

Medvedev hopeful for better U.S. relations

by UPI

MOSCOW -- Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said Friday he hopes he and U.S. President Barack Obama can "reset" relations between their two countries.

RIA Novosti said Medvedev, who is scheduled to meet Obama on April 1, used the term "reset" in reference to a meeting this month between the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"We are counting on such a 'reset' and hope it will take place," Medvedev said at a Russian-U.S. panel Friday in Moscow.

Medvedev told the "Russia-USA: A Look into the Future" panel he wants such international discussions to focus on significant issues pertaining to Russia and the United States.

"I hope this will be an extensive exchange of ideas on the entire agenda of Russian-American relations and sensitive international issues," the Russian president said.

RIA Novosti said the meeting between Medvedev and Obama comes as Russian-U.S. relations are strained due in part to a proposed U.S. missile system in Europe and Russia's actions in Georgia last year.

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