything. I think you're better off just going into a document. [*Laughter*] I was never a fan of an MOU.

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* An MOU is a contract. It's the way trade agreements are generally used. People refer to it like it's a term sheet. It's not a term sheet. It's an actual contract between the two parties.

*Vice Premier Liu.* Yes.

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* A memorandum of understanding is a binding agreement between two people. And that's what we're talking about. It's detailed; it covers everything in great detail. It's just called a memorandum of understanding. That's a legal term. It's a contract.

Q. And would you think that would be a very long-term deal, sir?

*Vice Premier Liu.* Yes, yes, yes. President said yes.

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* Contracts last while they last. There's no term. They last while they last.

Q. Mr. President, on North Korea, sir—

*President Trump.* By the way, I disagree.

*Vice Premier Liu.* Okay. [*Laughter*]

*President Trump.* I think that a memorandum of understanding is not a contract to the extent that we want. We're going to have—we're doing a memorandum of understanding that will be put into a final contract, I assume. But, to me, the final contract is really the thing, Bob—and I think you mean that, too—is really the thing that means something.

A memorandum of understanding is exactly that: It's a memorandum of what our understanding is. But, to me, the contract is—the real question is, Bob, so we do a memorandum of understanding, which, frankly, you could do or not do. I don't care if you do it or not. To me, it doesn't mean very much. But if you do a memorandum of—how long will it take to put that into a final, binding contract?

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* What—from now on, we're not using the word "memorandum of understanding" anymore. [*Laughter*] We're going to the term "trade agreement." All right?

*Vice Premier Liu.* Okay.

*President Trump.* Right.

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* No more. We'll never use the term again.

*President Trump.* Good.

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* We'll have the same document. It's going to be called a "trade agreement." We're never going to use "MOU" again.

*President Trump.* Are they going to put that into another agreement?

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* It will—what we'll have will be a trade agreement that, if we have—we have major hurdles. I don't want to put the cart in front of the horse. Assuming you decide on an agreement, it will signed by the two people. It will be a trade agreement between the United States and China. We're not going to use—[inaudible].

*President Trump.* Good. Good. I like that much better. I like that term much better.

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* Do you agree with that?

*Vice Premier Liu.* Okay. I agree. I fully agree.

*President Trump.* I don't—I wouldn't go into a memorandum. I would go right into a trade agreement. Either you're going to make a deal, or you're not. To have these other agreements doesn't mean anything—

*Ambassador Lighthizer.* We're never using that word again.

*President Trump.* —because they're not that meaningful, in my opinion. But anyway, I like that much better.

Q. Mr. President, what do you think needs to be done after your meeting with Lynne Patton on NYCHA?

*Vice Premier Liu.* Good, good, good.

*President Trump.* On what?

#### *New York City Public Housing*

Q. Are you going to be meeting with Lynne Patton of the New York City Housing Authority?

*President Trump.* Yes, Lynne Patton is great. And I can tell you, the New York City Housing Authority—the mayor of New York has done a terrible job with public housing. We're trying to help them, but the mayor of the City of New York has done a terrible job with respect to public housing. We're getting reports back, and it's a disgrace how badly New York City handles its public housing.

Q. On North Korea, sir—

Q. And he's heading to Iowa, Bill de Blasio.

*President Trump.* Go ahead.

Q. Go ahead.

*President Trump.* Go ahead.

#### *Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York City*

Q. Okay. Do you have any thoughts on Bill de Blasio heading to Iowa?

*President Trump.* Well, I think he has to learn how to run New York City before he starts running the country, because he hasn't done a very good job—

Q. On North Korea—



*President Trump.* —including, by the way, with Amazon.

*North Korea*

*Q.* On North Korea, your own administration officials say that Kim Jong Un has not actually decided yet whether he wants to denuclearize. So how can you meet with him if he doesn't even want to get the goal that you want?

*President Trump.* We have had such a great relationship, and China has helped us a lot with North Korea and with Kim Jong Un since I got to office.

If I were not elected President, you would have been in a war with North Korea. We now have a situation where the relationships are good—where there has been no nuclear testing, no missiles, no rockets. We got our hostages back. And we have many of the remains back and coming back rapidly, the remains of our great warriors from many, many years ago. And the families are so thrilled and so happy. We've had a great relationship.

The Singapore was a tremendous success. Only the fake news likes to portray it otherwise. We would've gone—we would've been—we would have literally been in a war with North Korea, in my opinion, had I not been elected.

Okay. Thank you very much, everybody.

*Q.* [Inaudible]

*President Trump.* Thank you. We'll see how it goes. I think it will be successful.

