WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama on Wednesday asked Congress to fund a new missile defense system designed to help Gulf allies cope with threats from Iran and to build a global network of missile defenses to counter the growing danger posed by North Korea and Iran.

Obama said the U.S. response to the North Korean threat is a "clear" and "unmistakable" signal that the United States will not tolerate aggressive behavior by rogue states and dictators.

"As a matter of principle, the United States will not tolerate the development and proliferation of dangerous long-range missiles," Obama said.

Obama, who is traveling to the Army-Navy game in Philadelphia and then will return to Washington Friday, said the country is "prepared to use the military and our diplomatic influence to bring about a peaceful resolution" to the North Korean standoff.

"But if this approach is not effective, if we cannot secure the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, we will be prepared to act," he said.

On the Iranian front, Obama said the administration is "prepared to take more aggressive steps" if Iran continues to develop its nuclear program, but said he was "not going to change our approach unless there is a fundamental change in Iran’s behavior.

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