BEIJING – Chinese President Xi Jinping had an “extremely positive” phone conversation with U.S. President Donald Trump about trade and other issues, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Friday.

The two leaders agreed to “strengthen economic exchanges,” said a ministry spokesperson, Liu Kang. He gave no indication whether the leaders discussed progress on settling an escalating tariff war over Beijing’s technology policy.

Trump said earlier on Twitter that he and Xi had a “very good” conversation. “I am delighted to see that he and Xi had a very good conversation,” Trump wrote. “They will make a very good deal.”

The U.S. and China have both raised tariffs on billions of dollars of each other’s goods in the dispute over Beijing’s plans for state-led development of technology industries.

Ruben Waterson, a professor at City University of Hong Kong, said the two leaders agreed to take steps to settle an escalating tariff war about trade and other issues, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Friday.

Chinese President Xi Jinping’s visit to Russia on Sunday will be a “major turning point” in the relationship between the two nations, said Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov.

The visit, which coincides with President Donald Trump’s trip to Finland, is Xi’s first visit to a European Union country and will be his third to Russia since 2013.

China has emerged as a major player in international politics in recent years, and analysts say Xi’s trip is an opportunity for countries “to feel they have a role in the world,” U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad said in a statement.

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Diplomatic relations between China and Russia have flourished under Xi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has become a key ally of Beijing.

China and Russia are both members of the BRICS group of emerging economies and have been working together on important global issues, including climate change and nuclear non-proliferation.

China will be holding its second Belt and Road Forum, an international conference aimed at promoting trade and investment in the region, on June 27-28 in Beijing.

Putin will meet Xi on Monday in Moscow and the two leaders will also discuss a new treaty to limit strategic weapons, which is due to expire in 2021.

The trip will also include a visit to the presidential residence in St. Petersburg, where Xi will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In addition to the summit, Xi will also visit the city of Yekaterinburg, which hosted the 2018 FIFA World Cup. The visit will also include a trip to the Yekaterinburg Expo Center, where Xi will deliver a keynote speech.

The trip is expected to cement China’s growing influence in the global economy and its role as a major player in international affairs.

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