

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- The House of Representatives was dissolved and a general election announced for Feb. 18. The election could lead to a drastic change in Japan's political structure in the 1990's. The Liberal Democratic Party stated that the choice in the election will be between liberalism and socialism.

- D'après le quotidien Mainichi, le gouvernement du PM Kaifu aurait le soutien de 33% des électeurs (3% de plus qu'au sondage de novembre), les opinions hostiles demeurant à 28%. La cote du parti libéral démocrate gagne 5 points pour atteindre le niveau enregistré avant le scandale Recruit soit 43%. Le parti socialiste obtient 19% de soutien (1 point de plus qu'en novembre) mais loin des sommets de l'été dernier (25%).

- Japan's unadjusted trade deficit for the first ten days of this month was US\$2.063 billion from the US\$1.23 billion deficit a year ago.

- According to a recent MITI report, prices of almost all imported goods are 60%-70% higher than in the countries of origin.

- Finance Minister Hashimoto said that Japan is expected to become the number two power at the International Monetary Fund when a planned expansion of the IMF's resources are approved.

- Japan launched its first space probe to the moon. If successful, Japan will become the third nation to send a craft to the moon.

- Japan will order up to 10 MD-90s, a new twin-jet aircraft developed by McDonnell Douglas Corp., and a number of Boeing 747-400 jumbo jets.

- The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Assoc. reported that auto production in 1989 exceeded 13 million units for the first time ever.

CHINA/CHINE

- The Chinese Communist Party leadership, following the dissolution of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, has decided on more stringent party control over the government authorities to adhere to the party line. According to the German Press Agency (DPA), the plans provide for the reestablishment of party groups inside the ministries.

- According to the Japanese press, Deng Xiaoping has forecast the downfall of Soviet President Gorbachev, emphasizing perestroika and other "misguided reforms" as the cause of the Soviet leader's troubles.

- La presse japonaise rapporte que la Chine enverra ce printemps une mission au Vietnam afin d'améliorer les relations entre les deux pays.

- Chinese State-Planning Minister Zou Jiahua said China will not alter its reform and open-door policies despite the momentous changes occurring elsewhere in the world.

- The Chinese Communist Party is calling for at least three years' austerity and has outlined tough measures to suppress non-essential industries and social demand.

TAIWAN

- Legislation to protect Taiwanese assets and business deals was introduced in the Australian parliament by a government concerned with minimizing possible damage to relations with Beijing. The Cabinet agreed on measures which would stop future attempts by China to seize Taiwanese assets in Australia.

- Taiwan and Hong Kong discussed an agreement on coordinating trade. All formal economic links were severed in 1949 and HK and Taiwan hope to normalize and develop trade relations.

- The Central Bank of China has decided to appropriate some of Taiwan's huge foreign reserves as funds for banks and private enterprises. This will decentralize control of Taiwan's foreign reserves and help local businesses invest overseas.

HONG KONG

- Legislative councillors approved a HK\$6 million budget for the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees.

- La conférence de Genève sur les réfugiés vietnamiens s'est terminée sans un accord sur la question du rapatriement obligatoire.

KOREA/COREE

- The ruling Democratic Justice Party is joining forces with two conservative opposition parties to establish a majority in parliament. A condition for the re-alignment is a constitutional change from a presidential system to a cabinet system of government, which will lessen the president's power.

- According to the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA), exports to the US and other major trading partners declined last year, but shipments to Canada increased 12.7% to US\$1.7 billion in the first 11 months of 1989. KOTRA has set a goal of US\$2.15 billion in exports to Canada this year, up 16.2% from last year. If the current trend continues, Canada will be Korea's fourth largest market after the US, Japan and Hong Kong.

- The Soviet Union will allow 4 Korean general trading companies to open offices in Moscow and may allow six more later this year.

- Forty-seven coal mines have applied to close their pits this year. This will result in an annual production decrease of 2.2 million tons and lost jobs for 6,013 miners.

- The Korea Advanced Energy Research Institute changed its name to the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute.

- According to the Korea Economic Research Institute (KERI), the gross national product will expand 5.9% in the first quarter of 1990, a 0.3% increase over the same period last year, while exports will grow 7.9%, compared with 2.2% for the Jan.-May 1988 period. Domestic consumption and investment are also expected to increase substantially. KERI forecast the economy will grow 7% - 8% this year if Korea maintains its industrial pace.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/A VENIR

- Hon. John Crosbie will attend the International Franchise Assoc. Conference, Hawaii, Jan.28-29.

- Hon. George Hees visit to Thailand, Bangladesh for field visits to Cdn. food aid projects, Jan.18-30.

- Symposium Pacific Energy Coop (Spec IV), Tokyo, Jan.29-30.

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

- Cdn Meat Council Annual Mtg, Toronto, Feb.7-9.

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

- Agric. Fish & Food Workshops, Halifax Feb.23; Montreal Feb.15; Toronto Feb.20; Edmonton Feb.22; Van. Feb.27. Contact: Regional International Trade Centres, or, Ezio DiEmanuele, Japan Trade Development Division, DEA, (613)995-8606.

- Advanced Industrial Materials in Transportation Conference, Montreal, Mar. 8-9. Contact: Canadian Advanced Industrial Materials Forum, Toronto. (416-363-7261) or FAX: (416-363-7261).

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

- Conference on Canada and Pacific Security, Victoria, B.C., Mar. 15-17.

- 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. Contact: Ms.Bronwyn Best, Cdn.Chamber of Commerce, Ottawa, 613-238-4000.

- Seoul Food 90, Seoul Korea

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