

Putin to visit Bush's Maine compound

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit the oceanfront compound of former U.S. President George H.W. Bush's home in Kennebunkport, Maine, on July 1-2.

White House spokesman Tony Snow made the announcement Wednesday, saying U.S. President George W. Bush will be there to greet the Russian leader.

Tensions between the two countries have been mounting in recent months over Washington's plans to build missile defense sites in Poland and the Czech Republic, which Putin claims will destabilize Europe.

Washington said the sites represent defense against such "rogue states" as North Korea and Iran.

Snow said the Bushes would discuss with Putin the missile shield issue, along with Iran, nuclear cooperation, stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction and combating terrorism and extremism.

The meeting follows the 33rd G8 summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, where the Russian and U.S. leaders will also have bilateral talks.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Putin to visit Bush's Maine compound by UPI