
RUSSIA MAY BOOST NUCLEAR POTENTIAL - DEPUTY DEFENSE MIN.

- 05.02.2012

Ria Novosti, February 06, 2012 Russia may have to boost its nuclear potential in future amid emerging nuclear proliferation threats, Anatoly Antonov, Russias deputy defense minister and a negotiator on the European missile shield, said on Monday. [] challenges emerge, including missile and nuclear proliferation. Look at how unstable the situation in the Middle East is. Thats why Russias military doctrine envisages the use of nuclear weapons in specific cases. I do not rule out than under certain circumstances we will have to boost, not cut, our nuclear arsenal, A Antonov said in an interview with the Kommersant daily. He named the U.S. missile shield in Europe as a main threat to Russias security. "The situation is dismal in this area. The U.S. continues to boost is missile defense potential in Europe and other regions. The European segment of the U.S. missile defense demonstrates aspirations to shift the strategic balance of forces in Europe. After the Cold War, U.S. strategic weapons - and missile defense is a strategic weapon - are getting closer to Russias borders, A Antonov said. He also confirmed that Russian and U.S. missile defense talks have reached deadlock as U.S. cooperation proposals are vague and Russias participation in the project [] not even up for discussion. A The deputy defense minister reiterated that Russia may quit the Russian-U.S. treaty on strategic arms reduction, signed in 2010. [] is one of possible variants of our retaliation measures. We have warned about it beforehand," he said.

Kaynak/Source: