

of Foreign Affairs' response to the adoption by the US House of Representatives of the Pelosis proposal that makes the question of human rights in China a precondition for the renewal of China's MFN status. The House also adopted the Solomons Bill which does not support MFN renewal.

KOREA/CORÉE

- According to media sources, the Korean Minister of Trade and Industry told his Malaysian counterpart that Korea is willing to study the Malaysian-proposed East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) if ASEAN comes up with concrete formulas based on consensus.
- Talks between the North and South Korean PMs will resume after an eight month break. South Korea accepted North Korea's proposal for talks on 27 August in Pyongyang. North Korea suspended talks because of the US-South Korean military exercise "Team Spirit."
- Unconfirmed press reports state that South Korea will ship 5000 tons of rice to North Korea in the first direct trade between the two since the country's division. North Korea will pay in coal and cement. The US Rice Miller's Association maintains the rice is being sold at subsidized prices.
- Kyodo reports that North Korea has initialled an IAEA nuclear safeguards agreement providing for international inspection of its nuclear facilities, and dropped its demand for removal of US nuclear weapons from South Korea.
- A regional trade dispute has been caused by a Korean anti-dumping ruling against Dupont and Hoescht Celanese of the US, and Asahi of Japan, with regards to alleged dumping of polyacetel resin used in plastics.
- Korean automaker's annual growth in sales was 21% in the first half of 1991, compared to 29% in 1990. Lower growth rates reflect shrinking overseas demand and labour-management disputes.
- Korea will negotiate with Australia to buy

liquified natural gas to meet growing energy needs. Korea has been negotiating with Malaysia to purchase natural gas but talks are stalled over price, especially high port charges.

TAIWAN

- Mandarin Airlines, Taiwan's third international air carrier, was inaugurated in Taipei on July 9. Mandarin is a joint venture between China Airlines, Taiwan's flag carrier, and the Koo's Group. According to China Economic News, China Airlines owns 67% and Koo's the remaining 33%.
- Aggregate state bonds to be issued by the Ministry of Finance in fiscal 1992 will total NT\$ 316 billion, the highest issue of bonds since 1949, said ministry officials. The bonds will be floated in several issuances, some of which are for financing the six-year development plan.
- Media sources report that Taiwan's Commission of National Corporations has commissioned state-owned Central Trust of China to serve as a bridge to promote barter trade between 10 state enterprises and the Soviet Union.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR

- Canada '91 - Cultural Activities (including: choral, symphonic, and chamber music; cinema; theatre; ballet; a book promotion; and, a variety of art exhibits), Tokyo & surrounding area, till July 31.
- Food Buyers Mission to Canada, Aug. 1-8.
- Buyers from Japan to Airshow Canada '91, Abbotsford BC, Aug. 7-11.
- Foodex, Osaka '91 - Sept.
- Mining Equipment Seminars - Beijing, Nanjing, Changsha, Sept. 1-5.
- Japan Food Service Show - Sept. 1-6
- Tokyo International Gift Show - Sept. 3-5.
- Seoul Instrument '91 - Sept. 13-17.
- Building Products Mission from HK, Sept. 28-Oct 8.
- Software Mission/Tokyo and Software Show '91/Osaka - Sept. 29-Oct. 9.

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