

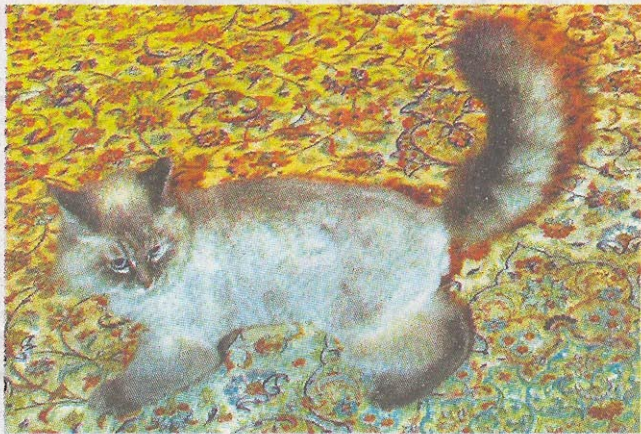
# My cat is safe, Medvedev assures Russia

SETTING aside fears for a new arms race with the United States or the conflict in Syria, President Dmitry Medvedev took to Twitter on Wednesday to reassure Russia on another burning issue — the wellbeing of his cat.

Presidential pet Dorofey had not, contrary to press reports and frenzied Internet speculation, gone missing.

“It has become known from sources close to Dorofey that he didn’t disappear. Thank you for your concern, everyone,” tweeted Medvedev.

Russian social media users have been having a field day speculating about the cat’s alleged escape, with at least



**SAFE AND SOUND:** Media had speculated that Dorofey, pictured here in Medvedev’s residence in Moscow, had gone missing — AFPpic

two Twitter accounts created in Dorofey’s name to post updates of his whereabouts and

his decision to join the nascent protest movement.

“I am tired of politics! I want

family and kids!” one Dorofey impersonator @Dorofey\_Kot tweeted.

The cat’s name — derived from Greek Dorotheos, or the “gift of God” — soared to global Twitter trends as bloggers joked the animal had fled ahead of his owner’s departure from the Kremlin in May.

The initial publication of the cat’s disappearance on Wednesday in Sobesednik weekly newspaper alleged that police in the Moscow region of Odintsovo, where the presidential residence Gorki is located, had left their duties to search for Dorofey.

Police denied the report. — AFP