

Ukraine president: No missile shield here

by UPI

KIEV, Ukraine - President Viktor Yushchenko said Thursday Ukraine has no plans to allow the United States to install missile shield elements in the country.

The president told reporters at a news conference Ukraine has not held talks with the U.S. government on missile defenses and will not be holding such talks, the Novosti news agency reported.

The U.S. Defense Department released a list of 15 countries it said are involved in discussions. The Czech Republic and Poland have agreed to accept parts of the missile shield.

The United States says the missile shield is needed to counter possible threats from Iran and North Korea. But Russian President Vladimir Putin has objected to placement of U.S. defenses in former Soviet bloc countries.

Russian and U.S. officials are scheduled to discuss the missile shield next week in Brussels.

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