

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.

TAIWAN

- Taiwan has approved legislation granting political asylum to pro-democracy Chinese dissidents. More than sixty dissident student leaders from the PRC who are stranded in HK and would face punishment if they return home.
- Imperial Chemical Industries was pressured by environmental protests to close a chemical plant in Taiwan only weeks after announcing that it had chosen the island for a new project worth US\$300 million.
- A Hong Kong branch of the Chinese Travel Service stated that the number of Taiwanese visitors to China via HK has returned to the levels before the June 4 China crisis.

HONG KONG

- The Anglo-Chinese Joint Liaison Group on HK met for the first time since March. Britain temporarily suspended the regular discussions on HK's future constitution in protest of the suppression of the pro-democracy movement. Britain is expected to appeal to the PRC to take steps to restore confidence of the HK people.
- As real estate prices remain high in Toronto and Vancouver, HK investors are focussing their investments on the Montreal market.
- The trade figures for August indicate a 2.7% increase in exports, a 9.5% increase of imports and a 25.2% growth in re-exports. Growth in domestic exports, particularly to the PRC, is lower than expected.
- Cathay Pacific Airlines may open a data processing centre in Canada due to difficulties in recruiting staff in HK.

KOREA/COREE

- The ROK Foreign Minister stated that his country hopes to join the United Nations simultaneously with North Korea.
- According to a report submitted to the National Assembly, the ROK government plans to invest 300 billion won by 1993 to develop advanced

technology in aviation and space exploration.

- According to government sources the USSR may open the Okhotsk Sea to ROK fishermen as a result of recent improvement in relations between the two nations.
- ROK guidelines for the entry of foreign banks are expected to include the following conditions: The bank must be among the top 500 with assets of over 100 billion won; Foreign bank must have one Seoul branch in operation at least 10 years and one regional branch in operation for at least five years to qualify for entry into the retail banking market.

INDOCHINA/INDOCHINE

- Prince Sihanouk said he will not talk with Hun Sen nor participate in bilateral or quadripartite talks on Kampuchea. He would only take part in meetings such as the recent International Conference on Kampuchea in Paris.

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ONGOING AND UPCOMING/A VENIR

- OECD Council Meeting, Tokyo, Oct. 1-6.
- Japan Steel Industry, Annual Consultations, Ottawa, Oct.5.
- World Environment Legislators Forum, Tokyo, Oct. 9-10.
- Keidanran/MITI Investment Mission to Canada, Oct.22-Nov.2.
- Second Canada-Japan Telecommunications Seminar, Ottawa, Oct. 23-24.
- Cda-Jpn Telcom Policy Consultations, Annual Meeting, Ottawa, Oct. 25-26.
- InterMedica '89, International Medical, Hospital and Healthcare equipment, products and technology exhibition, Taipei, Taiwan, Nov. 2-5. For info contact: The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Ottawa, (613) 238-4000.
- Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee, Seventh Annual meeting, Auckland, Nov. 12-15.
- Bilateral Trade Consultation Minister for International Trade, Tokyo, Nov. 10-11.
- Quadrilateral Meeting, Tokyo, Nov. 12-14.
- Arita Ceramics Symposium, Japan, Nov. 15-17.
- Trade Ministers Meeting, Tokyo, Nov. 17-18.
- Annual Canola Consultations, Ottawa, Nov. 18-19.
- COMTEL Asia '89, Hong Kong, Nov. 20-22.

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