

BULLETIN

NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- PM Kaifu will make an official visit to Canada from Sept. 6th-9th and will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Nakayama.

- As a gesture of reform, PM Kaifu has requested that all members of his cabinet drop factional affiliations in the LDP while holding their government positions.

- Mr. Yamanaka has been retained as the head of the LDP Tax Reform Commission. He has agreed to modify his strong support for the unpopular 3% consumption tax.

- Japan's four main opposition parties have agreed on a tax reform package that would scrap the consumption tax. The LDP contends that this proposal is irresponsible and fails to present alternative ways to make up for the lost revenue from the tax.

- The Athabasca oilsand project in Alberta involving Canadian and Japanese interests will begin a four year pilot study in 1990.

- Japan had a trade surplus of US\$886.1 million in the first 10 days of this month compared to US\$1.13 billion a year ago.

- The Science and Technology Agency has developed a new material capable of withstanding temperatures of 1700 degrees Celsius.

- By using an optical fiber cable, IBM (Japan) has successfully tested two types of computer chips that can process data in a billionth of a second.

- The Bank of Japan said in its monthly report that the Japanese economy continues to expand vigorously, led by personal consumption and corporate fixed investment.

- The government will not accept so-called "economic refugees" and will deport them as illegal entrants.

- Travel agents are mounting a campaign to lure tourists to wintertime Canada by offering varied programs with attractive natural settings. Currently, more than half of the 400,000 Japanese tourists travel to Canada in the July to September period.

- The Labour Ministry reported that an increasing number of Japanese companies are recruiting women university graduates.

CHINA/CHINE

- The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party will hold its 5th plenum in October to discuss the economy and the fate of the purged party chief Zhao Ziyang, according to a HK news report.

- China has blamed high inflation and lower tourism revenues for the delay in payment of loans to some Japanese banks.

- Because of a shortage of foreign currency caused by the country's economic problems and a new austerity program, China has cancelled orders for 330,000 tons of Japanese steel.

- The China Daily reported that the average urban Chinese was nearly 3% poorer in the first half of 1989 than in the first half of last year.

- A circular issued by the Supreme Peoples' Court and Procuratorate asked state employees involved in embezzlement, bribery, speculation or any other corrupt practices to turn themselves in before Oct. 31.

- The proportion of officially sponsored students studying in the West may be reduced, according to the Vice-Minister of the State Education Commission who linked the turmoil in Beijing to an open educational policy.