

Medvedev criticizes NATO Georgia plans

by UPI

BARVIKHA, Russia -- Russian President Dmitry Medvedev Friday called NATO's decision to hold an exercise in Georgia "shortsighted" and "not worthy of true partnership."

Medvedev told a news conference in Barvikha that NATO's announced plans had begun building up tensions in the region. He said Russia, which considers NATO expansion plans a threat, would keep a close watch on the situation and act accordingly, Itar-Tass reported.

The Russia-NATO relationship has cooled considerably as NATO nears Russian borders. Georgia is a NATO objective as a possible new member.

"We just don't understand why NATO is expanding," the Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, said recently. "We don't understand why this military infrastructure is being moved to our borders."

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