# Putin Threatens to Arm North Korea in Response to Western Support for Ukraine, US Prioritizes Patriot Missile Shipments



**Putin Threatens to Arm North Korea in Response to Western Support for Ukraine**

During a trip to Vietnam and North Korea, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the United States and its allies against supplying sophisticated weapons to Ukraine. The warning includes a threat to arm North Korea amid an escalating geopolitical situation related to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Putin's comments came on Thursday during a briefing with reporters, as he traveled back to Russia. He indicated that Russia might provide military support to North Korea, violating existing United Nations sanctions. This stance follows the revival of a Cold War-era mutual defense pact with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Under this pact, both nations commit to providing military assistance to each other in case of an attack.

The potential arms deal is being positioned by Putin as a counter-response to the Western decision to supply Ukraine with advanced weapons, which have targeted Russian territory. Putin criticized this Western intervention and pointed to North Korea's interest in advancing its military technology, hinting at possible exchanges of nuclear warheads, missiles, and submarines.

Following these events, South Korea expressed concerns and considered providing military support to Ukraine, a move that Putin strongly advised against.

**US Prioritizes Patriot Missile Shipments to Ukraine**

In response to increasing Russian attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure, the Biden administration has decided to expedite the delivery of advanced Patriot missiles to Ukraine. This will involve delaying missile shipments to other countries, although deliveries to Israel and Taiwan remain unaffected.

John Kirby, a spokesperson for the White House, announced the decision on Thursday, emphasizing Ukraine's urgent need for enhanced air defense capabilities. The missiles are being prioritized to bolster Ukraine's defenses, particularly its power grid, which has been targeted by Russian forces.

The National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS) will also be expedited to Ukraine, highlighting the US and its allies' continued support amid the prolonged conflict.

**North Korean Pact with Russia and Global Repercussions**

The new defense agreement between Russia and North Korea has exacerbated tensions in the region, especially in South Korea and Japan, where significant US military forces are stationed. The potential for North Korea to receive advanced Russian weaponry raises substantial concerns regarding regional security and stability.

This latest move by Russia underscores the shifting alliances and increasing hostilities defining international relations amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. The decision by the Biden administration reflects the critical state of global defense priorities as countries adapt to the evolving landscape of military conflict.