

APW

News & Views

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1. JIAP NEWS

REPORT FROM TOKYO: WILL JAPAN'S ECONOMY IMplode?

Wednesday, May 21, 2003

Donald Westmore (Executive Director, ACCJ) and
Abby Pratt (External Affairs Manager, ACCJ)

Time: 4:45 – 6:00 PM

A discussion on the state of Japan's economy and investment climate

Location: The Law firm of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP,
1501 K Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC. (736-8000)

Registration: reservations necessary, 202-822-6040, sdrewry@jiaponline.org

Fee: \$10 for JIAP members, \$20 Non-members



Contents: COVER STORIES, JAPAN: Japan Banking, Japan Business, Japan-Economy, Japan-Foreign Policy, Japan-Politics, Japan-Security **JAPAN RELEVANT:** China-Economy, China-Foreign Policy, China-Politics, China-SARS, Espionage, Energy, Foreign Policy, Global Economy, Indonesia, Intellectual Property, Iran Issues, Iraq Issues, Leadership, North Korea, Science & Technology, Security, South Korea, Southeast Asia, Steel, Taiwan, Trade, US Economy.

Contact

If you have any comments/suggestions please contact Japan Information Access Project (JIAP) Asia Policy Calendar & Weekly Editors Ms. Mindy L. Kotler and Mr. Seth D. Drewry at (202) 822-6040, or access@jiaponline.org <http://www.jiaponline.org>

About JIAP

JIAP is a Washington-based nonprofit, membership research center studying Japanese and Northeast Asian science, technology, security and public policy.

Established in 1991, the JIAP is a trusted member of the U.S. policy community interested in Japan and Asia. The Project specializes in introducing to Washington the best "outside-the-Beltway" scholarly research and analysis on critical Asia policy issues. The goal is to strengthen international understanding of Japanese and Northeast Asian science, technology, economic and security policy. Through a range of programs and publications, the Project educates its members, policymakers, and the public to use knowledge of Japan and Asia to increase national strategic competitiveness and security.

****All phone numbers are (202) unless otherwise indicated****

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2) MEMBER NEWS

“Capital Charge for Operational Risk Moves Toward Implementation,” by **Dwight C. Smith III** (Alston & Bird), Bank Accounting & Finance, April 2003. Analysis of the Basel II rules being considered and Congressional reaction. <http://www.journalreprint.com>

3) CRITICAL REPORTS

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea, Common Values, Principles, and Strategy. 5/14/03. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/05/20030514-17.html>

5/15 – Reuters reports on a press conference with U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff where they quote Rumsfeld as saying “the U.S. still may reduce the size of the 37,000 soldiers stationed in Korea despite the North Korean nuclear crisis,” implying that the subject is still in discussion. “The nuclear threat from North Korea won’t change any plans to withdraw at least some portion of soldiers for replacement while increasing the mobility of the forces and capability of new weapons,” stated Mr. Rumsfeld. However, he also stated that “nothing has been finalized and any changes will be established after close discussion with the Korean government in the long term.” The DoD transcript of the meeting is a bit more circumspect with the above quotes missing. See: <http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/tr20030515-secdef0185.html>

5/13 - 2002-2003 Strategic Survey, the annual analysis by the IISS staff of ‘The Strategic Year That Was.’ “Asia, along with the Middle East, continues to present the world’s widest range of strategic challenges, and most dangerous security problems.” “Clearly a number of institutions including the UN and the EU have been left badly wounded by the course and nature of the Iraq crisis. The UN is deeply engaged again in discussing Iraq; the EU is absorbed by its Convention discussions. The transatlantic relationship is the most urgently in need of some repair.” <http://www.iiss.org/conferencepage.php?confID=57>

Deflation: Determinants, Risks, and Policy Options—Findings of an Interdepartmental Task Force, IMF, April 30, 2003, released 5/18/03. Develops a novel methodology for assessing and quantifying deflation risk, and applies it to a wide range of industrial and emerging market economies. It concludes that there is only a relatively small risk of global deflation. But that there are increasing risks of falling prices in some major economies [Germany, **Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong**] and in many smaller ones. It puts forward a range of policies for proactively averting deflation in countries where the risk is high. It also discusses policies for dealing with deflation once it has become entrenched. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/def/2003/eng/043003.htm>

Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, Iraqi Minister of Information Award Nominee

Press Gaggle with Scott McClellan Aboard Air Force One En Route Little Rock, Arkansas 5/5/03.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/05/20030505-3.html>

Q Has the President tacitly conceded that North Korea is a nuclear power and it's not going to -- does he still want them to dismantle their nukes, or just not sell them?

