

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

CHINA/CHINE

- Secretary General Jiang Zemin has reiterated that China welcomes back Chinese students and intellectuals who "went too far in their words and deeds" last year. He said those who "joined reactionary organizations" would also be welcomed back as long as they showed repentance, broke away from these organizations and ended "subversive" activities.

- Au cours des cinq premiers mois de l'année, les exportations chinoises ont augmenté de 14%, tandis que les importations ont chuté de 16,9%. La principale cause de cette baisse que les observateurs qualifient de sérieuse serait une importante diminution des importations de biens courants de consommation, d'équipement de bureau et de véhicules automobiles.

- The Director of the Tibet Tourism Administration announced changes will be made to the rule that foreign tour groups have to be composed of at least three persons. All "groups" (including individual tourists) will now be allowed to travel to any open area in Tibet, so long as they have "arranged for comprehensive services with a travel agency officially registered in Tibet, and their entry is affirmed by the Tourism Administration of Tibet".

- Media reports from Hong Kong indicate that students in Lhasa demonstrated for independence and waved outlawed Tibetan flags. Ten student activists were taken in by the Police.

- The Chinese Government has formally stipulated fixed periods for the use rights over state-owned land by domestic or foreign users. Maximum use of land-use rights for housing is set at 70 years, that for commercial, travel and recreational business, 40 years.

- Media reports indicate foreign exchange reserves at the end of May were up US\$ 3.93 billion over the end of 1989.

JAPAN/JAPON

- Nissan ouvrira un réseau de 36 magasins en Allemagne de l'Est. La société japonaise cherche ainsi à prendre de vitesse les autres fabricants japonais et à s'installer en Allemagne de l'Est avant l'unification monétaire prévue pour le 1er juillet prochain.

- Japan and the USA have agreed to undertake a number of measures aimed at encouraging greater use of US parts in cars built by Japanese companies, both in Japan and in the United States.

- According to the US Department of Agriculture, farm exports to Japan, the largest single market for American farm exports, are likely to increase 1.8% in fiscal 1990, to US\$ 8.3 billion.

- Le Conseil de sécurité, ce comité interministériel présidé par le Premier ministre Kaifu, s'est réuni le 19 juin pour préparer le prochain plan quinquennal d'équipement militaire. Dans son allocution d'introduction, M. Kaifu a souligné que la "situation internationale qui demeurerait toujours instable, appelait une grande vigilance".

- Former Deputy Prime Minister Kanemaru plans to visit Beijing as early as this summer. Kanemaru, a leading pro-Taiwan politician has never visited the People's Republic.

- Selon un sondage récent, la cote de popularité du Président Kaifu est en hausse et a atteint le record de 56,4%.

- In a bid to slash Taiwan's massive trade deficit with Japan, the Taiwanese Ministry of Economic Affairs has decided to regulate imports from Japan. Measures include incentives to discourage purchase of machinery from Japan and a ban on bidding by the Japanese for public works projects.

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KOREA/COREE

- In an effort to induce voluntary energy conservation by effective price and demand control of energy sources, the Korean Government will create a US\$ 1.4 billion fund to help finance energy conservation programmes. Korea's energy import bill for last year increased 28% from 1988, to US\$ 7.1 billion.

- Le gouvernement koréen permettra un accroissement des importations de boeuf en 1990. Ces importations passeront de 68 000 tonnes en 1989, à 80 000 tonnes. Le but est de réduire le prix du bétail et de la viande de boeuf afin de stopper l'inflation. Séoul favorisera surtout l'importation de boeuf de qualité supérieure, et fera passer le pourcentage de viande importée de 40 à 70%.

- The Government of Korea will apply tariff quotas on nine items including benzene, refined copper, glass bottles, unrefined lead, grain sorghum, metal arc tubes, chloro-benzene, vanadium oxides and ferro-silicon magnesium, in an attempt to lower their import duties by an average 4.3% beginning July 1, 1990. The measure is designed to contribute to the stabilization of domestic prices.

- According to the Bank of Korea, the country's net foreign debt (outstanding foreign debt less external assets), has risen by US\$ 1.4 billion in 1989 to US\$ 4.4 billion at the end of March 1990. This represents the first increase in Korea's foreign debt since 1985.

- According to the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), the Korean won is still overvalued by 4 to 5 %. The break-even rate of exchange suggested by the FKI is 730 won to the US dollar. According to the Federation, the won's depreciation is needed to help strengthen competitiveness on international markets.

- **NORTH KOREA:** Pyongyang has offered to resume South-North dialogue, suspended since February because of the USA-Korea "team spirit" military exercises. North Korea proposes to hold the seventh round of preliminary talks for South-North high-level political and military talks at Panmunjom, on June 24.

TAIWAN

- Despite a far-reaching diversification of its huge currency reserves and the recent slump in the bullion prices, Taiwan is holding onto its 13.6 million ounces of gold reserves. Taipei's US\$ 80 billion in official reserves are the largest of the world, having overtaken Japan's (US\$ 73.6 billion) this year, after Tokyo sold billions of dollars to defend the yen on exchange markets.

- Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Xueqian met with the President of the Taipei Olympic Committee this week to discuss both the Asian Games planned in Beijing for September 1990, and exchanges between the two sides of the Straits.

HONG KONG

- In this past year only, wages in the Hong Kong manufacturing industry have increased by 15%.

INDOCHINA/INDOCHINE

- According to media reports, the government of the State of Cambodia has foiled a coup plot by arresting a government minister, three senior officials and two army officers. The incident has been seen by some observers as an indication of the growing instability of the reformist leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/A VENIR

- *Non-Ferrous Working Group-meeting, Beijing, June 25-29.*
- *International Council for Canadian Studies (ICCS)-annual meeting, Beijing, July 10-12.*
- *Association for Canadian Studies in China (ACSC)-annual conference, Beijing, July 12-14.*
- *Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)-Ministers' meeting, Singapore, July 30-31.*
- *Canada-China International Management Conference, Xian, PRC August 10-14. Contact: Dr. William Wedley, Faculty of Business Admin., Simon Fraser University.*
- *Opportunity 90-Pacific North Opportunities at the Vancouver November 14-16. Contact: Pacific West Hastings St., Vancouver (604) 681-1111.*

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