

## Chavez says Venezuela might go nuclear

by UPI

MOSCOW - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has suggested that his country might one day go nuclear, and defended Iran's right to pursue nuclear energy.

Noting that neighboring Brazil has declared its nuclear energy intentions, Chavez said Venezuela "might do likewise," Globovision TV reported Thursday.

Chavez's remarks in Moscow came ahead of President George W. Bush's scheduled visit to the Russian capital.

The remarks also came as the Venezuelan leader discussed a deal for the purchase of five Russian submarines, valued at more than \$1 billion.

The leftist leader in recent years has sought to improve Venezuela's defenses, claiming the United States is intent on invading the South American country to take over its oil supply -- allegations Washington has denied.

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