

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- The Liberal Democratic Party announced a plan for revising the controversial consumption tax. According to the plan, food will not be taxed at the retail stage but other stages of production will be taxed at 1.5%. The revision is scheduled to be in effect in Oct. 1990, but, it is subject to the results of the upcoming election of the House of Representatives.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs intends to increase Japan's share of expenses for US forces in 1991 when a special agreement between the two countries is up for revision.

- Les réserves en devises du Japon ont augmenté de \$454 millions de dollars américains en novembre pour atteindre \$84.75 milliards.

- Japan's national effort to investigate "cold fusion" produced its first significant results, including startling claims of evidence not found in most US attempts to verify the phenomenon.

- US auto makers are seeking a new type of fuel-economy legislation that would effectively shut Japanese manufacturers out of their latest target market - large and luxury cars.

- Maxwell Communication Corp. of Britain plans to publish newspapers about Japan in various parts of the world simultaneously. It is also negotiating with Nippon Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) to relay its television news to Europe.

- MITI Minister Natsunaga said the development of a domestic aerospace industry is vital for Japan to become a "techno-oriented" nation in the 21st century.

- The US has threatened to invoke the "Super 301" provision of the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act if Japan does not remove various tariff and nontariff barriers to forest product imports before June '90.

CHINA/CHINE

- The English language China Daily newspaper reported that China and the Soviet Union are expected to sign an agreement on barter trade of Chinese light industrial goods for Soviet aircraft.

- Pro-Beijing Hong Kong press reports Deng Xiaoping as saying that the Central Advisory Commission should be abolished when its current term of office expires in 1992.

- Le Japon accorde à la RPC une subvention de \$35 millions pour 4 projets dans les domaines des télécommunications, de l'éducation et de la médecine.

- Scarcity of the renminbi (RMB) has driven the price for the US dollar down to 4.98 yuan, the lowest level ever. Chinese enterprises have had to stop exchanging dollar reserves for RMB production funds because of the unfavourable rate.

- The State Commission for Reform of the Economic Structure is to hold a conference next year to reassure western business partners that the reform policies affecting their interests are still in place.

- The West German electronics firm AEG has opened three industrial automation training centres in an effort to promote its technology transfers to China. The centres are located in the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, the Non-ferrous Metals Industry Corp., and the China National Coal Corporation.

TAIWAN

- Taiwan and the USSR may transact a deal worth US\$300-400 million. Taiwan would export more than 20 different kinds of manufacturing facilities to the USSR in exchange for Russia-produced timber.