

BULLETIN

VOL III NO 02
90-01-12

NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- PM Kaifu's European visit will take him to Bonn, then Brussels (Jan.10), Paris (11th), London (12th), Rome (12-13th), Warsaw (14th-15th), and Budapest (15th-17th).

- Le PM Kaifu a déclaré à Berlin que le Japon voulait jouer un rôle actif sur le plan politique dans la définition d'un nouvel ordre international et qu'il souhaite renforcer la coopération triangulaire nippo-américano-européenne.

- To support socio-economic reform in Eastern Europe, Japan will provide \$US150 million to the Polish Stabilization Fund and \$US25 million in emergency food aid for Poland. Also, the Export-Import Bank of Japan will finance \$US500 million over three years to Poland and Hungary respectively. Japan intends to transfer technology and provide expertise to Hungary and Poland and accept trainees in such areas of business management and the environment.

- PM Kaifu indicated that he would be seeking support from independents in achieving a majority in the upcoming Lower House election. Meanwhile, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party, the two opposition parties, asked the Japanese Socialist Party for further policy concessions in discussions concerning the formation of a coalition government.

- Former Liberal Democratic Party Secretary-General Abe will visit Moscow and meet with President Gorbachev. The meeting is construed by Japan as an indication that the Soviet Union is placing a high priority on its relations with Japan.

- Le ministre des affaires étrangères Nakayama a convenu avec son homologue malais de l'importance de ne pas isoler la République Populaire de Chine.

- Japan's unadjusted trade surplus was US\$1.09 billion for the first 20 days in December, down sharply from the US\$3.59 billion surplus recorded over the same period in 1987. Imports, on a customs-cleared basis, rose 15.2% to US\$13.19 billion from US\$11.44 billion a year earlier. Exports fell by 5% from US\$15.04 billion to US\$14.28 billion.

CHINA/CHINE

- Le Premier Ministre Li Peng a annoncé la levée de la loi martiale à Pékin évoquant la stabilité de la situation en Chine et le retour à la normale de l'ordre social. Tout en qualifiant cègeste de "positif", le Canada a néanmoins fait part de son désir de voir d'autres mesures visant au respect des droits de la personne en R.P.C.

- Commenting on a report that France will sell warships to Taiwan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that China is opposed to such sales which would constitute direct interference in China's internal affairs. Reports now indicate that France has withdrawn from the sale.

- China's 48 million Party members are being forced to re-register in a massive bureaucratic exercise designed to purge those who supported last year's democracy movement.

- According to the Department of Energy Resources, the shortage of energy and key raw materials will remain a major problem for the Chinese economy in 1990 as it is expected that industrial growth will hit 6% while that of energy will be 3%.

- Spain released US\$30.3 million in export credits to China which had been suspended after the Tiananmen incident.

TAIWAN

- Taiwan has applied for membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as a separate customs territory under the name "Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen, Matsu." According to the GATT's Article 33, a government acting on behalf of "a separate customs territory possessing full autonomy in the conduct of its external commercial relations" can accede to the GATT on terms agreed to by the GATT members.

HONG KONG

- The Office of Members of Executive and Legislative Councils will open a London office to continue lobbying on the "right of abode" question.

- Deputy Foreign Minister Zhou Nan has been chosen by the PRC as the new director of the HK branch of Xinhua news.

KOREA/COREE

- ASIANA, Korea's newest airline, recently began international flights. The airline is planning flights to South East Asia later this year, to North America in 1991 and Europe in 1992. The airline is a potential customer for Canada's Dash-8 aircraft and Canadian made flight simulators.

- According to Korea's Foreign Trade Association, strong imports and weak exports will generate a US\$1.73 billion trade deficit for the first quarter of 1990. Exports are expected to increase 2% but imports will increase 15%.

- Overseas travel by Korean tourists grew 245% in 1989. The top destinations were Japan (39.7%), USA (19%) and Taiwan (6.8%). A number listing the US as final destination may also have visited Canada. 1% of Koreans listed Canada as final destination. 20,272 Canadians visited Korea in 1989.

- In 1988, 363 Korean entrepreneurs contributed an estimated C\$146 million to the Canadian economy, maintaining 193 jobs, and creating 2021 new ones.

- The South Korean government has invited North Korea and the USSR to observe joint S. Korea-US military exercise "Team Spirit" which is scheduled to begin in late February. N. Korea has refused invitations to observe.

- President Roh appointed Park Tae Joon, chairman of POSCO, the steel corporation, as the chairman of the Democratic Justice Party.

- Korea's containerized trade with the USSR more than tripled in volume in 1989. Seoul and Moscow are expected to establish a regular containership line.

- Korea is expected to accede to the GATT Code on Government Procurement adopted in the Tokyo Round.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/A VENIR

- Hon. Jean Charest, Min. for Employment & Immigration to visit the Commonwealth Games, Auckland, Jan.18-28.

- 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.

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

- 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.

- 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 April 1-3.

- Seoul Food 90, Seoul Korea

The North Asia Bulletin is produced by the International Relations Division. Le Bulletin hebdomadaire rédigé par la Direction Nord. Comments/Commentaires: 613-995-1183; fax-613-996-4309.

