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- War on Terror
- Tsunami Disaster

DAILY FEATURE

LAW & ORDER

MEDIA NEWS

POLITICS

SCIENCE

SPACE

TECH NEWS

WEIRD NEWS

WHAM! Gaming

SPECIALS

Sun Papers

Columnists

CNEWS Forum

Lotteries

Today in History

Weather

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canoe live poll

Do you think bicycles should be banned from provincial parks on account of their being a "mechanized" device?

- Yes
- No

SUBMIT

Results

photo OF THE DAY

### Putin blasts U.S. after Asian security summit



SHANGHAI, China (AP) - Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the United States on Thursday of throwing its weight around and defended the growing clout of an Asian security group dominated by Russia and China.

Putin, speaking after a summit of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization denied the organization is a military-political bloc aimed at countering U.S. interests.

But in a nearly two-hour meeting in his Shanghai hotel suite, he reeled off a list of complaints about what he described as overbearing behaviour by the United States.

Washington, Putin said, had brought upon itself the eviction of a U.S. military base in Uzbekistan by acting "like a bull in a china shop" and seeking to impose its standards on a volatile region plagued by Islamic radicalism.

The United States fell out with Uzbek President Islam Karimov after criticizing the violent suppression of a revolt in May 2005.

Uzbekistan is one of the members of the SCO, which groups China, Russia and four Central Asian countries and counts Iran, India, Pakistan and Mongolia as observers.

Putin suggested Washington is displeased at the emergence of a newly influential organization such as the SCO.

"They don't like the fact that countries like China and Russia have joined efforts in solving common problems, that India and Pakistan are taking part and that it has attracted Iran," he said.

"Their worry is that they can't influence it."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who took part in the summit, urged China, Russia and other Asian countries Thursday to combine their economic and diplomatic clout to bolster the region's resistance to the United States.

Putin also criticized U.S. demands in negotiations of Russia's bid to join the World Trade Organization, including its insistence on compliance with U.S.

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legislation in certain sectors such as agriculture. The United States is the last country with which Russia needs to strike a bilateral accord to join the global trade body.

"We're not joining the United States, we're joining the WTO," Putin remarked acidly.

He added, however, the WTO accession deal with the United States still could be finalized before the Group of Eight leading industrialized countries meet in St. Petersburg, Russia, in mid-July.

The Russian leader also spoke out strongly against U.S. efforts to mount a financial blockade of the Hamas-led government in the Palestinian territories.

The radical group has refused to renounce the use of violence and recognize Israel's right to exist and the United States and the European Union cut off hundreds of millions of dollars worth of aid.

"This only exacerbates the situation," Putin said of the financial crunch, which has caused growing unrest with Palestinian civil servants going unpaid for weeks.

Putin also laid the blame for the current political crisis in Ukraine - where coalition talks on forming a new cabinet have remained stalled since March's parliamentary elections - on western countries that supported Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution protests against election fraud that helped pro-western Viktor Yushchenko win Ukraine's presidency.

The Russian president said he had warned the United States and European states of the likely consequences of the Orange Revolution, which he said had split Ukraine between the largely Russian-speaking east and Ukrainian-speaking west.

"They pushed these people into mass disturbances, it's very dangerous. They pushed Ukraine into a confrontation between different regions, between east and west," he said.

Speaking on other subjects, Putin reaffirmed he wouldn't seek a third term in 2008 - which would require overturning the constitutional bar on a third consecutive term - saying he wouldn't have the moral right to govern if he does.



opinion

## Sentences short on time serv



On the day that the Harper government rolled a bill creating a new Criminal Code offence in Canada, I received a broken-hearted lament son forever lost. [Full Column](#)

Columnist **MICHAEL HARRIS**



### Canada

- More arrests in Bandidos case
- Fifteen-year-old charged in terror plot
- Avian flu virus found in PEI
- PM announces new security measures
- Man. First Nations plan to block rail lines to raise land claim awareness
- CUPE locals protest Israeli boycott
- Harper still confident lumber talks with U.S. will yield agreement
- Crown to issue McMynn indictments
- Charest gives more money for public transit
- No new charges against Quebec music producer

### World

- Terrorist suspects discussed plan to crash British Airways jet, court told
- Oil billionaire's son charged with burglary; fou groggy in fly fishing shop
- Suicide bomber strikes Shiite mosque
- 40 Afghan insurgents slain
- Iranian president: Incentive package a "step forward"
- East Timor rebels surrender weapons
- Man driving with wife's severed head crashes
- EU agrees on Palestinian plan
- Sniper gives details of 4 new shootings

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in latest allegation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somalis protest peacekeeping mission</li> </ul>
<b>Law &amp; Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More arrests in Bandidos case</li> <li>No new charges against Quebec music producer in latest allegation</li> </ul>	<b>Media News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Body of missing Pakistani journalist found after reporting on U.S. air strike</li> <li>Pentagon bars all news coverage of Guantanamo prison camp</li> </ul>
<b>Politics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal Court rules against Chretien request to see Gomery documents</li> <li>Ex-Liberal minister Sgro says she was approached to join the Tories</li> </ul>	<b>Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accused tomb raider leads officials to oldest frescoed burial chamber in Europe</li> <li>Scientists show off missing link of bird evolution in China</li> </ul>
<b>Space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes at NASA Glenn</li> <li>Spacewalk extended</li> </ul>	<b>Tech News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apple eyes labor conditions at iPod plant</li> <li>Nortel issuing \$2 billion US in unsecured notes mostly to reorganize debt</li> </ul>
<b>Weird News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ogling of women a leading cause of car accidents in Colombia</li> <li>Texas bank robber a real cowboy: uses proceeds to buy 'western' duds</li> </ul>	<b>Specials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sept. 11 thefts not prosecuted because U.S. government staff involved</li> <li>Canada lobbies U.S. legislators on security as White House urges vigilance</li> </ul>

[TOP OF PAGE](#)