



## About to China retaliates against US tariffs - it also wants to talk



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China will fight to the bitter end of any trade war," the foreign ministry spokesperson in Beijing declared, after China announced tit-for-tat tariffs on agricultural imports from the US. This came within minutes of a new 10% US levy on Chinese imports that came into effect on Tuesday - which adds to existing tariffs both from Trump's first term and those announced last month.

But China's latest retaliatory measures are an opening swing, not a direct punch. It shows some strength, and it has the potential to sting parts of the United States, but also leaves room to negotiate or escalate if necessary. "We advise the US to put away its bullying face and return to the right track of dialogue and co-operation before it is too late," foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian added.

This is the second round of tariffs the two countries have imposed on each other since February. But this time China is hitting Donald Trump where it has the potential to hurt - by targeting farmers, who are some of his core supporters. Almost 78% of farming-dependent counties in the US endorsed Mr Trump in 2024. The tariffs are broadly negative for US agricultural markets. It is going to have a bearish influence on prices. There are enough corn and soybean supplies in the world for China to make a switch, it is more of an issue for the US, because 30% of US soybeans still go to China," Ole Houe, of Ikon commodities, told Reuters news agency.

Beijing may hope that this will apply some pressure on the Trump administration ahead of any potential negotiations.