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Trump Advances Sweeping Tariff Strategy, Targets Over 150 Countries

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In a bold escalation of his America-first trade policy, President Donald Trump announced plans to send tariff notices to more than 150 countries, signaling a wide-reaching overhaul of U.S. trade dynamics. Beginning August 1, the proposed measures will include new duties on pharmaceutical and semiconductor imports, alongside already-planned tariffs on copper and reciprocal levies announced earlier this year.

During remarks on Wednesday, Trump outlined a direct approach: “We’re just going to send a notice of payment out, and the notice of payment is going to say what the tariff rate will be. It’s all going to be the same for everyone in that group.” His comments reflect a simplified, no-nonsense strategy that prioritizes American industry and jobs over complex multinational negotiations that, in his view, have too often favored foreign economies at the expense of U.S. manufacturers and workers.

The president’s initiative builds on a series of previous communications with trade partners, where letters established baseline tariffs ranging from 20% to 40%, and up to 50% for goods from Brazil. These notices, while controversial abroad, have reasserted U.S. leverage in ongoing trade negotiations. Trump has emphasized that these letters are not just bargaining tools, but are, in his words, “the deals” unless better terms are reached.

Most recently, Trump revealed a 35% tariff on Canadian imports, followed by proposed 30% tariffs on goods from Mexico and the European Union (EU). In response, the EU is reportedly preparing countermeasures targeting up to \$84 billion in American exports if discussions fail to produce a compromise.

While the international response has been mixed, Trump’s domestic supporters argue the strategy is overdue. Many U.S. industries have long contended with unfair trade imbalances and uneven tariffs, particularly in high-value sectors like pharmaceuticals and semiconductors. By enforcing a uniform tariff structure, the president aims to shield American companies from foreign undercutting and boost domestic production.

In a notable development, Trump stated his administration recently reached a new trade agreement with Indonesia, reducing a previously proposed tariff rate to 19%. This example, he suggested, demonstrates the effectiveness of his straightforward method, putting pressure on trade partners early and negotiating from a position of strength.

The tariffs are expected to impact major supply chains and global pricing, though supporters believe the long-term benefits, revitalized American manufacturing, and stronger economic sovereignty justify the short-term adjustments.

As August approaches, all eyes are on how global markets, allies, and domestic industries will respond to Trump’s expanding tariff blueprint. But for his part, the president remains unapologetically committed to reshaping America’s trade landscape on his terms.