

annoncé que sa ville soumettra une demande formelle au Comité international olympique pour accueillir les Jeux olympiques d'été en l'an 2000.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The Foreign Ministry issued a mild statement of concern over the Japanese Diet's concurrence in sending peacekeeping forces overseas, recording Korea's understanding of why the decision was taken, but noting the feelings of Korea and other Asian countries on the matter.
- The opposition Democratic Party has criticized the \$3 billion loan program to the USSR in light of moves towards dissolution of the union. Repayment in kind is being considered, but \$700 million of contracts for consumer and industrial plant equipment exports in 1992 may be reviewed.
- With an improved US economy and a depreciated won expected in the range of 780 to the US dollar, the Korean Foreign Trade Association believes the economy will expand by 9% in 1992, with inflation also at 9%. Although the trade deficit is projected to rise over \$13 billion, exports will nonetheless grow at 13%.
- The government finally succeeded in getting its budget passed in the National Assembly, with only a token cut from 33.5 to 33.2 trillion won, representing a 23% rise over last year's budget estimate. Business groups, the media and some research institutes have been highly critical of the "inflationary impact" of the budget proposals.
- Despite the return of export growth to double digit level in the past two months, the trade deficit on customs clearance basis is now expected to reach \$12 billion in 1991.
- Manufacturers of passenger cars will be banned from using asbestos in auto parts. The ban will take effect next year, and car owners will be expected to replace all parts using asbestos by the beginning of 1993.
- Twelve Korean dissident groups have

amalgamated into "Chongkuk Yonhap" (National Alliance for Democracy and Unification). The move is being dismissed by government supporters as evidence of the declining level of involvement, with the end of the cold war.

TAIWAN

- Taiwan has dropped a four-decade ban on trade with North Korea.
- The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is leading a trade mission to Taiwan, Dec.9-11. Senior executives of twelve well-known companies will introduce Canadian services and technologies which can contribute to Taiwan's six-year national development plan.

CAMBODIA/CAMBODGE

- In a Chinese commentary on the near-lynching of Khieu Samphan and Son Sen on their return to Phnom Penh on Nov. 27, the People's Daily said that the incident constitutes an obstruction to the implementation of the peace agreement on Cambodia and runs counter to the fundamental interests of the Cambodian people. However, at a meeting in Pattaya, the SNC reached agreement on security arrangements for the return of its Khmer Rouge members, who will stay at the SNC's headquarters.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/

A VENIR

- Canadian Chamber of Commerce Trade Mission to Taiwan (Six Year Plan Mission - Dec. 9-11
- POLMET Environmental Info Booth and Conference Taiwan - Dec. 9-13
- Quebec Mission to China - Jan. 5-13
- Quebec Mission to Vietnam - Jan. 14-20

The North Asia Bulletin is produced weekly by the North Asia Relations Division in a single bilingual edition only. Le Bulletin de l'Asie du nord est une hebdomadaire rédigé par la Division des Relations avec l'Asie du nord qui publie une édition bilingue. Editor/rédactrice: 0896; fax-613-996-4309.

