

Kyrgyz PM: No U.S. bombing from base

by UPI

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan - The prime minister of Kyrgyzstan said Thursday the U.S. airbase in his nation may not be used for strikes on Iran or Iraq.

Prime Minister Almaz Atambayev told reporters the country cannot break its agreement with the United States on the Ganci base, the Novosti news agency reported. The base at Manas, east of the capital, Bishkek, is the only remaining U.S. post in the Central Asian countries since Uzbekistan ordered the U.S. military out in 2005.

There are 1,000 U.S. military personnel with nine refueling and cargo planes at the base, used to support operations in Afghanistan.

"We will on no account allow the airbase in Manas to be used to launch strikes on Iran or Iraq. Everything must be within the framework of the agreement," Atambayev said.

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