

## Medvedev Addresses Global War Threat

Russian former President Dmitri Medvedev gave a televised address to the nation on Nov. 23, 2011, conveying the stark reality that the Russian leadership anticipates the outbreak of global nuclear war, and is determined both to defend Russia under those circumstances and, by warning of this, to try to deter it.

Medvedev threatened to deploy the Iskander missile system in Russia's westernmost district of Kaliningrad (located between Poland and Lithuania), in response to the U.S./NATO emplacement of anti-ballistic-missile systems in Europe. He also reported on other actions already underway.

The President underscored that Russia has continued to offer cooperation with the United States and NATO on anti-missile defense. But, expressing regret over the lack of a positive response to Russia's proposals, he continued: "We will not agree to take part in a program that in a short while, in some five, six, or eight years' time, could weaken our nuclear deterrent capability. The European missile defense program is already underway, and work on it is, regrettably, moving rapidly in Poland, Turkey, Romania, and Spain. We find ourselves facing a *fait accompli*."

Medvedev then announced the following orders, which he had already issued:

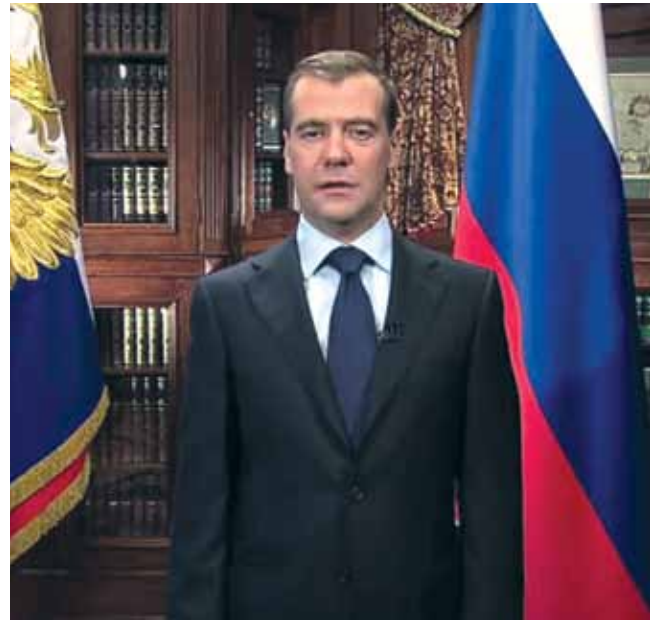
"First, I am instructing the Defense Ministry to immediately put the missile attack early warning radar station in Kaliningrad on combat alert.

"Second, protective coverage of Russia's strategic nuclear weapons will be reinforced as a priority measure under the program to develop our air and space defenses.

"Third, the new strategic ballistic missiles commissioned by the Strategic Missile Forces and the Navy will be equipped with advanced missile defense penetration systems and new, highly effective warheads.

"Fourth, I have instructed the Armed Forces to draw up measures for disabling missile defense system data and guidance systems if need be. These measures will be adequate, effective, and low-cost.

"Fifth, if the above measures prove insufficient, the Russian Federation will deploy modern offensive weapon systems in the west and south of the country,



Kremlin.ru

*Then-President Medvedev gives his address to the nation on Nov. 23, 2011, on Russia's response to the planned deployment of U.S. BMD systems in Europe.*

ensuring our ability to take out any part of the U.S. missile defense system in Europe. One step in this process will be to deploy Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad Region."

Medvedev concluded: "We are open to a dialogue and we hope for a reasonable and constructive approach from our Western partners."

### **We May 'Deploy Main Attack Force'**

Then on Nov. 29, 2011, Medvedev discussed the matter further with the leadership of the Russian Armed Forces. Reviewing his recent actions and relevant plans, he continued:

"The standard statements that the new system of the adaptive and phased transition to a European missile defense system is not directed against Russia can no longer satisfy us. These statements are made orally and unfortunately do not guarantee the protection of our interests. If other steps are made, naturally we will be ready to listen to them. However, it is not enough to issue oral statements. So when they tell us that the system is not directed against us, I would like to reply as follows: Friends, the early warning radar station that was put on combat duty today is not directed against you either; on the contrary, it can work for you and towards achieving the aims we have set for ourselves.

“With regard to further actions, it is entirely up to those who make the relevant decisions today. If our signal is not heard, then, as I said on Nov. 23, we will deploy other defense means, including the adoption of tough countermeasures and deployment of the main attack force.

“The station has been put on combat duty, which means that it has begun to work as a finished facility, although a number of parameters are still to be built up over time. . . .”