

NATO likes Putin's attitude

by UPI

MOSCOW - NATO leaders like Russian President Vladimir Putin's proposal to use the Gabala radar station in Azerbaijan as part of the European missile defense system.

However, the Interfax news agency reports, the NATO officials think it's unlikely the radar station could be a substitute to the deployment of elements of the U.S. national missile defense in the Czech Republic and Poland.

"The radar in Azerbaijan is likely to be too close to supposed sources of missile threats to be as efficient as a radar deployed farther from them," John Colston, assistant NATO secretary general for defense policy and planning, told Interfax Monday.

But Colston said Putin's proposal "should be studied in details" and said the multinational defense group lauds Putin's apparent willingness "to switch from confrontation to cooperation rhetoric."

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