# South Korea Contemplates Arming Ukraine Amid North Korea-Russia Defence Pact



**South Korea Considers Arming Ukraine Amid North Korea-Russia Defense Pact**

South Korean political leaders have expressed intentions to rethink their longstanding policy on arms exports to conflict zones in light of recent developments involving Russia and North Korea. The move comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a mutual defense pact with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during a visit to Pyongyang. The agreement, which occurred on June 19-20, 2024, pledges immediate military assistance if either country is invaded.

Concerned by the potential implications of this pact, South Korean officials, including President Yoon Suk Yeol and his national security adviser Chang Ho-jin, have vocalized their readiness to consider providing weapons to Ukraine. This marks a significant policy shift for Seoul, which has previously refrained from supplying arms to active conflict zones despite pressure from the United States and Ukraine.

Military analysts are worried that this pact could lead to North Korean troops supporting Russia in its ongoing conflict in Ukraine. South Korea argues that any collaboration enhancing North Korea's military capabilities breaches United Nations Security Council resolutions and could adversely affect South Korea-Russia relations.

President Putin issued a warning to the United States and its allies, declaring Russia’s willingness to arm North Korea if Western support for Ukraine continues. This statement came during a trip to Vietnam, underscoring the heightened stakes as Russia faces international isolation due to its actions against Ukraine.

South Korean officials emphasize that Russia's support for North Korea might compel Seoul to reverse its arms export policy, potentially assisting Ukraine as the conflict continues to evolve.