

## Vladimir Putin visits Kazakhstan

*by UPI*

ASTANA, Kazakhstan - Kazakhstan's president Thursday pledged to ship most of his country's oil across Russian territory during a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev met in Astana in the first leg of Putin's Central Asian tour.

The two leaders pledged continued cooperation between their countries, which have been working on development of uranium and hydrocarbon deposits in Kazakhstan and the export of Kazakh oil through Russian territories, RIA Novosti reported Thursday.

"Oil and gas cooperation (with Russia) is strategically important, specifically in transporting Kazakh oil to global markets, using Russian trunk pipelines and joint refineries," Nursultan Nazarbayev said.

"Kazakhstan is committed to transporting most of its oil, if not, all of it, across Russian territory."

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