

Russia, U.S. to talk missiles next month

by UPI

MOSCOW -- The contentious issue of U.S. missile systems in Europe will be discussed in Moscow next month by Russia's and U.S. foreign and defense ministers. The meeting was announced by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who said he and Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov will meet Oct. 12 with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Robert Gates for talks. Russia is adamantly opposed to U.S. plans to build missile sites in Poland and the Czech Republic and has offered to share a radar facility rented by Russia in Azerbaijan, the Novosti news agency reported Wednesday. Konstantin Kosachev, head of the International Affairs Committee of the lower house of Russia's parliament, the Duma, said if Washington fulfills its plans "this process could lead to irreversible consequences as Russia, pursuing its national security interests, will resort to retaliatory measures of a symmetric or asymmetric nature," referring to an arms race similar to the Cold War era, the report said.

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