

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN/JAPON

- Plusieurs journaux signalent le plan de Honda de se retirer des courses de Formule 1, le constructeur japonais ayant jugé qu'il n'y a plus d'avantages techniques à tirer de ces courses.

- The newspaper Asahi has reported an alliance between Sony, Apple, and Motorola to develop universal standards for emerging multi-media technologies. The group could eventually include IBM, Matsushita, and AT&T.

- Selon le Mainichi Shimbun, le Chef du gouvernement aurait décidé de signaler au gouvernement chinois qu'il acceptait l'invitation à une visite de l'empereur en Chine à la fin d'octobre. Une décision officielle sera vraisemblablement annoncée en août.

- Japanese newspapers have announced that a mission from the Japan Atomic Industry Forum will leave shortly for Thailand to study the possibility of constructing a research reactor just outside Bangkok. If the project goes ahead, it will be the first time that Japan has exported a nuclear reactor.

CHINA/CHINE

- In his opening remarks to a State Council meeting this week, Premier Li Peng stated that the economy will now enter a new period of fast growth. Li also said that further effort must be made to promote growth in the agriculture, services, and infrastructure sectors.

- In a statement prominently carried by all official media, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said on July 23 that China will not condone any attempt to make extension of its MFN status with the USA conditional upon

non-economic factors.

- A State Statistics Bureau spokesman has stated that China's current 10.6% GDP growth was "healthy". He also warned that the economy could overheat within 2 or 3 years if the trend toward increased capital construction and growing loans continued.

- At the annual Ministerial Meeting of ASEAN nations, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen suggested that ASEAN and China sign an economic cooperation agreement similar to the Sino-EC one already in place.

- Passage of the UN Security Council Resolution demanding that the Khmer Rouge cooperate with UNTAC in accordance with the Paris Peace Accord was reported on the front page of the English-language China Daily. Passage of the resolution, which was supported by the PRC, was less prominently reported in other media.

KOREA/CORÉE

- Korean automakers are making up for weak sales in the USA by expanding sales in Western Europe, Scandinavia, the Mediterranean, South Asia, and Latin America. Moreover, domestic sales in the first half are up 17% over the same period last year and overall vehicle production has risen over 21%.

- Kim Young-Sup, 61, will be the new Consul General in Montreal. Kim is a former ambassador to Indonesia, Lebanon and Libya.

- Hyundai founder and Unification National