

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto has indicated that Japan will not recognize North Korea until Pyongyang accepts international inspection of its nuclear facilities, and has made clear progress in negotiations with Japan, as well as in initiating a dialogue with South Korea.

- Selon un sondage, 44% des japonais sont partisans d'un maintien de M. Kaifu au poste de premier ministre. Parmi les 42% qui aspirent à un changement, ceux qui préfèrent M. Miyazawa sont les plus nombreux.

- After months of wrangling among Japanese political parties, Prime Minister Kaifu and his security advisors have approved a bill to be submitted to the Diet which would allow up to 2000 Japanese troops to participate in UN peacekeeping operations. In order to avoid constitutional problems, the proposed bill would give the UN Secretary General authority to determine what type of arms the Japanese troops carry.

- Bankruptcies in August increased 75% from the same period last year, with record liabilities of \$7.1 billion. Of the companies which have gone bankrupt this year, nine ranked within the top 20 Japanese bankruptcies in forty years.

- During his visit next week to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, Emperor Akihito will not apologize formally for the Japanese army's behaviour in the region. He will refer to the "unfortunate past" in his speeches.

CHINA/CHINE

- Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti visited China Sept. 15-20, the third G-7 leader to do so since Tiananmen, all in the past month. Chinese media have referred to the visit as representing

"not only full normalization, but expansion of our bilateral relations".

- Selon les médias, Andrew Higgins, journaliste britannique de "The Independent" à Beijing, a été expulsé de la Chine pour la possession de documents classifiés portant sur des activités indépendantistes dans la province chinoise de la Mongolie intérieure.

- The Chinese press reports that agriculture officials in China anticipate an excellent grain harvest this year, despite natural disasters which damaged wheat and rice crops in 18 provinces. It is expected to be second only to last year's record harvest of 435 million tons.

- La Chine compte augmenter la production d'électricité de 40% en cinq ans, visant une production totale de 870kwh en 1995.

- Avec l'approbation de 4996 projets pendant les premiers six mois de 1991, l'investissement étranger a augmenté de 71% par rapport à la même période l'année dernière.

KOREA/CORÉE

- Kim Dae-Jung, leader of the New Democratic Party, and Lee Ki-Taek, leader of the Democratic Party, announced the merger of their parties to form a consolidated opposition to the Democratic Liberal Party.

- According to media sources, South Korea has made high-level representations to Japan urging caution in Tokyo's steps toward what Seoul views as de facto recognition of Pyongyang, following North Korea's admission to the UN.

- IAEA governors have approved a draft nuclear safeguards accord with North Korea, subject to settlement of inspection procedures.

- Canadian exports to Korea to end of July have surged 35%, Korean exports to Canada are down 8%; and Canada will probably have a trade surplus for the first time in 12 years.

- South Korea has finally decided to open its stock market to foreign investors on 1 Jan. 1992, drawing mixed reactions from local and foreign communities.

- The Bank of Korea said that the financial structure of Korean firms has been worsening with combined net financial debts increasing 36% over last year.

HONG KONG

- United Democrats of Hong Kong were big winners in the first democratic elections held in Hong Kong history, winning 12 out of 18 seats designated for direct election to the 60-seat Legislative Council. Voter turnout was lower than anticipated at 39%.

- Selon un sondage, 64% des résidents de Hong Kong voudraient que Sir David Wilson soit gouverneur de Hong Kong jusqu'en 1997, contre 10% qui voudraient qu'il démissionne l'année prochaine. Les autres candidats pour le remplacer pourraient comprendre Sir Geoffrey Howe (l'ancien Secrétaire aux Affaires étrangères), Dr. David Owen (chef du SDP), Tom King (Secrétaire à la Défense) et Charles Powell (conseiller en politique internationale de Mme Thatcher).

- The number of Vietnamese boat-people in refugee camps and detention centres in Hong Kong has reached a 12 year high of more than 63,000, partly as a result of rumours that policy of first asylum is ending.

- Hong Kong merchandise trade leapt 25% in July over previous year, reinforcing view that local manufacturers are diversifying further into regional markets.

VIETNAM

- According to media sources, the scheduling of a summit meeting - possibly by the end of the year - between Do Muoi and Jiang Zemin, the Communist Party leaders of Vietnam and China respectively, would signal the full normalization of relations since the two countries fought a border war 12 years ago over Cambodia.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/

A VENIR

-Japanese Sporting Goods Buyers Mission to CSGA - Sept. 14-24.

-Beef Mission from Taiwan sponsored by the Canadian Beef Exporters Association - 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-Korea/Korea-Canada Business Council - Grand Hotel, Montreal, Oct. 20-22.

-Meat Week in Japan! - Canadian Embassy/Tokyo Oct. 21-23; Canadian Consulate/Osaka Oct. 25.

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