

Hadley: Putin proposal 'bold'

by UPI

HEILIGENDAMM, Germany - U.S. National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley said in Germany Thursday a Russian proposal to put a missile defense system in Azerbaijan is "bold."

Hadley told reporters at the Group of Eight summit that the proposal from President Vladimir Putin shows a "willingness by a Russian president to consider real cooperation and mutual participation on ballistic missile defense."

Putin offered Azerbaijan as a location for the missile defense system as an alternative to Poland and the Czech Republic, where the United States wants to build a system. Putin has strenuously objected to that proposal.

Hadley said Putin and U.S. President George Bush will meet with their defense and diplomatic experts to discuss the proposals more.

"Obviously, we'll do that in close consultation with our European allies, and particularly with the Poles and the Czechs, who we've identified as having an important role in this," Hadley said.

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