

Putin back in Moscow after whirlwind tour

by UPI

MOSCOW -- Russian President Vladimir Putin returned to Moscow Thursday after traveling to the United States and Guatemala.

Putin visited U.S. President George Bush in Maine Sunday and Monday. The two presidents reportedly discussed the conflicting U.S. and Russian proposals for a missile defense system, Iran, and U.S.-Russian relations, which have been showing some rough edges recently.

Putin headed to Guatemala and met Tuesday with Guatemalan President Oscar Berger. On Wednesday, he attended the International Olympic Committee meeting which was considering where to hold the 2014 winter games.

Itar-Tass reported that while the Russian sea resort of Sochi won the bid for hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics, Putin was not there for the announcement, but heard it on the plane.

On Thursday, Putin was scheduled to meet Thai Queen Sirikit at the Kremlin, Itar-Tass reported.
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