

fastFT Donald Trump

Trump to meet Mexican president in coming weeks



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Jude Webber YESTERDAY

President Donald Trump and his Mexican counterpart Enrique Peña Nieto are planning to meet “in the coming weeks” to discuss bilateral relations, Mexico’s foreign ministry said.

The upcoming encounter was agreed at a day of meetings at the White House between Luis Videgaray, foreign minister, and senior US officials.

The two men were to have met in Washington in January last year, but Mexico scrapped the encounter after Mr Trump tweeted that unless Mexico agreed to pay for his planned border wall, there was no point getting together.

During the US campaign, Mr Videgaray orchestrated a meeting in Mexico City between the two men. But that proved a public relations fiasco for Mexico after Mr Peña Nieto failed to use the opportunity to say in public to Mr Trump’s face that Mexico would never

pay for his proposed wall, or to rebuke him for depicting Mexicans as criminals and rapists.

Despite regular tweets slamming the North American Free Trade Agreement - which he blames for the loss of US jobs - Mr Trump has softened his tone lately. Negotiations to update the trilateral trade pact between the US, Canada and Mexico are advancing slowly and resume in Mexico City at the end of the month.

When and where the presidents will meet has yet to be agreed, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said.

Mr Videgaray's Washington tour was designed to foster agreement on economic, trade and immigration issues, among others.

Mexico holds presidential elections in July with Andrés Manuel López Obrador, a hard-left populist, leading the race so far. The US has warned that Russia could seek to interfere in the vote.

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