

## Russia eyeing end to U.S. adoptions

*by UPI*

WASHINGTON - With the last licenses given to U.S. adoption agencies expiring on Wednesday, Russia reportedly is set to stop Americans from adopting Russian children.

In an apparent move to sever ties with prospective U.S. parents, Russia has not renewed any of the agencies' licenses to date. Russia last year instituted more stringent adoption policies regarding agency accreditation, USA Today reported.

While the number of Russian children adopted by U.S. citizens fell over recent years to 3,706 in 2006, the nation remains a significant international adoption site for Americans.

Over the last five years, 70 percent of all foreign children adopted by U.S. citizens came from Russia, China or Guatemala, the newspaper said.

National Council for Adoption President Tom Atwood said Russia's recent moves are consistent with the nation's stance on international adoption, but appear to indicate a specific effort against Americans.

"This resistance is not new, but this is the worst yet," Atwood told USA Today. "Clearly there is an anti-American streak."

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