MR. MCCLELLAN: I saw those reports, and I think that our position remains the same, that the United States, as well as the international community, is concerned about North Korea possessing nuclear weapons and potentially transferring nuclear materials to others. We're continuing to consult with friends and allies, after our recent discussions with North Korea, about the next steps to take. Remember that we are approaching this in a multilateral forum, and that the international community has made it clear to North Korea that its relations with the outside world hinge on its verifiable and irreversible elimination of its nuclear weapons program.

Q No change in policy?

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MR. MCCLELLAN: -- North Korea will continue to isolate itself as long as it pursues a nuclear weapons program. But we remain concerned about both the possession of and transfer of nuclear weapons, or nuclear weapons materials.

4) OPINION, REPORTS & STATEMENTS

COVER STORIES

NATIONAL JOURNAL – “**Heavy Tolls Ahead:** Congress's transportation enthusiasts and a powerful lobby hope to steamroll a huge highway bill through Washington this year. But they're on a collision course with President Bush and key Republican leaders,” 5/17/03, <http://nationaljournal.com/members/news/2003/05/0516nj1.htm>.

ECONOMIST – “**America and the Middle East:** Do the bombs in Saudi Arabia show that American policy on terrorism and the Middle East is wrong? Many say so, but their case makes no sense. More such setbacks are likely. They must not distract America from getting Iraq right,” 5/17/03,

FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW – “**Stepping Out: Business And Governments Clean Up The Damage From SARS:** Travel advisories are being lifted, infection rates are down and business is slowly picking up. As countries hit by Sars struggle to return to normal, new efforts are under way to try to ease the economic damage and get back to business as usual,” 5/22/03, http://www.feer.com/articles/2003/0305_22/p012region.html.

JAPAN

Poll on Koizumi cabinet, political parties, Iraq and North Korea,” **YOMIURI 5/13/03,p2, [US Embassy Translation 5/15/03]**. (Figures shown in percentage.) Date of survey: May 10-11.

Q: Are you now better off or worse off than a year ago, or do you otherwise think there's no change?

Much better off	0.7
Somewhat better off	2.6
No change	56.1
Somewhat worse off	28.8
Much worse off	10.9
N/A	0.9

Q: What do you think about the Japanese government's recent way of responding to the Iraq problem?

Appreciate very much	5.0
Appreciate somewhat	34.4
Don't appreciate very much	40.7
Don't appreciate at all	14.2
N/A	5.8

Q: What do you think about the Japanese government's recent way of responding to the North Korea problem?

Appreciate very much	3.7
Appreciate somewhat	24.0
Don't appreciate very much	45.4
Don't appreciate at all	23.2
N/A	3.7

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JAPAN-BUSINESS

“Mitsui Aims High After Earnings Drop Last Year,” FT5/10-11/03, p9. Mitsui trading company forecast net profits of ¥65bn (\$554m) in FY2003 ending in March 2004 after a 44% drop of profits in FY2002. See: <http://www.mitsui.co.jp/tkabz/english/inve/fina/0303fr.pdf>

“Mitsubishi Predicts Record ¥100bn Profit,” FT5/15/03, p19. See: http://www.mitsubishi.co.jp/En/index_top.html.

“Plant closures continue; Up 10 percent among listed firms; Production bases shifted abroad,” NIHON KEIZAI, 5/11/03,p1, [US Embassy Translation 5/12/03]. “It was learned that 161 listed firms decided to close their domestic plants or suspend operations in fiscal 2002, up 10 percent from the preceding year. The move to raise the ratio of production abroad, including in China where manufacturing cost is low, was widespread. Many companies were pressed to relocate plants due to deteriorated earnings and profits.”

JAPAN-ECONOMY

“Japanese economy 'at a standstill'- The Japanese economy struggled to make headway in the first three months of the year and economists are predicting more gloom ahead,” Bloomberg Online, 5/16/03. “The world's second largest economy reported flat Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to March 2003 and has been teetering towards reverse since then. “The economy is on the brink of recession,” said Jesper Koll, chief economist at Merrill Lynch Japan Securities.” <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/3032861.stm>

“War, SARS and Deflation Leave Japan Economy Flat,” NYT5/16/03, C5. Japan’s economy grows 0.0% in first three months of 2003. See: <http://www.esri.cao.go.jp/en/sna/qe031/gdemenua.html>

“Japan Outranked by Thailand In Competitiveness: IMD Survey,” NIKKEI Shimbun Online, 5/14/03. Swiss University IMD releases World Competitiveness Yearbook which measures 59 major economies on 321 different criteria. The results are: 1. U.S. 2. Australia 3. Canada 4. Malaysia 5. Germany 6. Taiwan 7. U.K. 8. France 9 Spain 10. Thailand 11. Japan 12. China. See: <http://www02.imd.ch/wcy/>.

