# Russian President Putin Seeks to Strengthen Ties with Vietnam Amid International Isolation



Russian President Vladimir Putin embarked on a state visit to Vietnam on Thursday, looking to bolster ties amid Russia’s increasing international isolation due to its military actions in Ukraine. Greeted by dignitaries and soldiers in white dress uniforms, Putin arrived from North Korea, where he had just signed a mutual aid pact with Kim Jong Un. This agreement, significant for being the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the Cold War, comes as both face tensions with the West.

In Hanoi, Putin is scheduled to meet with Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, President To Lam, and other officials. His visit to Vietnam follows a sharp rebuke from the US Embassy in the country. This marks Putin’s first visit since 2017, a period during which Russia has faced numerous sanctions and an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court.

Vietnam, maintaining a policy of neutrality in international conflicts, has seen its relations with Russia tested due to its ties with Western powers. The visit occurs against a backdrop of longstanding Vietnam-Russia relations, dating back to 1950, and coincides with the 30th anniversary of a treaty of "friendly relations."

Putin's visit underscores his aim to demonstrate that Western attempts to isolate Russia are failing, stating his gratitude for Vietnam’s “balanced position on the Ukrainian crisis.” Despite Moscow's international challenges, it seeks to strengthen alliances in Asia, evident from Putin’s recent agreements with North Korea and visits to both China and Vietnam.