

BULLETIN

NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- The LDP suffered a serious setback in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election, losing 19 seats to drop to a total of 44, while the JSP tripled its seats from 12 to 36. JSP obtained 29% compared to 31% of the LDP, and the JSP winners, including twelve women, enjoyed a run away victory in 34 constituencies of 41.

- On July 4, the LDP and government formally agreed to retain the producers' rice price harvested this fall at the present level.

- The government has decided to implement official development assistance projects costing 300 billion yen aimed at preserving global environment in the next three years. Prime Minister Uno will offer this plan to the Paris summit.

- Foreign Minister Mitsuzuka stated at the opening of the annual ASEAN foreign minister's meeting that Japan would "fully cooperate" with both money and manpower to assist in formation of an international observer body in Cambodia.

- Japanese media (noting that registered women voters exceed men by 2.7 million) have ascribed the growing interest of women in July 23 Upper House election to the unpopular consumption tax and Prime Minister Uno's sex scandal.

CHINA/CHINE

- The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress has decided to dismiss Zhao Ziyang from his post as Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission. (Deng Xiaoping is Chairman.)

- A draft law on demonstrations has been submitted to the National People's Congress.

- The China Daily reports that the June 26 bomb blast on the Hangzhou to Shanghai train was deliberately set.

- China has expressed "regret" over the EC Summit's recent statement. A Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said that the EC had made "presumptuous accusations against China and unilaterally adopted decisions jeopardizing bilateral relations".

- The State Statistical Bureau has announced that financial subsidies in 1988 totalled 76.9 billion yuan, up 4.7% over 1987, and comprising 1/3 of total financial revenues. Subsidies for money-losing state-owned enterprises increased by 18.4% over 1987.

- For the first time in ten years steel production has decreased in China. The first six months of 1989 will see about 800,000 fewer tons of iron and steel processed.

- The production of textiles has begun to slide because of a shortage of raw materials. The industry is short more than 500,000 tons of cotton this year.

HONG KONG

- Members of the U.K. Parliamentary Committee studying Hong Kong have rejected granting the "right of abode" to the 3.5 million British passport holders in Hong Kong, but will press the British Government to obtain international guarantees for Hong Kong citizens to be resettled should China breach the Sino-British Joint Agreement on the transfer of the territory to PRC sovereignty in 1997.

- Some Hong Kong leaders have attacked the U.K. Parliamentary Committee report as "one of the most dishonourable statements ever made about Hong Kong".

- A survey for the South China Morning Post, the 20th since 1975, showed economic and political confidence in Hong Kong's future to be the lowest ever.

- The USA House of Representatives has asked the President to tell Britain and China of "our strong reservations" regarding the credibility of China's promise to grant Hong Kong broad autonomy after 1997.

- The Hong Kong futures exchange has abandoned plans to launch China-related contracts.

- Members of the Hong Kong Hotel Association have agreed to slash prices to promote tourism in the territory. Hotel occupancy has dropped 10-20% since the Tiananmen massacre.

KOREA/COREE

- The Party for Peace and Democracy representative, Suh Kyung-Won, was arrested on June 28 for an unauthorized trip to DPRK in August 1988 where he met with DPRK leader, Kim Il-Sung. As a result of the arrest, the PPD executive has decided to expel Suh from the party and the ROK National Assembly representatives have called off indefinitely the inter-Korean parliamentary talks slated for July 10.

- At a press conference on the eve of the anniversary of the Jun 29, 1987 Declaration, President Roh opposed any reduction in U.S. forces stationed in Korea, stating that keeping troops in Korea was the wisest and most economical defence investment the U.S. could make.

- The National Assembly Special Committee probing the cause of death of student activist, Lee Chol-Kyu, concluded its deliberations without producing any evidence to contradict the prosecutions view that the death was an accident, according to the Korean press.

- Park Jun-Kyu, chairman of the DJP, left for Canada on July 3 to attend meetings of the International Democratic Union in Vancouver, July 6-8. Park will meet with Prime Minister Mulroney

and other senior Canadian leaders during the visit.

- ROK registered a \$323 million surplus on its current account in May to bring the surplus figure for the first five months of 1989 to \$2109 million, less than half of that of last year.

- The U.S. may impose trade sanctions on fishery imports from ROK in sixty days following the failure to reach agreement on driftnet fishing in the Pacific. ROK imports into the U.S. are valued at approximately \$250 million.

- ROK exports during the first half of 1989 (\$29 billion) grew by 6% over that of 1988.

INDOCHINA/ INDOCHINE

- According to the Hong Kong press Vietnam has agreed in principle to the mandatory repatriation from Hong Kong of Vietnamese boat people screened as non-refugees.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/A VENIR

- ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference, July 10-11.
- Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee, Auckland, Sept. 4-5.
- Marine Biotechnology Conference, Tokyo, Sept. 4-6.
- Global Environment and Human Response Conference, Tokyo, Sept. 11-13.
- 14th World Energy Congress, Montreal, Sept. 17-24. Contact: Canadian National Committee, World Energy Conference, 305-130 Albert Street, Ottawa K1P 5G4.
- Japanese Assoc. of Canadian Studies Annual Meeting, Tokyo, Sept. 23-24.
- OECD Council Meeting, Tokyo, Oct. 1-6.
- Arita Ceramics Symposium, Japan, Nov. 15-17.
- COMMTEL Asia '89, Hong Kong, Dec. 5-8.

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