

# *U.S. secretary of state promises “smooth transition to a second Trump Administration”*

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Washington, November 12 (RHC)-- U.S. President Donald Trump continues to contest the results of last week's election, after counts showed Joe Biden won the Electoral College and the popular vote by more

than five million ballots.

In Washington, the Office of Management and Budget said it was proceeding with Trump's budget request for next fiscal year, and his top Cabinet member, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, said he was preparing for a second Trump term. Pompeo was questioned by reporters at the State Department.

Rich Edson asked Pompeo: "Is the State Department currently preparing to engage with the Biden transition team? And if not, at what point does a delay hamper a smooth transition or pose a risk to national security?"

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo responded: "There will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration. All right? We're ready."

An official with Joe Biden's transition team told CBS News that the congratulatory phone calls President-elect Joe Biden is receiving from world leaders are happening without the help of the State Department.

Secretary of State Pompeo was asked to compare the Trump administration's response to Biden's victory with overseas elections where defeated candidates cling to power. A Reuters reporter asked: "This department frequently sends out statements encouraging free and fair elections abroad" —

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo: "Yes."

Reuters reporter: — "and for the losers of those elections to accept the results. Doesn't President Trump's refusal to concede discredit those efforts?"

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said: "That's ridiculous. And you know it's ridiculous. And you asked it because it's ridiculous."

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