

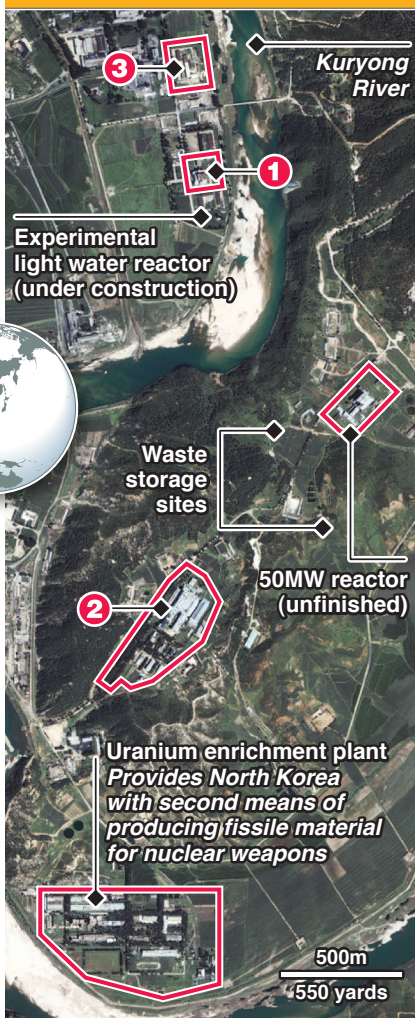
North Korea threatens new nuclear test

North Korea has threatened to conduct a fourth nuclear test in response to a recent United Nations resolution calling for an investigation into the country's alleged human rights violations

Punggye-ri: Site of three previous tests



YONGBYON NUCLEAR COMPLEX



NUCLEAR PREPARATIONS

1 Five-megawatt reactor

Recent satellite images show facility appears to have been shut for about 10 weeks, longer than normal maintenance would require. Evidence suggests small number of fuel rods, possibly defective, could have been removed from reactor ahead of possible reprocessing

2 Radiochemical laboratory

Steam observed rising in early November from buildings where spent fuel rods are reprocessed to extract weapons-grade plutonium – activity consistent with facility commencing operations

3 Pilot fuel fabrication facility

Signs of chemical waste could indicate production of new fuel rods to replace spent ones