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Putin: US missile defense aimed at neutralizing Russia nukes, N. Korea & Iran just a cover

10/11/2015



*“References to Iran and North Korea nuclear threats are just a cover for the true purpose [of NATO missile defense]. That is to neutralize the potential of other nuclear states not the US or its allies – primarily Russia,”* Putin said during a meeting in Sochi dedicated to national military development. *“The US is attempting to achieve strategic military superiority, with all the consequences that entails.”*

In response, the Russian leader promised Russia would take the *“necessary measures to respond by strengthening its own strategic forces.”*

Putin said Russia’s concerns over missile defense had been *“ignored.”*

*“We have pointed out that these actions [construction of the shield] are an attempt to undermine the nuclear parity principle, and to destabilize the existing world and regional order.”*

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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