

BULLETIN

VOL III NO 23
90-06-08

NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

CHINA/CHINE

- Despite heavy security and the closing of Tiananmen Square to the public from June 1-4, hundreds of university students in Beijing staged protests on their campuses on the nights of June 3 and 4.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has rejected charges by foreign correspondents that they were beaten and their equipment damaged while covering the protests in Beijing on June 3&4. The Ministry accused a small number of journalists of having collaborated with those planning unlawful activities and engaging in activities that are "incompatible with their journalistic status".
- China has placed a **US\$ 4 billion** order for commercial jets with the Boeing Corporation. Boeing had spoken out in favour of the renewal of the Most Favoured Nation status for China.
- The State Council's Production Committee announced that growth in the industrial output is continuing its upward trend, increasing 3% in May.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last week that China has bought 99,500 metric tons of soft red winter wheat at subsidized prices. The purchase was made under the **Export Enhancement Programme**.
- The State Council has approved the construction of 16 large and medium-sized electric power projects. The central government will fund a third of the total investment. The remainder is to be borne by local governments.
- The Chinese Embassy in Washington reiterated that no overseas students would be held accountable simply because they participated in demonstrations in the USA last year. It was also reaffirmed that China's Government policy of sending students and scholars for overseas study would not change.

JAPAN/JAPON

- Foreign Minister Nakayama has indicated Japan intends to improve bilateral relations with North Korea. With regard to the summit discussions between South Korea and the USSR, he indicated they mark a major turning point in South-North relations on the Korean Peninsula. In addition, he announced he will visit Moscow by the end of this year to discuss details of President Gorbachev's Japan visit in 1991.
- A **US\$ 441 million** government budget for fiscal year 1990 finally became law on Thursday, despite the rejection of the budget bill earlier the same day by the opposition-dominated House of Councillors. The budget grew by 9.7% from the original budget for the previous year, with significant increase in social welfare, defence, and overseas assistance spending.
- Japan and the USA will hold a high-level meeting on June 14 in Kentucky, aimed at increasing U.S. auto parts exports to Japan.
- The Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report that Japan's current account surplus in April posted the sharpest fall in more than 10 years by falling 69.6% from a year earlier to **US\$ 2 billion**. This decline resulted from a continued fall in exports and a sustained rise in imports.
- A Ministry of International Trade and Industry study reports Japan will have to double its present number of nuclear power stations to 78 over the next two decades, in order to meet the expected growth in demand and stabilise carbon dioxide emissions.
- Komeito Secretary General Ichikawa said his party is ready to deliberate about the consumption tax with the Liberal Democratic Party.