

Britain's International Trade Minister Fox said Tuesday that the sooner Britain and the United States reach a post-European trade agreement, the better, but there are still many problems to be solved in reaching an agreement. Britain and the United States, close allies, were caught in escalating debate last week. Earlier, British Ambassador to the United States Kim Darroch called the Trump Administration "incompetent" and angered the President of the United States, eventually leading to Darroch's resignation.

Asked whether the dispute had hurt the prospects for a trade agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States, Fox said the two sides still had strong desire to reach an agreement.

"Free trade agreements with the United States are a big goal and a big reward for Britain, but the sooner we can do it, the better," Fox said in an interview with Reuters.

The Times reported Monday that Johnson, the popular candidate to succeed British Prime Minister next week, intends to meet Trump within the first two months of taking office and may seek a limited trade agreement before Britain leaves Europe at the end of October.

Fox said this could not happen because Britain could not negotiate trade agreements with other countries before leaving Europe.