

**BULLETIN**

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**NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD**

*based on media surveys in the North Asia region*

**JAPAN/JAPON**

- M. Nagano, chef du Nikkeiren, a demandé pour relancer l'économie des réductions d'impôts de 3000 milliards yen.

- Le président Bush a répondu "Nous soutenons fondamentalement la position japonaise" en réponse aux commentaires de M. Miyazawa qui lui faisait remarquer que le Japon avait les qualifications requises pour entrer au conseil de sécurité.

- Two pulp and paper companies - Sanyo Kokusaku and Jujo - have decided to merge, becoming the largest such company in Japan and the sixth largest in the world. The Japanese press is taking it as a sign that the industry is facing its worst crisis since the end of the Second World War. Pulp and paper stocks have increased from 1.25 million tonnes in 1978 to 1.8 million in 1991.

**CHINA/CHINE**

- The official English-language China Daily reported on July 9 that three Canadian citizens had been ordered to make self-criticisms and leave China for distributing "religion-promoting" material in Sichuan and Gansu provinces.

- The PRC Foreign Ministry issued a statement on July 3 dismissing recent Vietnamese protests over China's lease of an oil exploration concession to a US company. The statement reiterated Chinese sovereignty over the whole of the disputed area.

- According to Chinese statistics, there are currently 40 foreign-funded banking and

financial institutions and 220 foreign bank representative offices in China. Most are located in Special Economic Zones or open coastal cities.

**KOREA/CORÉE**

- The Korean government has set up an amnesty program for foreigners working illegally in Korea. About 5,600 illegal workers had surrendered to police as of June 30. It is estimated that 27,100 foreigners are illegally living in Korea.

- Seoul-Beijing trade increased 65.3% in the first quarter of 1992. Korea exported \$773 million worth of goods and imported \$940 million.

- Imports of agricultural products slowed down in the first four months of the year. Korea imported \$2.4 billion worth of agricultural products from January to April, a 10.2% increase over the same period last year. However, this was less than the 19.7% increase in agricultural imports last year.

- Talks between the leaders of Korea's political parties failed to reach agreement on a schedule for National Assembly meetings. The Assembly opened on June 29, but has not met since. The opposition is boycotting the Assembly until the issue of elections is resolved.

**TAIWAN**

- Taiwan's gold imports soared 90% in the first half of 1992 as appreciation of the New Taiwan Dollar spurred buying of