

NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- La presse rend compte de la conversation téléphonique que M. Kaifu a eue le 26 août avec le président des Etats Unis. Elle relève que le Premier ministre japonais et M. Bush sont convenus de maintenir une étroite concertation en vue de coordonner leurs vues sur l'aide à l'Union Soviétique.

- According to media sources, Russian President Yeltsin pledged to accelerate negotiations for a Soviet-Japanese peace treaty in a meeting with Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Saito. The Northern Islands territorial dispute is the main stumbling block to a treaty. Saito met earlier with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev. They scheduled another working-level session on a treaty for September.

- Nihon Keizai reports Tokyo will increase the US\$100 million in humanitarian aid it planned to give to Moscow to \$300 million, with some of the funding directly allocated to the Russian Republic. Direct aid to Russia was added because its power has increased in the aftermath of the coup attempt, and the Northern Islands technically belong to it, the paper says.

- Foreign Minister Nakayama announced Japan will send a delegation to the Baltic Republics next week to look into diplomatic recognition. Media sources say although the Japanese government wants to study legal technicalities before making a decision, Tokyo believes that if the Baltics achieve independence it could set a precedent for Moscow to give back the Northern Islands.

- According to Yomiuri, Mitsui and Mitsubishi have agreed to help the Soviet Union improve approximately 20 aging oil refineries at an estimated cost of US\$4-6 billion.

- The Labour Ministry announced it will open an

office in Sao Paulo next year to help Latin Americans of Japanese descent who want to work in Japan, Kyodo reports.

- Nihon Kogyo Shimbun reports Mitsubishi materials will ship cement from Canada and Venezuela to the US to evade the 65% antidumping duty imposed on it in April by the US Commerce Department.

- Honda said it is negotiating with the Czech state-owned firm Jawa to begin making motorcycles in its factories. Jawa is asking Honda for technology transfer in exchange for providing the Japanese company with its first production facility in Eastern Europe.

CHINA/CHINE

- Au sujet de l'évident effondrement du pouvoir du parti communiste en URSS, le porte-parole du gouvernement chinois Yuan Mu affirma que quoi qu'il arrive en URSS ou ailleurs, le peuple chinois maintiendra son choix historique de suivre le chemin du socialisme.

- On 27 August, state council spokesperson Yuan Mu held a press conference to discuss China's domestic economic situation in the wake of the recent catastrophic floods. Yuan indicated that the floods will affect not just agricultural production this year, but also the entire national economy in coming years. Yuan noted that as the hardest-hit provinces were in areas which are major contributors to state revenues, this year's deficit will likely be Yuan 7 or 8 billion higher than earlier projections.

- During his press conference, Yuan Mu noted that between Jan.-July 1991 commodity prices rose 12.8% over the same period last year, but the consumer price index rose only 2.1%. For the same period,