

fabrication" Western media reports that hundreds of Tibetans had been arrested following anti-government demonstrations in Lhasa on 24 May, adding that two Tibetans remained under detention following the incident.

- The visit of Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to Seoul, the highest-ranking ever by a PRC official to South Korea, has been front page news in Beijing. Discussion of North Korea was a priority for the visit. South Korean sources were quoted expressing satisfaction with China's cooperation on these issues.

- The English-language China Daily of May 22 reported on an IMF study which, using the purchasing-power parity method of calculation, ranks China as the world's third largest economy. The study, which was not reported in the Chinese-language press, has major implications for World Bank policy towards China.

- An interview given by President Jiang Zemin to the American network CNN was reported on the front page of the People's Daily of 24 May. Jiang said that withholding of China's MFN status by the USA would harm both sides, and that "normal" relations were in their mutual interest.

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- Starting from July 1, visitors from Canada and five European countries will be eligible for 14-day visas on arrival in Taiwan. This new policy is being initiated on a trial basis in order to boost tourism from abroad. Its manner of implementation remains to be clarified.

- In order to enhance Taiwan's international image concerning maritime resource protection, two armed Taiwan patrol boats set out on May 18 to monitor drift-net fishing in the North Pacific.

- Taiwan's South China Sea Task Force decided on May 16 to host a conference in late 1993 on the disputed Spratly and Paracel Islands, aimed at protecting the historical claim to them by China (shared by both the PRC and Taiwan). Conference participants will be limited to representatives of Taiwan, the PRC, Hong Kong and Macau.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, on a four-day visit to Seoul, held a first round of talks, devoted solely to the North Korean nuclear issue. Seoul and Beijing agreed to strengthen their joint effort to resolve this issue.

- Responding to a proposition of contact by South Korea, North Korea suggested that a vice-ministerial meeting be held at Panmunjom May 31.

- En visite en Corée, le Président Ramos de Philippines a indiqué avoir demandé au Président Kim que des investissements sud-coréens importants se fassent aux Philippines dans le domaine énergétique, des télécommunications, des transports et de la construction d'autoroutes. Ils se sont entendus aussi pour encourager le renforcement des liens entre l'ANASE et Séoul.

- The Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, addressing the conference of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, called for free trade and investment in the Pacific Basin.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR 1993

- CONSUMER CHINA 93 (Guangzhou); June 8-13,

- World Economic Forum: Europe/East Asia Conference (Hong Kong); October 13-15

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