*Rep. Steven A. King*

*Q.* Do you think Steve King should run again for Congress?

*President Trump.* I can't hear you. You have to speak up.

*Q.* I'm trying. Do you think Steve King should run again for Congress? He said he'd run.

*President Trump.* You know, I don't know anything about the situation. When did he announce that?

*Q.* He said—today he said he wanted to run.

*President Trump.* I have not seen it. He hasn't told me anything. So we'll have to take a look.

*Q.* Are you still in touch with him?

*President Trump.* I haven't spoken to him in a long time, no. I haven't spoken—I have not been involved in that.

Thank you very much, everyone.

*Q.* Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:31 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to his daughter, Adviser to the President Ivanka M. Trump, her husband, White House Senior Adviser Jared C. Kushner, and their children Arabella, Joseph, and Theodore Kushner; Christine Branstad, wife of Ambassador Branstad; 2016 Democratic Presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton; Sens. Lindsey O. Graham and Richard L. Scott; Gov. Ronald D. DeSantis of Florida; Attorney General William P. Barr; Department of Housing and Urban Development Region II Regional Administrator Lynne Martine Patton; Chairman of

the State Affairs Commission Kim Jong Un of North Korea; and Kim Hak-song, Tony Kim, and Kim Dong-chul, U.S. citizens formerly detained by North Korean officials who returned to the U.S. on May 10, 2018. Reporters referred to former hedge fund manager Jeffery Epstein; Department of Justice Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller III; and 2018 North Carolina Republican congressional candidate Mark Harris.

*Categories:* Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters :: White House; Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : China, Vice Premier Liu.

*Locations:* Washington, DC.

*Names:* Acosta, R. Alexander; Barr, William P.; Blasio, Bill de; Branstad, Christine; Branstad, Terry E.; Clinton, Hillary Rodham; Cohen, Michael D.; de Blasio, Bill; DeSantis, Ronald D.; Graham, Lindsey O.; Hassom, Christopher P.; Kim Jong Un; Kim, Dong-chul; Kim, Hak-song; Kim, Tony; King, Steven A.; Kraft, Robert K.; Kudlow, Lawrence A.; Kushner, Arabella R.; Kushner, Jared C.; Kushner, Joseph F.; Kushner, Theodore J.; Lighthizer, Robert E.; Liu He; Mnuchin, Steven T.; Navarro, Peter K.; Patton, Lynne Martine; Perdue, George E. "Sonny"; Ross, Wilbur L., Jr.; Scott, Richard L.; Trump, Ivanka M.; Xi Jinping.

*Subjects:* Agriculture : Domestic production, strengthening efforts; Agriculture, Department of : Secretary; Amazon.com, Inc.; Armed Forces, U.S. : Servicemembers :: Deployment; Armed Forces, U.S. : Servicemembers :: POW/MIA remains, recovery efforts; China : Counternarcotics efforts, cooperation with U.S.; China : Monetary policy; China : President; China : Relations with U.S.; China : Trade with U.S.; China : U.S. Ambassador; China : U.S. tariff structure, strengthening efforts; China : Vice Premier; China L President; Commerce, Department of : Secretary; Commerce, international : Free and fair trade; Communications : News media :: Accuracy and fairness; Defense and national security : Border security; Drug abuse and trafficking : Opioid epidemic, efforts to combat; Elections : 2018 congressional elections; Florida : Governor; Homeland Security, Department of : Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S.; Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd.; Immigration and naturalization : Illegal immigration; India : Relations with Pakistan; India : Terrorist attack in Pulwama District; Iraq : Security cooperation with U.S.; Justice, Department of : Attorney General; Labor, Department of : Secretary; Law enforcement and crime : Law enforcement officers, service and dedication; Mexico : Border with U.S., infrastructure and security; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; North Korea : Chairman, State Affairs Commission; North Korea : International diplomatic efforts; Pakistan : Relations with India; Pakistan : Relations with U.S.; Pakistan : Security cooperation with U.S.; Russia : 2016 U.S. elections, interference; South Korea : Defense relationship with U.S.; Syria : U.S. military forces, withdrawal; Terrorism : Counterterrorism efforts; Terrorism : Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist organization; Trade Representative, Office of the U.S.; Treasury, Department of the : Secretary; White House Office : Assistants to the President :: Adviser to the President; White House Office : Assistants to the President :: Senior Adviser; White House Office : Assistants to the President :: Trade and Manufacturing Policy; White House Office : Economic Council, National; ZTE Corp.

*DCPD Number:* DCPD201900095.