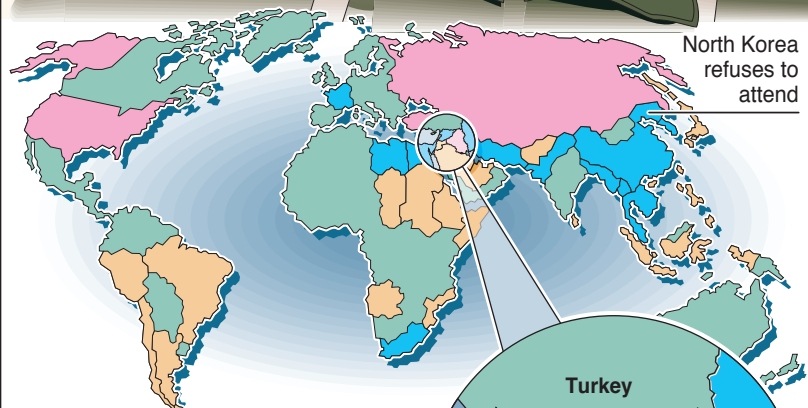


UN convention to ban chemical weapons

Representatives of 120 nations gather in Paris this week to sign a treaty abolishing chemical weapons – the first time an entire class of weapons of mass destruction has been banned – but Arab states and North Korea are not expected to attend. Signing the pact will oblige countries to declare stocks and destroy them and their manufacturing facilities within ten years. To date, only the U.S., Russia and Iraq have admitted having chemical weapons. Spot inspections may be carried out in any country suspected of not complying with the agreement and non-signatories risk strict embargoes on chemicals and other goods



North Korea
refuses to
attend

Chemical weapon stocks and capability

Known	Likely	Suspected

The 20 states of the Arab League back the ban in principle but are not prepared to sign the treaty while Israel retains its nuclear capability.

Iraq used chemical weapons in the war with Iran and against Iraqi Kurds in 1988. Iraq has been invited to sign but is unlikely to relinquish any military asset voluntarily

