

NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- Mitsubishi will import on-line roll grinding (ORG) technology developed by Pohang Iron and Steel Co. of Korea (POSCO). The Korean and Japanese companies, however, will be joint patent holders for the technology since POSCO employed Mitsubishi's technology in developing ORG.
- NKK Corp. is postponing 20-30% of its planned US \$1.2 billion in capital improvements for National Steel in the U.S. NKK owns 70% of National Steel.
- The Federal Reserve's latest quarterly reports that U.S.-based Japanese banks increased their lending sixfold between 1984-89.
- The Social and Economic Congress of Japan stated in a "white paper" that the government should use foreign aid to increase job opportunities in developing countries, rather than dramatically increase foreign labour in Japan.
- Nissho Iwai has entered the aircraft lease-financing business by making deals with United, Northwest and Air Canada for US \$320 million worth of Boeing planes. Nissho Iwai is taking advantage of Japanese banks' disengagement from lease-financing in foreign markets due to excessive competition and reduced profit margins.
- Japanese officials have demanded and received a special meeting with the U.S. on metrics. The Japanese argue that the continued use of imperial measurements is an obstacle to U.S. industrial competitiveness and U.S.-Japan high tech cooperation.
- According to Foreign Ministry sources, Taro Nakayama will propose assistance to Vietnam, especially advice on market economies, when he visits the country from 10-14 June. Nakayama will be the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Vietnam since 1976.
- Five and a half weeks after leaving Kyushu, Japan's minesweeper flotilla began operations off Kuwait on Wednesday, 5 June.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI) signed a CDN \$10 million technology transfer/joint development project with MPR Teltech Ltd of Vancouver on 25 May. ETRI will send 32 Korean engineers to Canada for a two-year period to work with MPR Teltech engineers in joint development of a new VSAT satellite communications system to be produced and marketed by Samsung, Goldstar and Hyundai.