

Russia waiting on NATO to ratify treaty

by UPI

MOSCOW - Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev says Russia is waiting for other NATO countries to ratify the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty.

Gorbachev, in an interview with Echo Moskvyy radio station, downplayed a suggestion by President Vladimir Putin that Moscow might pull out of the pact, Novosti said Thursday.

"I do not think we are withdrawing from the treaty," Gorbachev said.

Russia has ratified the adapted CFE treaty, which replaced an agreement reached at the end of the Cold War between NATO and the Eastern Bloc to curb the arms race.

NATO members, however, won't ratify the pact until Russia withdraws from bases in Georgia and Moldova, Novosti said.

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