

THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IS NOW PRETTY ORDINARY



The UK Foreign Office and the UK Department for Business and Trade are rethinking some things

You knew that sooner or later, this was coming.
From the Guardian:

UK officials are tightening security when handling sensitive trade documents to prevent them from falling into US hands amid Donald Trump's tariff war, the Guardian can reveal.

In an indication of the strains on the "special relationship", British civil servants have changed document-handling guidance, adding higher classifications to some trade negotiation documents in order to better shield them from American eyes, sources told the Guardian.

[snip]

Before Trump's inauguration, UK trade documents related to US talks were generally marked "Official – sensitive (UK eyes only)", according to examples seen by the Guardian, and officials were allowed to share these on internal email chains. This classification stood while

British officials attempted to negotiate with Joe Biden's administration, even after a full-blown trade deal was ruled out by the White House.

Now, a far greater proportion of documents and correspondence detailing the negotiating positions being discussed by officials from No 10, the Foreign Office and the Department for Business and Trade come with additional handling instructions to avoid US interception, with some classified as "secret" and "top secret", sources said. These classifications also carry different guidance on how documents may be shared digitally, in order to avoid interception.

Companies with commercial interests in the UK have also been told to take additional precautions in how they share information with the trade department and No 10, senior business sources said. These include large pharmaceutical companies with operations in the UK and EU.

Trump sure is succeeding with that "disruption" stuff, isn't he?

Then consider this: if the Foreign Office and Department for Business and Trade are doing this, one can only imagine what the Ministry of Defence is doing along these lines, as well as MI5, MI6, and GCHQ.

Slowly but surely, the Special Relationship is becoming pretty damn ordinary.