

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- PM Kaifu and US Vice President Quayle agreed to promote bilateral talks on economic structural problems.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs officially lifted a travel advisory against travel to Beijing. FM Nakayama, in a meeting with UK Foreign Secretary Major, warned against isolating China.

- Prices in Tokyo are 1.4 times higher than those in New York City. An Economic Planning Agency report urges relaxing restrictions which have made prices high, particularly as a result of the distribution system.

- On her recent visit to Japan, PM Thatcher warned of a wave of protectionism from Japan's trading partners unless it moved quickly to remove barriers to imports.

- The Japanese Ministry of Finance stated that Japan, West Germany, and the US agreed to cooperate in the foreign exchange markets to lower the value of the dollar.

- Japanese manufacturers are expected to invest vigorously in plants and equipment. According to a poll, manufacturers indicated they will increase capital investment by 23.9% in fiscal 1989.

- Finance Minister Hashimoto asked the IMF to create a special fund for training economic policymakers in developing countries.

- Trade Ministers from Japan, Canada, EC and the US will meet in Hakone Japan, Nov. 12-14.

- Japan's domestic consumption of steel products is expected to increase 3.1% to 19.7 million metric tons, while steel exports in the Oct.-Dec. period will plunge 21.7% to 3.4 million metric tons from the same period last year, according to MITI.

- The Japanese economy continued to expand in September for the 34th consecutive month due to brisk domestic demand.

- After a year of talks, Sony has made a bid of more than US\$3 billion for Columbia Pictures.

- At the GATT negotiations on agriculture, Australia and Argentina criticized Japan's refusal to liberalize its rice imports.

- Researchers have made a multi-coloured laser which might have significant implications for the telecommunications industry.

CHINA/CHINE

- Chinese Communist Party Secretary General Jiang Zemin claimed that foreign forces were trying to turn HK into a base to subvert China.

- The Chairman of the Chinese Peoples Political Consultative Conference said economic sanctions by Western nations would lose China as a market and would force China to follow the policy of self-reliance.

- According to a Financial Times report, all six members of the PRC's Politburo Standing Committee appeared at a press conference to demonstrate unity while reaffirming their hard line towards the democracy movement.

- Les participants à la 4^{ème} réunion de l'Union démocratique internationale ont fait une déclaration à Tokyo le 23 septembre condamnant le gouvernement chinois pour les événements tragiques de la place de Tiananmen et appuyant le mouvement de démocratisation dans les pays de l'Est.

- China International Trust and Investment Corporation plans to restructure its management and investment.

- Continuing drought in northern China is affecting about one-fifth of China's farmland. Some areas are finding it difficult to maintain supplies of drinking water.