

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- The Liberal Democratic Party announced a plan for revising the controversial consumption tax. According to the plan, food will not be taxed at the retail stage but other stages of production will be taxed at 1.5%. The revision is scheduled to be in effect in Oct. 1990, but, it is subject to the results of the upcoming election of the House of Representatives.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs intends to increase Japan's share of expenses for US forces in 1991 when a special agreement between the two countries is up for revision.
- Les réserves en devises du Japon ont augmenté de \$454 millions de dollars américains en novembre pour atteindre \$84.75 milliards.
- Japan's national effort to investigate "cold fusion" produced its first significant results, including startling claims of evidence not found in most US attempts to verify the phenomenon.
- US auto makers are seeking a new type of fuel-economy legislation that would effectively shut Japanese manufacturers out of their latest target market - large and luxury cars.
- Maxwell Communication Corp. of Britain plans to publish newspapers about Japan in various parts of the world simultaneously. It is also negotiating with Nippon Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) to relay its television news to Europe.
- MITI Minister Natsunaga said the development of a domestic aerospace industry is vital for Japan to become a "techno-oriented" nation in the 21st century.
- The US has threatened to invoke the "Super 301" provision of the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act if Japan does not remove various tariff and nontariff barriers to forest product imports before June '90.

CHINA/CHINE

- The English language China Daily newspaper reported that China and the Soviet Union are expected to sign an agreement on barter trade of Chinese light industrial goods for Soviet aircraft.
- Pro-Beijing Hong Kong press reports Deng Xiaoping as saying that the Central Advisory Commission should be abolished when its current term of office expires in 1992.
- Le Japon accorde à la RPC une subvention de \$35 millions pour 4 projets dans les domaines des télécommunications, de l'éducation et de la médecine.
- Scarcity of the renminbi (RMB) has driven the price for the US dollar down to 4.98 yuan, the lowest level ever. Chinese enterprises have had to stop exchanging dollar reserves for RMB production funds because of the unfavourable rate.
- The State Commission for Reform of the Economic Structure is to hold a conference next year to reassure western business partners that the reform policies affecting their interests are still in place.
- The West German electronics firm AEG has opened three industrial automation training centres in an effort to promote its technology transfers to China. The centres are located in the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, the Non-ferrous Metals Industry Corp., and the China National Coal Corporation.

TAIWAN

- Taiwan and the USSR may transact a deal worth US\$300-400 million. Taiwan would export more than 20 different kinds of manufacturing facilities to the USSR in exchange for Russia-produced timber.

- Over 100 foreign manufacturers have applied to participate in the first Taipei international high-tech show planned for June 1990. The US, France, West Germany, and Belgium have already decided to install national pavillions for the event.

HONG KONG

- Officials of Taiwan's Kuomintang and Democratic Progressive parties have vowed to support the struggle for democracy and liberty in Hong Kong in the run-up to 1997. In recent years 10,000 HK citizens have applied for immigration to Taiwan but only 2000 have emigrated.

- A survey conducted by the Hong Kong Institute of Personnel Management indicates that 6% of local senior managers have emigrated this year.

- The 14th session of the Sino-British Joint Liaison Group met this week to discuss the Bill of Rights, internationalization of HK, the future of British military real estate in HK, air services, international rights and obligations and localization of British laws in HK statutes.

- John Porter, the Co-Chairman of the US Congressional Human Rights Caucus, warned HK against proceeding with mandatory repatriation of Vietnamese refugees.

- HK drafters of the Basic Law Drafting Committee are said to be preparing a compromise formula for composition of post 1997 legislators that would be acceptable to China.

KOREA/COREE

- Korean and Canadian business leaders met in Vancouver and agreed to increase efforts to promote investment and industrial cooperation.

- A Canadian science mission visited Seoul to introduce the Kaon Particle Acceleration Project to Korean government and industry.

- Starting next month, remission of foreign currency overseas will be possible only through designated banks. The new system is designed to track all foreign currencies leaving Korea.

- Effective Jan. 1990, foreign manufacturing investments of less than US\$100 million in Korea will receive automatic approval. Korea will also reduce taxes and exemption benefits for foreign businesses.

- La Corée et la Pologne ont décidé d'établir une organisation non-gouvernementale de coopération économique afin de promouvoir les échanges bilatéraux.

- Korea plans to divide the nation into five industrial zones for balanced regional development. Growth of industrial output in the metropolitan zone will be curbed to 28.8% of the nation's total industrial production in 2001 in favour of the central (Chongju, Taejon) and southwestern (Taegu, Pusan) zones.

- Korean imports of agricultural products from the US for the Jan-Sept. period have grown to US\$2.725 billion in the wake of opening local markets due to US pressure.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/A VENIR

- **Software Mission '89**, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Nov.25-Dec.11.

- **COMMTEL Asia '89**, Hong Kong, Dec. 5-8.

- **Sask. Minister of Trade & Investment Visit to Korea**, Jan. 29-Feb. 2.

- **The Hon. Jake Epp - Ministerial Visit to Seoul and Tokyo**, Jan.29-Feb.5.

- **Environmental Control Mission to Hong Kong and Taiwan**, Feb.1990.

- **Foodex '90**, Tokyo, Mar.13-17, 1990. Contact: Ezio DiEmanuele, Japan Trade Development Division, DEA, (613)995-8606.

- **Globe '90: Trade Fair & Conference**, Vancouver, B.C., March 19-23, 1990. Contact: Globe'90, 250, 1130 West Pender St., Van., B.C. Tel.:(604)681-6126.

- **Canadian Technology Products Show**, Seoul, Mar.27-30.

- **Canada-Taiwan Business Assoc. Meeting**, Taipei, April 1-3.

- **Seoul Food 90**, Seoul Korea, April 27-30

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