# Putin and Kim Revive Cold War-Era Defense Pact Amid Russia-Ukraine Conflict



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SEOUL — President Vladimir Putin of Russia and North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, revitalized a Cold War-era mutual defense agreement on June 19, 2024, as Moscow intensified its security ties with Pyongyang. The new treaty, signed in Pyongyang, pledges mutual assistance in the event of aggression against either nation.

During the joint briefing, Putin emphasized the necessity of revisiting UN sanctions against North Korea, asserting Pyongyang’s right to bolster its defense capabilities. This new pact, described by Kim as the "most powerful treaty" ever signed between the two countries, signals a significant shift in their relations and potentially heightens regional tensions, particularly with Washington and its allies.

Amidst Russia's ongoing conflict with Ukraine, experts caution that this agreement might lead to North Korean troops bolstering Russia's front lines. The deal could also involve North Korea supplying additional ammunition rounds to Russian forces.

In a separate development, a distressing incident involving a Russian soldier in Ukraine was captured on drone footage. The soldier, after a series of failed attempts to use his rifle, chose to detonate a grenade rather than surrender, highlighting the dire circumstances on the battlefield. This comes as Ukraine presses forward with counterattacks in regions such as the Serebryansky forest and Vovchansk, capturing several Russian soldiers.

The new defense pact between Russia and North Korea underscores a dramatic evolution in Putin's diplomatic strategy, aligning more closely with regimes historically antagonistic to Western interests. This development unfolds as Russia continues to face significant military and political challenges amid its war in Ukraine.