

NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- La presse rend compte de la conversation téléphonique que M. Kaifu a eue le 26 août avec le président des Etats Unis. Elle relève que le Premier ministre japonais et M. Bush sont convenus de maintenir une étroite concertation en vue de coordonner leurs vues sur l'aide à l'Union Soviétique.

- According to media sources, Russian President Yeltsin pledged to accelerate negotiations for a Soviet-Japanese peace treaty in a meeting with Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Saito. The Northern Islands territorial dispute is the main stumbling block to a treaty. Saito met earlier with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev. They scheduled another working-level session on a treaty for September.

- Nihon Keizai reports Tokyo will increase the US\$100 million in humanitarian aid it planned to give to Moscow to \$300 million, with some of the funding directly allocated to the Russian Republic. Direct aid to Russia was added because its power has increased in the aftermath of the coup attempt, and the Northern Islands technically belong to it, the paper says.

- Foreign Minister Nakayama announced Japan will send a delegation to the Baltic Republics next week to look into diplomatic recognition. Media sources say although the Japanese government wants to study legal technicalities before making a decision, Tokyo believes that if the Baltics achieve independence it could set a precedent for Moscow to give back the Northern Islands.

- According to Yomiuri, Mitsui and Mitsubishi have agreed to help the Soviet Union improve approximately 20 aging oil refineries at an estimated cost of US\$4-6 billion.

- The Labour Ministry announced it will open an

office in Sao Paulo next year to help Latin Americans of Japanese descent who want to work in Japan, Kyodo reports.

- Nihon Kogyo Shimbun reports Mitsubishi materials will ship cement from Canada and Venezuela to the US to evade the 65% antidumping duty imposed on it in April by the US Commerce Department.

- Honda said it is negotiating with the Czech state-owned firm Jawa to begin making motorcycles in its factories. Jawa is asking Honda for technology transfer in exchange for providing the Japanese company with its first production facility in Eastern Europe.

CHINA/CHINE

- Au sujet de l'évident effondrement du pouvoir du parti communiste en URSS, le porte-parole du gouvernement chinois Yuan Mu affirma que quoi qu'il arrive en URSS ou ailleurs, le peuple chinois maintiendra son choix historique de suivre le chemin du socialisme.

- On 27 August, state council spokesperson Yuan Mu held a press conference to discuss China's domestic economic situation in the wake of the recent catastrophic floods. Yuan indicated that the floods will affect not just agricultural production this year, but also the entire national economy in coming years. Yuan noted that as the hardest-hit provinces were in areas which are major contributors to state revenues, this year's deficit will likely be Yuan 7 or 8 billion higher than earlier projections.

- During his press conference, Yuan Mu noted that between Jan.-July 1991 commodity prices rose 12.8% over the same period last year, but the consumer price index rose only 2.1%. For the same period,

exports increased by 19.5% and imports were up by 16.5%. Due to last year's bumper harvest, per capita farmer's income increased 10.7% this year.

MONGOLIA

- On 26 August, Chinese President Yang Shangkun began the first ever visit by a PRC head of state to Mongolia. On the first day of his visit Yang signed an agreement with President Orchibat affording Mongolia access for its exports to the new Chinese port of Xingang near Tianjin. During his four day visit, Yang will also finalize agreements on dual taxation avoidance and investment protection.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The Bank of Korea reports the South Korean economy grew 9.1% in the first half of 1991. Positive factors identified are export growth, and strong manufacturing and service sectors.

- The National Agricultural Cooperative Federation, a farmer's lobby group, urged the South Korean government to increase sanitary inspections of imported fruits and vegetables. According to the NACF, imported agricultural products totalled \$2.17 billion in the first half of 1991, up 21% from 1990. Beef imports expanded to \$196 million. The US has 29% of total market share for imported agricultural products, followed by China (16%), Australia (11%), and Thailand (7%).

- Korea and the US agreed to extend their bilateral textile agreement by two years to the end of 1993, media sources report.

- According to the local press, the South Korean government announced it will implement a four phase schedule for the complete liberalization of interest rates in the domestic financial market beginning in the latter half of 1991 and ending in 1997.

- Press reports note that Albania, once one of North Korea's staunchest allies, has established diplomatic relations with South Korea.

- South-North Prime Minister's talks on

reunification, originally scheduled for 28-29 August, have been delayed until 22 October, media sources report.

TAIWAN

- Taiwan registered the highest growth rate of 10% in May's composite index of leading economic indicators among 11 major industrialized economies, up sharply from 2% registered in February. Tallies were issued by the New York-based Conference Board.

- The Deputy Secretary-General of the China Red Cross Qu Zhe, and a legal expert with the association Zhuang Zhongxi, arrived in Taiwan on 20 August to visit mainland Chinese fishermen detained on a piracy charge. According to press sources, this is the first Chinese Communist delegation ever to visit Taipei.

- China Airlines announced that the Taiwan-Vietnam air link, which was inaugurated 17 August, would be suspended on 24 August. The incident marked the second blow to the Taiwan-Vietnam air link. A couple of weeks earlier, upon Vietnam's request, CAL's inaugural flight was postponed from the end of July to 17 August.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/
A VENIR

- Foodex, Osaka '91 - Sept.
- Mining Equipment Seminars - Beijing, Nanjing, Changsha, Sept. 1-5.
- Japan Food Service Show - Sept. 1-6
- Tokyo International Gift Show - Sept. 3-5.
- Seoul Instrument '91 - Sept. 13-17.
- Japanese Sporting Goods Buyers Mission to CSGA - Sept. 14-24.
- Beef Mission from Taipei - Sept. 23-27.
- Building Products Mission from HK - Sept. 28-Oct 8.
- Software Mission/Tokyo and Software Show '91/Osaka - Sept. 29-Oct. 9.
- 10th Joint Meeting: Canada-Japan Business Council - Grand H.
- Meat Week in Japan! - Can. Oct. 21-23, Canadian Consu

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