# Russian President Putin to Strengthen Ties with North Korea Amidst Ukraine War



Russian President Vladimir V. Putin will visit North Korea for the first time in 24 years on Tuesday, as part of an effort to strengthen ties with Kim Jong-un amidst the ongoing war in Ukraine. This deepening relationship marks a significant geopolitical shift, posing challenges for the United States, which has previously relied on Moscow's support in curbing North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

The visit comes nine months after Kim Jong-un traveled to Russia's Far East, where he met Putin at a Russian cosmodrome. The two leaders discussed their shared opposition to Western influence, and Kim invited Putin to North Korea in a display of solidarity.

During the trip, Putin is expected to formalize a "comprehensive strategic partnership" with North Korea. The visit underscores the importance of North Korean munitions supplies for Russia, which faces ongoing battles in Ukraine. U.S. intelligence has previously reported the transfer of artillery shells from North Korea to Russia, despite questions about their quality.

The meeting will address various topics, including energy, agriculture, economic ties, and security issues. Putin's trip to North Korea will be followed by a visit to Vietnam, reflecting the Kremlin's strategy to challenge American interests globally.

In an article published in North Korea's Rodong newspaper, Putin praised Kim for resisting U.S. pressures and highlighted the importance of North Korea’s support for Russia’s operations in Ukraine.

North Korea, in return, seeks Russia's advanced military technology and support in resisting international sanctions. Since their last meeting, North Korea launched a military reconnaissance satellite, reportedly with Russian assistance, illustrating the mutual benefits of the burgeoning alliance.