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## US missile defence experts to inspect Czech sites for base

By: fromPortugal on: 13.07.2006 [09:02 ] (131 reads)



*The United States is in the final stages of selecting a Central European surface-to-air missile base which would form part of a network designed to protect it and other NATO countries from hostile missile attack*

*Kuehnl said today that radar systems might be in the Czech Republic, and the Americans would station the missile installations in Poland or vice versa.*

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### US missile defence experts to inspect Czech sites for base

PRAGUE (AFP) - US experts will next week tour possible Czech sites for an anti-missile base, the Czech ministry of defence announced.

The United States is in the final stages of selecting a Central European surface-to-air missile base which would form part of a network designed to protect it and other NATO countries from hostile missile attack.

Experts from the US Missile Defence Agency will visit existing military sites on July 18 to help with the selection, the ministry said, adding that it had not committed to hosting a base.

"If a US proposal favours any of the selected Czech locations, it will be necessary for a political decision to be taken, which would accept or refuse the proposal," it added.

The prospect of hosting a US base has split Czech politicians with the winner of June elections, conservative Civic Democratic Party leader Mirek Topolánek, declaring himself in favour, Social Democrat leader Jiri Paroubek suggesting a referendum, and the Communists opposed.

The Czech daily, Dnes, reported at the end of June that the **US was pressing the Czech Republic for a decision by the end of September.**

The country currently has a lame duck government headed by Social Democrat Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek following a five-week long political stalemate after elections on June 2 and 3 resulted in centre-right and left-wing blocs each commanding 100 votes in the 200-seat lower house.

[link](#)

### Americans to inspect site for missile base next week

Prague, July 12 (CTK) - Representatives of the US Missile Defence Agency will come to the Czech Republic in a week to examine the sites where a missile defence base can be stationed, Defence Minister Karel Kuehnl told journalists said today.

Some 20 experts will stay in the Czech Republic the week until July 18 and see the military bases in Jince, Libava and Boletice.

"The Czech Republic cannot stand aloof from the deliberations about the elements of anti-missile defence," Kuehnl said.

Prague is involved in the talks of NATO about the building of a defence system against ballistic missiles, Kuehnl said.

"I consider it logical that the US system should be linked with the NATO system," he added.

No obligation arises from the visit to the Czech Republic. "The technical reconnaissance will only allow the Americans to conclude the stage of collection of the required information," Kuehnl said, adding that through data analysis the Americans will arrive at the choice of the most appropriate locality.

Further talks would not be led by the Defence Ministry, but by diplomats, Kuehnl said.

The US experts will assess the geology and hydrology of the sites as well as local infrastructure and workforce, Kuehnl said.

They had seen sites in Poland at the end of May and beginning of June.

Kuehnl said today that radar systems might be in the Czech Republic, and the Americans would station the missile installations in Poland or vice versa.

According to insiders, the missile base, now being considered by the US within its defence policies, is to be placed under ground and would economically benefit the area in question. However, it could also attract the attention of terrorist groups. Czech chief of staff Pavel Stefka said it would benefit Czech defence.

NATO has not commented on the affair, arguing that it is a bilateral affair between Prague and Washington. Czech involvement in the "anti-missile umbrella" was promised by former Defence Minister Jaroslav Tvrdik in the US in 2002.

The involvement in anti-missile defence was envisioned by the new national security strategy from 2003. Foreign Minister Cyril Svoboda said that there were four degrees of involvement ranging from active political support to the stationing of the missiles.

The US made it clear earlier that it would like to use some of the localities in Central Europe in order to build an missile defence system. Facilities in North America are not sufficient for efficient defence against missiles from North Korea and Iran. The US has said the "anti-missile umbrella" could protect Europe, too.

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Wake up Czech people????  
by BERNIE on 13.07.2006 [16:36 ]

Modern warfare has changed, these missile defence systems have not proved to be even 50% effective. Whwn you buy into these systems you are buyingf into a money pit, benefiting the defence industry of the USA. Use your common sense intelligence and work for a peaceful world, kick the war mongers out of your country.

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