

government's foreign exchange holdings, the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Fund, the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank.

CHINA/CHINE

- While meeting with Premier Li Peng in Peking, Soviet Deputy PM Yuri Masylukov expressed gratitude to China for the US\$ 800 million commodity loan which China has provided to the USSR. Li Peng has indicated that cooperation between the two countries relating to economics, trade, science, technology and the defence industry will be strengthened.
- The National People's Congress will convene for its annual session on March 25. The session will last two weeks and will address a wide range of issues, including political and economic stability, administration and socialist morality.
- Over the course of the last five-year plan (1985-90), China's GNP has grown at an annual rate of 7.8 per cent. Agricultural growth met the levels set for the plan period, while crude oil production failed to achieve target levels.
- Le ministre chinois des Affaires étrangères, Qian Qichen a exposé un plan de paix en cinq points pour le proche-orient, axé sur la convocation d'une conférence internationale de paix sous les auspices des Nations Unies avec la participation des cinq membres permanent du conseil de sécurité.
- USA Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Richard Solomon, visited Peking March 10-12 to discuss bilateral issues, Cambodia and the post-Gulf war situation.
- The Chinese authorities have permitted a prominent intellectual associated with the demonstrations at Tiananmen Square in 1989, Goa Xin, to leave for the USA.

HONG KONG

- There have been calls for the resignation of Hong Kong Financial Secretary, Sir Piers Jacobs, following his announcement of government projections in the budget last week. Mr. Jacobs intends to retire in August.
- Selon le secrétaire des Services économiques, Anson Chan, la concurrence entre les compagnies internationales de construction impliquées dans la reconstruction du Koweit, pourraient générer des retards dans le projet de développement du port et de l'aéroport de Hong Kong.
- One hundred prominent businessmen and professionals have expressed an interest in joining an influential lobby group to be launched in the next two months. The group, which has