# UK signals support for US-China tariffs amid strategic diplomacy and upcoming Trump visit



Britain has signalled openness to US President Donald Trump's proposal to impose additional tariffs on China in an effort to pressure Beijing over its purchase of Russian petroleum, a move linked to broader efforts to end the war in Ukraine. Business Secretary Peter Kyle indicated that the UK is “looking at ways” to support Kyiv both “assertively” and “imaginatively,” highlighting ongoing conversations with the United States on the matter. This willingness to consider tariffs comes as part of a wider strategic approach to disrupt financial flows to Russia, which Trump has suggested would involve NATO countries imposing 50 to 100 percent tariffs on China.

Mr Kyle's comments were made in the context of preparing for Trump’s upcoming state visit to the UK, where Downing Street has promised the “special relationship” between the two nations will “reach new heights.” The visit is expected to be marked by a series of high-profile agreements, including a “world-leading tech partnership” and a major civil nuclear energy deal. These agreements, scheduled to be signed at Chequers by Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and President Trump, aim to strengthen bilateral ties despite ideological differences between the leaders. The UK has announced over £1.25 billion in American investments ahead of this visit, involving companies such as PayPal, Bank of America, Nvidia, and OpenAI, showcasing a commitment to fostering economic collaboration and technology innovation.

At the same time, the UK government appears to be balancing its stance with ongoing diplomatic engagements with China, as evidenced by Prime Minister Starmer’s planned trip to Beijing in the coming months and recent visits by senior Labour politicians seeking Chinese investment for Britain's economy. This dual approach reflects the complex geopolitical landscape in which the UK is navigating pressures from its transatlantic alliance and the economic imperatives tied to relations with China.

Beyond tariffs and trade, the visit will also see agreements designed to accelerate the development of nuclear power in both countries. A newly signed deal aims to halve the licensing time for nuclear projects by allowing safety approvals granted in one country to be accepted by the other. Sir Keir Starmer has described these "major commitments" as setting the UK on course for a “golden age of nuclear,” which could reduce household energy bills and create thousands of jobs.

Meanwhile, broader diplomatic negotiations between the US and China continue amid ongoing trade tensions. Recent talks in Madrid focused on issues such as TikTok’s future in the US, remaining tariffs, and China’s purchases of Russian oil, with the US calling on G7 nations to follow its lead in imposing tariffs to pressure Russia’s energy revenues. Although substantive resolutions remain elusive, these discussions are indicative of the persistent complexities influencing global trade relations and efforts to isolate Russia economically.

This multifaceted backdrop frames the UK’s evolving foreign and economic policy as it prepares for a state visit that will test the durability of its alliances and its ability to manage competing priorities in an increasingly contested global arena. The visit is notably shadowed by recent diplomatic turbulence, including the dramatic dismissal of Lord Mandelson as UK ambassador over unrelated controversies, adding another layer of sensitivity to the high-stakes encounter.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15098457/Britain-plan-tariffs-China-bid-end-war-Ukraine.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/china/us-china-end-first-day-talks-spain-trade-tiktok-deadline-2025-09-14/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15098457/Britain-plan-tariffs-China-bid-end-war-Ukraine.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15098457/Britain-plan-tariffs-China-bid-end-war-Ukraine.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15098457/Britain-plan-tariffs-China-bid-end-war-Ukraine.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/world/china/us-china-end-first-day-talks-spain-trade-tiktok-deadline-2025-09-14/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15098457/Britain-plan-tariffs-China-bid-end-war-Ukraine.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15098457/Britain-plan-tariffs-China-bid-end-war-Ukraine.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/> - During U.S. President Donald Trump's second state visit to the UK in 2025, the United States and Britain are set to announce major agreements on technology and civil nuclear energy. The visit, filled with royal ceremonies and aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, underscores the UK’s desire to finalize steel and aluminum tariff reductions under a broader trade deal. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Trump are scheduled to meet at Chequers to sign a 'world-leading tech partnership' and a 'major civil nuclear deal.' The leaders have developed a productive relationship despite ideological differences. The UK announced over £1.25 billion in U.S. investment ahead of the visit, with companies like PayPal, Bank of America, Nvidia, and OpenAI involved. Cultural cooperation, including basketball promotion and collaborations between heritage institutions, will also be highlighted. However, the trip is shadowed by the dismissal of UK ambassador Peter Mandelson due to connections to Jeffrey Epstein, a move that complicates visit preparations. Trump’s visit follows a recent private trip to Scotland, and further economic and defense cooperation between the two nations is anticipated.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/us-china-end-first-day-talks-spain-trade-tiktok-deadline-2025-09-14/> - On September 14, 2025, U.S. and Chinese officials concluded the first day of trade talks in Madrid, aimed at addressing strained trade relations and an impending deadline over the TikTok app. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer met with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng and top negotiator Li Chenggang. This marked the fourth such meeting in recent months, following a 90-day trade truce agreed upon in July that reduced tariffs and resumed rare-earth exports from China to the U.S. President Trump has extended existing 55% tariffs on Chinese goods until November 10. The Madrid talks, seen as unlikely to yield significant breakthroughs, are expected to result in an extension of ByteDance’s deadline to divest TikTok’s U.S. operations, previously set for September 17. Analysts suggest substantive deals will hinge on a potential Trump-Xi summit. Key issues include TikTok's future, U.S. export controls, tariffs, and China’s purchases of U.S. soybeans. The talks also touched on U.S. efforts to pressure China and India to stop buying Russian oil by threatening tariffs. Bessent has urged G7 nations to follow suit in targeting Russian oil revenues. Talks will resume on Monday, with joint press conferences expected afterward.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-us-announce-tech-energy-deals-during-trump-visit-2025-09-14/> - During U.S. President Donald Trump's second state visit to the UK in 2025, the United States and Britain are set to announce major agreements on technology and civil nuclear energy. The visit, filled with royal ceremonies and aimed at strengthening bilateral ties, underscores the UK’s desire to finalize steel and aluminum tariff reductions under a broader trade deal. Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Trump are scheduled to meet at Chequers to sign a 'world-leading tech partnership' and a 'major civil nuclear deal.' The leaders have developed a productive relationship despite ideological differences. The UK announced over £1.25 billion in U.S. investment ahead of the visit, with companies like PayPal, Bank of America, Nvidia, and OpenAI involved. Cultural cooperation, including basketball promotion and collaborations between heritage institutions, will also be highlighted. However, the trip is shadowed by the dismissal of UK ambassador Peter Mandelson due to connections to Jeffrey Epstein, a move that complicates visit preparations. Trump’s visit follows a recent private trip to Scotland, and further economic and defense cooperation between the two nations is anticipated.
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