

New Cold War: Russia, China To Coordinate Response Against U.S. Global Missile Shield

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Global Research, January 10, 2013

[Russian Information Agency Novosti](#)

Region: [Asia, Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

BEIJING: Russia and China are planning to intensify their cooperation on missile defense in response to America's growing missile defense potential around the globe, Russian Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev said on Wednesday. "We are concerned about US plans to build a global missile defense system, including in the Asia-Pacific region," Patrushev said during the 8th round of Russian-Chinese consultations on strategic security in Beijing.

"Our Chinese partners share our concerns and we have agreed to coordinate our actions in that respect," he said, adding that it would help both countries to develop a "constructive" approach toward missile defense issue.

Russia and China have been keeping a close eye on US moves to deploy missile defenses around the arc of the South China Sea in addition to the planned European missile shield.

Washington and Tokyo agreed last September to construct an advanced X-band missile early-warning radar in southern Japan to join an existing AN/TPY-2 radar in Japan's northern Aomori Prefecture.

Some reports suggest that US Missile Defense Agency and the US Pacific Command are considering a third such radar somewhere else in Southeast Asia, possibly in the Philippines.

Washington is also planning to expand the grouping of Aegis-equipped US warships that patrol international waters in the region.

Moscow and Beijing are objecting US missile defense initiatives saying they are worsening the global and regional security environment, especially military and nonproliferation processes, to the detriment of Russian and Chinese nuclear deterrents.

Russia and China have held regular bilateral consultations on strategic issues since 2005.

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