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Polish, Latvian, Estonian presidents discuss NATO May summit

Presidents Bronisław Komorowski, Andris Berzins and Toomas Ilves met in Warsaw Tuesday to discuss issues to be debated at the NATO summit in May. They came out in favour of strengthening the Alliance and completing its military mission by the end of Afghanistan in 2014, as planned.

In the context of the NATO summit the three presidents also discussed Russian plans to build up the missile potential in the Kaliningrad district.

President Komorowski informed that he had signed a decision on continued participation of the Polish air force in NATO's Baltic Air Policing mission which protects the air space of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. "Polish airmen will continue to police the air space over the Baltic states," the president declared at a joint press conference held in Warsaw after the talks Tuesday.

The presidents of Latvia and Estonia thanked Poland for its participation in the Baltic Air Policing operation.

Bronisław Komorowski spoke about the special importance of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty that founded NATO. Article 5 provides for solidary, collective response to threats to any member state and "should continue to be the foundation of NATO's functioning," according to president Komorowski.

This implied laying greater emphasis on security guarantees for the territories of NATO member states, he added. The presidents came to "joint conclusions on (the need for) maintaining and updating (NATO) contingency plans for our countries" and shared "interest in building modern systems protecting our region."

President Komorowski explained he was referring to an anti-missile and anti-aircraft defence system. "It is a matter of importance also (..) in the light of deployment of new systems, or at least announcements to that effect, in our region, in the Kaliningrad district of Russia," he said.

Head of the National Security Bureau Stanisław Koziej also took part in the meeting.

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