

Pelosi urges U.S. general to block Trump from nuclear codes



Military warned not to let Trump start another war

Washington, January 8 (RHC)-- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has spoken to the top United States military commander about taking precautions to ensure Republican President Donald Trump cannot initiate hostilities or order a nuclear attack in his remaining 12 days in office.

The extraordinary development on Friday came two days after Trump exhorted thousands of supporters to march on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, prompting a chaotic scene in which crowds breached the

building, sent legislators into hiding and left a police officer and four others dead in their wake.

Pelosi said in the letter she discussed “available precautions for preventing an unstable president from initiating military hostilities or accessing the launch codes and ordering a nuclear strike” with Mark Milley. “The situation of this unhinged president could not be more dangerous, and we must do everything that we can to protect the American people from his unbalanced assault on our country and our democracy,” Pelosi said.

Pelosi told members she had gotten assurances from Army General Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that there are safeguards in place in the event Trump tried to launch a nuclear weapon, according to a source who was listening to the call.

While U.S. presidents have access to the codes needed to fire nuclear weapons 24 hours a day, no top military or national security official has expressed any concern publicly about Trump’s mental state with regard to nuclear weapons.

Milley’s office said Pelosi had initiated the call and that the general “answered her questions regarding the process of nuclear command authority.”

Republican legislators were initially firm in their rebukes of Trump following the Capitol chaos, but some have softened their tones after the embattled president released a video with a reconciliatory tone on Thursday evening, in which he denounced the violence and acknowledged the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden.

The 25th Amendment, which has never been used, is widely considered to only function if the president is incapacitated, or has gone rogue. Vice President Mike Pence would have to agree to its use, along with a majority of the president’s cabinet. Trump would be able to dispute its use in a letter to Congress, which would ultimately decide.

Pence, who affirmed Biden’s election victory on Wednesday after rioters breached the Capitol, does not appear likely to agree to the amendment’s use. Members of Trump’s cabinet, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s wife, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, have tendered resignations, allowing Trump to appoint new members next week.

A second Trump impeachment – he was previously impeached in 2019 over allegations he solicited foreign interference in the 2020 election – would be an unprecedented move, and would require a quick process for his removal before January 20, when Biden is set to take office.

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