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## US, SOUTH KOREA MAKING PROGRESS ON TARIFF ISSUE: SEOUL

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03.02.2026

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Anadolu Agency (2 February 2026)

South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok said Monday that Washington and Seoul are making progress on tariff-related issues, following a talk with US Vice President JD Vance on the phone last month, local media reported.

Kim's remark came amid controversy over the government's lack of preparedness for US President Donald Trump's recent threat to raise tariffs on South Korea from 15% to 25%, Seoul-based Yonhap News reported.

"It's not just the hotline that's in operation, but various existing channels of contact, including the hotline with Vice President Vance, were all put into operation, and through a process of learning each other's true intentions, it is progressing into what we see now," Kim told reporters at his official residence.

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