

Czech president flies home after UN General Assembly session



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New York - Czech President Vaclav Klaus left the United States after a reception U.S. President Barack Obama organised for heads of states participating in the U.N. General Assembly session where Klaus had a speech against state regulation of the market on Wednesday afternoon local time.

Klaus had a brief informal talk with Obama during the reception at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Arts, he told CTK today.

He said Obama recalled the visit he paid to Prague in April to attend a U.S.-EU summit.

Klaus said he did not discuss the recent U.S. decision not to station the planned U.S. radar base in the Czech Republic with Obama but that he talked about the issue with James Jones, U.S. national security adviser.

Jones emphasised that the decision meant only a change in the defence system style that is to achieve the same effects as the original plan to build missile defence bases in the Czech Republic and Poland.

Klaus said he considered the attempts of some Czech politicians to interpret the decision of

Obama's administration as a victory of Russia in the Czech Republic to be "absolute nonsense," probably hinting at former Czech president Vaclav Havel and some representatives of the right-wing.

In his speech in the United Nations, Klaus said the world economic crisis was "a failure of governments, not markets" and he warned against "extensive government regulation" of the market or "global governance of the world economy" as possible ways of fighting the crisis.

He also warned about the debt trap that many countries were facing or approaching.

"The huge fiscal deficits will harm future economic growth both of the developed and the developing countries," Klaus said.

He told journalists during the U.N. General Assembly session that he agreed with South Africa's President Jacob Zuma who pointed to the fact that no African state was represented in the U.N. Security Council.

Klaus added that there was also no Latin American country in the UNSC.

He criticised Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi for having a two-hour speech and not 15 minutes respected by other speakers.

During his visit, Klaus delivered an address on the 20th anniversary of the fall of communism in central and eastern Europe at the conservative Washington Cato institute, among others.

Author: ČTK
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