

# Britain lobbying to be U.S. base site

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**LONDON** - Prime Minister Tony Blair is lobbying the United States to consider locating part of its anti-missile system in Britain, his office said Friday.

The United States has also announced discussions with Poland and the Czech Republic about building parts of the missile defense infrastructure in those countries.

"We have certainly been engaged in conversations with the U.S. about this," said a spokesman for Blair, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The objective of these conversations was to make sure that the U.K. is kept in consideration to be one of the locations for the system should the U.S. press ahead with the system.

"It is purely about being part of the conversation. These discussions are at a very early stage," the spokesman said.

A Russian general has warned that Poland and the Czech Republic risk being targeted if they host U.S. missile defense bases, though the United States has insisted the system does not threaten Russia.