

US Business Council Delegation to Visit China Amid Trade Push

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A high-level delegation from the United States-China Business Council (USCBC) is scheduled to visit China this week, signaling a renewed focus on strengthening commercial ties between the world's two largest economies. The visit, first reported by the South China Morning Post, is expected to include meetings with senior Chinese officials as both sides seek to stabilize economic engagement.

The delegation will be led by Rajesh Subramaniam, Chief Executive Officer of FedEx and current chair of the USCBC board. He will be joined by top business figures, including Boeing executives and USCBC President Sean Stein, according to individuals familiar with the matter. Reuters noted that it could not independently verify the report, and the USCBC has yet to issue an official comment.

This visit takes place against the backdrop of fresh economic and trade negotiations currently underway in Sweden. From July 27 to 30, China's Vice Premier He Lifeng is holding talks with U.S. officials in a bid to find common ground on ongoing trade disputes. The timing of the USCBC trip suggests a coordinated push to improve bilateral relations through private sector diplomacy, rather than relying solely on government-led initiatives.

Sources told the South China Morning Post that the business leaders are expected to meet with high-ranking Chinese officials, with hopes to reinvigorate stalled business discussions and improve market access for American firms operating in China.

Notably, the visit comes as China approaches an August 12 deadline to reach a durable trade agreement with the White House. Failure to do so could lead to higher U.S. tariffs on a range of Chinese exports, a move that would further strain already fragile trade relations. Despite this pressure, Beijing appears motivated to keep the lines of communication open, particularly with major American companies that play a vital role in global supply chains.

There is also speculation, per the SCMP report, that both governments are exploring the possibility of a presidential visit to China later this year, though no details have been confirmed.

While the Biden administration has maintained a measured approach to trade with China, many American businesses are advocating for more predictable and open engagement. These efforts, including the upcoming USCBC visit, may help establish a more stable commercial foundation, even amid broader geopolitical tensions.

As U.S.-China economic relations remain at a crossroads, business-led diplomacy may prove a vital bridge, especially when political avenues are mired in uncertainty.