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**NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD**

**JAPAN/JAPON**

**CHINA/CHINE**

- Kyodo reports the Soviet Union and Japan will hold their first bilateral talks on Tokyo's nuclear technology assistance to Moscow in mid-September. The negotiations are the result of a bilateral agreement on cooperation for peaceful use of nuclear power, signed during President Gorbachev's visit to Japan in April. Discussions are expected to focus on control of nuclear power plants, basic research, disposal of radioactive waste, and construction of nuclear plants in the Far East.

- According to Reuter, Japanese government officials and banks are trying to preempt a possible bank run. Toyo Shinkin Bank, a credit union based in Osaka, announced that one of its branch managers has been involved in the issue of false deposit certificates worth \$2.84 billion. Two major banks and a central union of credit cooperatives have been asked to help Toyo Shinkin financially. The Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Japan issued statements saying the credit union is not in immediate trouble. Last month, three Japanese banks were involved in similar fraudulent loan deals. Media sources claim a series of bank and securities scandals has put pressure on the Finance Minister to resign.

- A report by Kyodo news service says Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu appears to have won China's understanding on the dispatching of Japanese troops to participate in UN peacekeeping forces. Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara told a news conference that Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin's silence following Kaifu's explanation of Japan's plan to send personnel, as well as material goods, to assist in UN peacekeeping activities had indicated tacit approval. The two leaders met on Monday during Kaifu's four-day visit to China.

- The August 10-13 visit to Beijing by Japanese PM Kaifu marks the first visit to China by a G-7 head of government since the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy activists. British Prime Minister John Major will visit China September 2-4 to formally sign an agreement on the new Hong Kong airport. The People's Daily announced on August 11 that Premier Li Peng had informed Prime Minister Kaifu that China had decided in principle to accede to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

- Une délégation militaire chinoise a visité Moscou cette semaine. C'était la première visite en URSS du chef d'état-major de l'Armée de Libération du Peuple chinois, Chi Haotian. Selon la presse chinoise, les deux côtés ont discuté de la situation militaire et de la politique mondiale actuelle, ainsi que des problèmes de stabilité et de sécurité de la région Asie-Pacifique.

- Material Minister Liu Suinian said that the current system of assisting state key projects through supply of raw materials at unreasonably low state-set prices will be replaced by a program in which the government would increase investment in important projects, thus allowing them to purchase materials at market prices.

**KOREA/CORÉE**

- Press reports indicate the shipbuilding companies Daewoo and Samsung are expected to register their first operational profits in nearly a decade. Hyundai, Korea's largest shipbuilder, made a profit even during the 1980s slump, and its exports continue to expand.