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NATO Chief urges immediate withdrawal of North Korean troops from Russia

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NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte called for the immediate withdrawal of North Korean troops reportedly deployed in Russia, labeling the move a “significant escalation” in North Korea’s involvement in Russia’s war against Ukraine. The remarks followed a briefing from South Korean

officials, who provided intelligence confirming the presence of North Korean military units in Russia's Kursk region.

“This deployment represents a dangerous expansion of Russia's war and a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions,” Rutte stated, urging both Russia and North Korea to halt these actions. He noted that Russian President Vladimir Putin's reliance on foreign troops signals “growing desperation” in facing Ukraine's resistance.

The situation highlights increasing tensions, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy recently suggested that up to 10,000 North Korean troops could be involved, citing Ukrainian intelligence reports of tactical personnel and officers sent to Russian-occupied areas. Although NATO previously reported no evidence of North Korean soldiers in Ukraine, South Korea claims that 1,500 North Korean troops were dispatched aboard navy vessels in early October.

NATO has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Ukraine and is currently discussing bolstering military aid as the conflict intensifies