

KOREA/CORÉE

Foreign retailers are permitted to open up 10 retail establishments each.

- According to the Seventh Economic Development Plan (1992-96), Korea will increase its ODA commitment to 1% of GNP by 1996; overseas investment will be encouraged, controls on investments under US\$ 500,000 will be removed, and the government will liberalize financial and capital markets in preparation for entry into the OECD by the mid-1990s.

HONG KONG

- Les gouvernements de la Grande-Bretagne et de la Chine en sont arrivés à une entente concernant l'aménagement d'un nouvel aéroport à Hong Kong, un projet d'envergure évalué à \$19 milliards.

- Korea's eight General Trading Companies (GTC) oppose the government's plan to open general trading business to Japanese competition. According to Seoul, the policy is an effort to reduce Korea's trade deficit with Japan by encouraging Japanese GTC's to expand Korean exports to Japan.

- HK is becoming a key fund-raising centre for Asian venture capital. By the end of this year, a record US\$ 2 billion in funds is expected to be under management in the territory.

- Media reports state that the US has informed the ROK that it will not adjust deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea as part of any deal to bring the North Korean nuclear program under international guidelines.

- According to media reports, a test program to counsel Vietnamese asylum seekers as soon as they land in HK, and before they are screened, has had an immediate impact. 157 opting for voluntary repatriation in the first five weeks of the program.

- Korea Land Development Corporation will set up an industrial park in China to exclusively accommodate Korean firms. The possible sites are all one day's travel from Korea's west coast, and investment costs are expected to be cheaper than those in Thailand or Indonesia.

- The British government announced that it will link its UK£ 6 million financial contribution to the UNHCR with its ability to solve the Vietnamese boat people problem.

- Overseas Construction Association announced that domestic builder's signed 33 overseas construction contracts totalling US\$ 850 million in the first half of this year, up 10.2% from the same period last year. The OCA estimates that new contracts for this year will reach US\$ 3 billion, due to a surge in orders for restoration projects in the Middle East.

- HK media reports that Japanese PM indicated during a meeting with the Chinese foreign minister that the economic freedom and prosperity of HK would be a major factor in future Sino-Japanese relations.

- Foreign investment in Korea is increasing in the service industry and declining in the manufacturing sector. The press maintains that reduction of foreign investment in manufacturing means opportunities for acquiring high tech are diminishing, while foreign investment in the service industry "foments excessive consumption among general public."

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.

-Auto China '91 - Shanghai, July 2-7.

-Visit of ROK President Roh - Ottawa & Vancouver, July 3-6.

-Incoming Beef Mission from Taiwan - Alberta, September.

-Cdn/PRC Joint Trade Com September-October.

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- Foreign firms are now allowed to engage in direct retailing in a wide range of products.