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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Vice President Pence met on Wednesday with top Mexican officials who are seeking to persuade the Trump administration to abandon plans to impose sweeping tariffs that leaders on both sides of the border warn could damage the continent's economy.

Frustrated by increasing levels of illegal migration, an issue he pledged to address during the 2016 campaign, Trump suddenly announced last week he would slap a 5 percent tariff on all Mexican goods beginning on Monday, which could rise to 25 percent by October unless Mexico cracks down.

Trump said Tuesday during a press conference in London that "it's more likely that the tariffs go on" according to schedule, dimming hopes for a quick resolution during Wednesday's meeting at the White House.

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