

The trade war

FEB 7, 2018

The United States slaps steep safeguard tariffs on imported solar panels and washing machines, indicating concerns over China's dominance of the global supply chain.

MARCH 23

The US implements tariffs on steel (25 per cent) and aluminium (10 per cent) imports from all nations including China.

APRIL 2

China hits back with 25 per cent tariffs on US\$3 billion (S\$4 billion) worth of US imports, from frozen pork and wine to certain fruits and nuts.

APRIL 16



Chinese tech company ZTE banned from doing business with US firms for seven years over violation of sanctions on Iran and North Korea.

MAY 3-4

US and Chinese officials meet for trade talks in Beijing, but no agreement is reached and no statement is released.

MAY 17

Trade talks led by US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He begin in Washington.

MAY 19

The US and China reach agreement and issue joint statement. The US agrees to hold off on tariffs and China offers to significantly increase purchases of US goods.

MAY 22

China offers to remove tariffs on US farm products as part of a settlement for the ZTE dispute. China will also cut import duties on cars from 25 per cent to 15 per cent.

JUNE 2-4

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Mr Liu meet in Beijing for talks, with China offering to buy US\$25 billion more of US goods in 2018. Mr Ross later announces a deal allowing ZTE to get back into business in the US.

JUNE 14

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing and they discuss trade and security.

JULY 6

The 25 per cent tariffs by the US on US\$34 billion worth of imports from China come into effect. China responds with similar 25 per cent tariffs on US\$34 billion worth of US imports.

AUG 23

US tariffs on US\$16 billion worth of imports from China take effect, along with China's retaliatory tariffs on US\$16 billion worth of US exports.

SEPT 24



The US imposes 10 per cent tariffs on US\$200 billion worth of Chinese exports until the end of 2018, with that rising to 25 per cent afterwards. China's tariff retaliation on US\$60 billion worth of US goods becomes effective simultaneously.

NOV 1

US President Donald Trump and Mr Xi talk over the phone, and Mr Trump later says he thinks a deal will be reached.

NOV 9

Mr Mnuchin and Mr Liu talk over the phone, but the conversation does not lead to any breakthrough to resolve the tariff dispute.

NOV 18

Mr Xi and US Vice-President Mike Pence trade barbs at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum in Papua New Guinea, which ends without a communique after a dispute over the statement on trade.

DEC 1



Mr Trump and Mr Xi meet at the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires, agree to a truce and talks, and freeze tariffs at the current level for 90 days. The US postpones increase in tariffs on US\$200 billion worth of imports, which was planned for Jan 1, 2019.

JAN 7-9, 2019

US officials visit Beijing for the first sit-down talks since Mr Trump and Mr Xi agreed to a three-month truce.