# Putin Warns of Arming North Korea in Response to Western Support for Ukraine



Russian President Vladimir Putin has issued a warning that he is prepared to arm North Korea in response to Western nations supplying arms to Ukraine. This statement was made during a press conference in Vietnam on June 20, 2024. Putin's remarks come in light of his recent visit to Pyongyang, where he signed a mutual defense pact with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. This treaty obliges both countries to provide military assistance to each other in case of external aggression.

The U.S. government has expressed serious concerns regarding this potential arms supply, emphasizing that such an action could destabilize the Korean Peninsula and violate U.N. Security Council resolutions, which Russia had previously supported. Meanwhile, South Korea has condemned the pact as a threat to its national security and is considering supporting Ukraine militarily. The White House has announced plans to expedite the delivery of air defense interceptor missiles to Ukraine, citing an urgent need as Russia continues attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure.

Russia's proposal to arm North Korea is seen as a bid to escalate costs for Western support of Ukraine and secure military resources from Pyongyang. This new alliance has prompted anxieties in South Korea, Japan, and the U.S., marking a significant shift in geopolitical dynamics in East Asia.

The situation has also led to internal tensions within Israel, where disagreements between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the military over the Gaza conflict have become public. Simultaneously, the Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte is poised to become the next NATO Secretary General, following the withdrawal of Romania's candidate.