

China responds to US tariffs, calls for dialogue



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BEIJING, March 4 – China retaliated against new US tariffs, imposing 10-15% duties on key agricultural imports, including chicken, beef, pork, and soybeans. This move follows the US's 10% levy on Chinese imports, a step that escalates tensions between the world's top two economies.

The tariffs, effective March 10, target areas where the US is vulnerable, notably the agricultural sector, which is a key base of support for President Trump. Nearly 78% of farming-dependent counties in the US voted for Trump in 2024, and China's retaliatory tariffs aim to pressure his

administration while leaving room for negotiation.

While China's foreign ministry declared its readiness for a prolonged trade battle, it also emphasized the importance of dialogue. "Pressure, coercion, and threats are not the right way to deal with China," spokesperson Lin Jian stated. The country has kept its tariffs below 20%, signaling a desire for de-escalation rather than further confrontation.

China's approach contrasts with its aggressive actions during the 2018 trade war. Analysts suggest Beijing is seeking to avoid an all-out conflict, aiming instead for a balanced stance where it can both push back and create openings for talks.

The recent tariff imposition is part of a broader economic strategy as China grapples with an economic slowdown, high youth unemployment, and concerns over domestic spending. Despite its firm rhetoric, China's trade policies reflect a cautious balancing act between responding to US actions and minimizing damage to its own economy.

As the US and China navigate this complex dispute, Beijing's latest measures signal its readiness to negotiate without completely abandoning its firm stance.