# Russian President Vladimir Putin to Visit North Korea for Military Support Talks



Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit North Korea this week as part of efforts to secure further military support for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. This visit marks Putin's first trip to North Korea since 2000. During his visit, Putin is scheduled to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong-un in Pyongyang for one-on-one discussions aimed at enhancing security and economic cooperation between the two nations.

Putin will be accompanied by a delegation that includes senior figures in military and arms procurement, notably Andrey Belousov, the new Russian Defense Minister, and Denis Manturov, the Deputy Prime Minister overseeing the defense sector. This visit comes amid reports of North Korea providing Russia with significant military support in the form of Soviet-era artillery munitions, ballistic missiles, and electronic equipment crucial to the Russian military efforts in Ukraine.

The US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin, has previously noted that Russian military capabilities had been bolstered by these supplies, as well as Iranian drones. In return, Russia is believed to have supported North Korea's satellite program and provided other forms of economic and diplomatic aid.

In related developments, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has issued a warning regarding China's increasing support for Russia and its expanding nuclear arsenal. Addressing concerns at the Wilson Center in Washington, Stoltenberg hinted at potential significant consequences from the Western allies if Beijing continues its current trajectory. He emphasized that NATO would remain a nuclear alliance to ensure global power balance, given the nuclear capabilities of Russia, China, and North Korea.

The geopolitical landscape continues to be influenced by these strategic alliances and military developments, as countries like the United States and its European allies upgrade their nuclear arsenals in response to growing threats.