

US President Trump meets China's Liu on trade issues: Report

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US President Donald Trump. (Reuters)

Shanghai: Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, who is leading a trade delegation in Washington, has met US President Donald Trump, state broadcaster China Central Television said on Friday. A second round of talks between senior Trump administration officials and their Chinese counterparts started at the US Treasury on Thursday morning, focused on cutting China's US trade surplus and improving intellectual property protections.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders had earlier said Trump would meet Liu later on Thursday. Liu said the two countries should work together with mutual respect to promote stable and healthy ties, the People's Daily said in a post on an official microblog account.

"China is willing to strive together with the United States to appropriately handle and resolve trade issues felt by both sides on a basis of mutual benefit," the official newspaper cited Liu as saying. He said the two sides should push to ensure trade cooperation continued to be a "ballast stone and propeller" of US-China relations.

The paper said Trump had called for strengthening of trade and investment ties in sectors such as energy, manufacturing and agriculture, as well as pushing ahead work on intellectual property protection.

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Beijing has threatened equal retaliation, including tariffs on some of its largest US imports, including aircraft, soybeans and autos.

- Reuters