

Russia suspends arms reduction pact

by UPI

MOSCOW - The Russian Parliament gave final approval Friday to President Vladimir Putin's call for suspension of the 1990 European arms reduction treaty. The move is Russia's response to plans for expanding NATO and placing U.S. missile shields in Eastern Europe, the Russia news agency RIA Novosti reports. The original arms reduction pact, called the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, was signed by 16 NATO states and six members of the Warsaw Pact. It set equal limits on five categories of conventional weapons for each side. Moscow considers the treaty to be outdated, Novosti says, because it fails to reflect the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the expansion of NATO. The suspension of Russia's participation in the treaty is set to take effect on December 12.

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