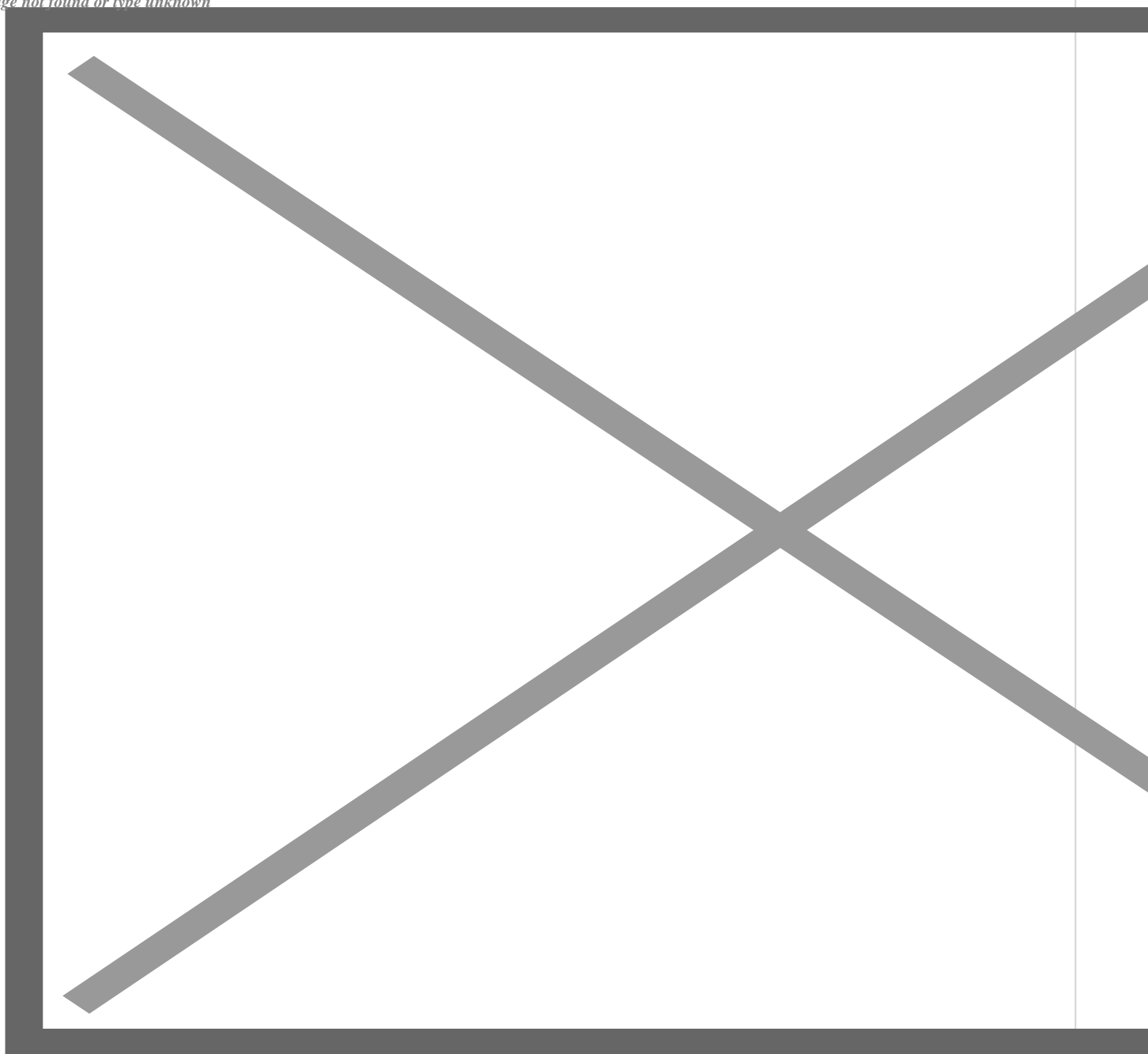


Top U.S. officials resign after Trump incited violence in Capitol

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Top U.S. officials resign after Trump incited violence in Capitol

Washington, January 8 (RHC)-- The U.S. administration is facing a string of resignations, amid outrage over President Donald Trump's support for his loyalists to storm the Capitol, less than two weeks before his term constitutionally ends.

Trump's deputy national security adviser Matthew Pottinger announced his resignation Wednesday afternoon.

Citing sources familiar with the matter, Bloomberg reported Pottinger was dismayed by the attack on the Capitol and Trump's incitement of protesters.

National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, also considered leaving, according to Bloomberg, but was persuaded to stay on by allies. "I just spoke with Vice President Pence," O'Brien said in a statement earlier Wednesday, adding: "I am proud to serve with him."

Chris Liddell, assistant to the president and deputy chief of staff is also considering a resignation. The report said a handful of aids already stepped down, including first lady Melania Trump's chief of staff, Stephanie Grisham.

Deputy White House press secretary Sarah Matthews also resigned on Wednesday. Former White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, who has recently been serving as special envoy to Northern Ireland, also sent his resignation to Secretary of State Michael Pompeo on Thursday. "I can't do it. I can't stay," said Mulvaney. "Those who choose to stay, and I have talked with some of them, are choosing to stay because they're worried the president might put someone worse in."

Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and Deputy Chief of Staff Chris Lidell are also considering resigning, reports said. The White House social secretary, Rickie Niceta, also left the White House.

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