

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN/JAPON

- A study by the Japan Development Bank has projected that the country will be short 3.43 million workers by the year 2000 if it tries to achieve net annual growth of 3.5% in GDP. The report suggested bringing women and older people into the workforce. Business people at a seminar in Nagoya have called for the government to let foreign workers into the market.

- Russian foreign minister Andrei Kozyrev will be in Tokyo March 20-22 for talks on a World War Two peace treaty and the issue of the Northern Islands.

- Les chiffres du chômage pour le mois de décembre que l'agence des affaires Générales et de la coordination administrative a publiés montrent qu'avec 1,27 millions de demandeurs d'emploi, le taux de chômage demeurerait à 2,2%.

- Plusieurs journaux mettent en première page la nouvelle de l'élection de M. Ezaki, prix Nobel de physique, au poste de recteur de l'université de Tsukuba. Le professeur Ezaki avait fait campagne sur le thème de la réforme universitaire.

CHINA/CHINE

- Former CPC General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, who fell from power following the Tiananmen incident of 1989, is still holding a deputy's membership in the National People's Congress, according to the NPC Standing Committee newspaper bureau. Zhao's continued membership allows the possibility that he will be reinstated at some point in the future.

- A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on February 13 that the recent report of China's sale of ballistic missile technology to Iran is groundless.

- On February 13, the Russian parliament ratified an agreement with China which settles the two countries' borders from Mongolia to the sea.

KOREA/CORÉE

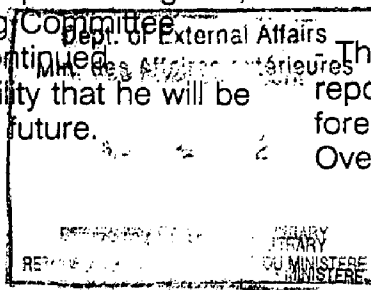
- South Korea will invite 110 Russian scientists to work in South Korea's research labs in such fields as applied physics, material engineering, and aviation. They will be paid wages and all expenses for contracts lasting from three months to one year.

- Korea imported 1,276 cars in 1991, a 58% drop from 1990. Korea exported 390,000 cars to 145 countries in 1991 and over one million Korean-made cars were sold in the country in 1991.

- On February 7, South and North Korea initialled an agreement on three subcommittees which will implement the South-North accord on reconciliation and non-aggression.

- Subject to receipt of assurances regarding investment security and profit remittance, the National Unification Board has given the Daewoo group approval to proceed with its industrial complex in North Korea.

The Ministry of Science and Technology reports that Korea spent \$5.89 billion on foreign technology in the past 30 years. Over half of the 7,460 cases were from



Japan; another quarter were from the United States.

- The Ministry of Science and Technology has announced its intention to appoint science and technology attachés to five more of Korea's foreign embassies, including the one in Ottawa.

TAIWAN

- The chairman of the Mainland Affairs Council announced that Taiwan may soon allow civil servants to visit the mainland to participate in cultural and academic activities.

- According to the Council for Economic Planning and Development, Taiwan's national savings still outpaced investments in 1991. Taiwan's marginal savings reached NT\$1.43 trillion in 1991, equivalent to 29.7% of GNP. In comparison, public and private investment totaled NT\$1.05, or 22.5% of GNP.

- Les investissements étrangers à Taiwan ont diminué pour la deuxième année consécutive. D'après la commission d'investissement, ces derniers ont diminué de 25,1%, par rapport à 1990 pour s'élever à US\$1,56 milliard en 1991. Cette diminution est principalement due à la baisse de 46,4% dans les secteurs du commerce et de l'industrie tertiaire.

CAMBODIA

- On February 11, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen arrived in Phnom Penh for the first visit by a senior Chinese official to Cambodia since 1978. China had been the main supporter of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia's civil war and Qian's visit was postponed from December when a mob attempted to lynch Khmer Rouge leaders.

VIETNAM

- Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen visited Hanoi on February 13 and 14. He described the trip as a return visit to that of the Vietnamese foreign minister to Beijing in September, 1991. The visit reaffirms a warming of relations between the two countries that has been taking place over the last year and a half.

HONG KONG

- The United States will offer 20,000 visas to employees of Hong Kong-based US firms this year.

- Hong Kong has recorded GDP growth of 3.6% in the third quarter of 1991. Among the most striking domestic components in the latest GDP estimate was 11.5% growth in real terms of fixed capital formation. Investment in plant, machinery, and equipment was the driving force with an increase of 23.9% in the quarter.

MONGOLIA

- The new Mongolian constitution came into effect on February 12. The constitution is largely based on the American one and sets up an executive presidency, judicial checks and balances, and a list of individual rights.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR

1992

- Experience Canada, Seoul - Feb.10-22
- Tokyo International Gift Show - Feb.20-22
- Canola Mission to Taiwan - Feb.25-28

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