# Putin and Kim Jong-Un Strengthen Alliance in Historic Meeting in North Korea



Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-Un have announced a significantly strengthened alliance following a meeting in North Korea on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. This visit marks Putin's first to the country in 24 years and was described by the Korean Central News Agency as "friendly" and indicative of a "new comprehensive development" in bilateral relations.

According to state media, the leaders departed Pyongyang Airport in the same vehicle and openly discussed their strategic goals, including enhancing military cooperation and opposing U.S. policies. Kim Jong-Un expressed full support for Russia's military actions in Ukraine, signaling a reinforcement of economic and military ties.

Putin thanked Kim for his unwavering support of Russian policies, especially concerning Ukraine. He mentioned that the countries would soon sign an agreement to boost their partnership against what they described as U.S. "imperialist hegemonistic policies." Kim expressed hope that their "fiery friendship" would become even more robust than during Soviet times.

Putin's delegation included Deputy Prime Minister Denis Mantrurov, Defence Minister Andrei Belousov, and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The leaders' talks about potential arms deals involving North Korean munitions and Russian economic and technological support have raised concerns internationally, particularly given ongoing U.N. sanctions against North Korea for its nuclear program and sanctions against Russia for its activities in Ukraine.