

Trump names Robert O'Brien National Security Advisor

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US President Donald Trump announced Wednesday the appointment of Robert C. O'Brien, Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs, as his new National Security Adviser.

Last week, the White House chief dismissed the controversial John Bolton, former occupant of the post since April 2018, who followed Herbert McMaster, successor to the current administration's first such adviser, Michael Flynn.

Bolton, an extreme conservative, dedicated himself to promoting an aggressive foreign policy and his departure from office occurred amidst deep disagreements over how to handle issues related to Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia and Afghanistan.

'I am pleased to announce that I will name Robert C. O'Brien, currently serving as the very successful Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs at the State Department, as our new National Security Advisor,' Trump tweeted.

'I have worked long & hard with Robert. He will do a great job!,' added the Republican leader, who yesterday mentioned five possible candidates to the post.

Along with O'Brien, the president alluded to Major General Ricky Waddell, chief military adviser to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; and Lisa Gordon-Hagerty, subsecretary of Energy for Nuclear Security.

He also referred to Fred Fleitz, ex-Cabinet Chief under Bolton; and Lieutenant General Keith Kellogg, a retired officer who advised Trump during the 2016 campaign and now serves as advisor to Vice President Mike Pence.

Following Bolton's dismissal, the White House announced that Charles Kupperman would serve as acting National Security Adviser.

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Kupperman, aged 68, was previously Bolton's deputy adviser, before which he held senior positions at Lockheed Martin and Boeing, and served in the Ronald Reagan administration (1981-1989).