“Tokyo Urges Set Of Moves To Shore Up Stock Market,” NYT5/15/03, W1. GoJ moves to create rules that would stem the heavy selling of stocks by pension funds and to expand the use of government money to buy company shares.

“Japan’s Foreign Investors Learn The Joys Of Tax; Overseas Companies Can Expect A Tough Response – And Negative Coverage – If They Fall Foul Of The System,” FT5/15/03, p10. Taxes are another potential foreign investment barrier.

JAPAN-FOREIGN POLICY

“Japan Won't Impose Sanctions on North Korea, Koizumi Says,” Bloomberg Online, 5/14/03. “We aren't considering imposing economic sanctions on North Korea at the moment,” Koizumi told reporters at a regular press conference.”

“Japan Probe Focuses On Exports To North Korea,” WSJ5/13/03, A17. METI filed charges against Tokyo trading company Meishin on 4/28 on suspicion of exporting technologies used for the production of nuclear weapons.

“Neo-Conservative Japanese in the Spotlight,” Donga Online, 5/13/03, posted 5/14. “In the long politically indifferent Japan, Japanese are now paying attention to two 40-something politicians. The two politicians are 45-year old Japanese Defense Agency Director General Shigeru Ishiba and 49 year old former Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe. Both made speeches which encourage rightist movements and have for the first time in many years, raised Japan’s neo-conservative flag....Abe also asserted in a symposium held in Tokyo on May 12 that

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Japan's concept of defense should be corrected. He does not give in to matters domestically as well as diplomatically and is even well known among rightists as a man who acts according to his convictions. He leads in the tough stance towards North Korea on the kidnapped Japanese issue."

<http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/tr20030515-secdef0185.html>

JAPAN-POLITICS

"Koizumi's Allies Want to Extend Diet Session, his Reign If Parliamentary Debate Ends, So Does the Prime Minister's Power to Dissolve the Diet," ASAHI Shimbun Online, 5/14/03. If Diet session ends, Koizumi no longer can use his trump card, the threat of holding snap elections. LDP Secretary General Yamasaki intends to call up for debate sensitive topics that would ensure a lengthened Diet session, such as a bill to support Iraqi reconstruction and a bill to extend the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law.

"Govt to Fight Illegal Exports to N. Korea," YOMIURI Shimbun Online, 5/16/03. PM Koizumi will announce his support of the Bush administration's policy to block illegal exports from North Korea during Crawford Ranch summit on 5/23.

"Chinese Damage Suit Rejected," YOMIURI Shimbun Online, 5/1/03. Japanese court rejects ¥80million damage suit by 5 Chinese from Heilongjiang Province claiming to have been injured by chemical weapons abandoned by Japan after defeat in WWII.

"LDP Welcomes Keidanren's Political Donations Plan," NIKKEI Shimbun Online, 5/13/03. Keidanren will venture back into the political arena after a 10 year absence.

"Former PM Nakasone Says Calls for Ishihara Will Get Louder As Japan Faces Crises," Tokyo AERA, 5/5/03. [FBIS Translated Text JPP20030507000068]. AERA interview with former PM Nakasone.

Q: How do you characterize the differences between Governor Ishihara and Prime Minister Koizumi?

Nakasone: Mr. Koizumi is sharp, but his modus operandi is rather narrow. He is not good at using people. By contrast, Mr. Ishihara is broader in scope and greater in capacity.

Q: There may be people out there who have great expectations of Ishihara's new party, but few among national legislators believe that it is feasible. Is there not a possibility that the 3.08 million votes will add fuel again to calls for a new party?

Nakasone: As long as he keeps working hard for Tokyo, I think there is a possibility that people will voice "calls for Ishihara" if the nation faces crisis after crisis. For people want "unipolarity." The LDP as it is today looks as if it is disintegrating into a "non-polar and multiple" party. In a time when independents are increasing their abilities to influence decisions, an unprecedented type of prime minister will be called for: someone with strong leadership. Otherwise, we will have sense that he or she cannot survive. Among today's politicians, Mr. Ishihara is now emerging as a standout.

"DA Chief Ishiba Calls for Review of Defense-Oriented Policy," Mainichi Shimbun (Internet Version-WWW), 5/13/03. JDA Director General Shigeru Ishiba, first noting that "'The government has no intention to change the idea of the exclusively defensive defense policy,' explained of the conditions for executing the right of self-defense: 1) an imminent and illegitimate act of aggression is directed against Japan; 2) there is no appropriate means to deal with the aggression; and 3) the use of armed strength is confined to the necessary minimum. 'I think the question is how we will review the exclusively defense-oriented policy' while maintaining those conditions, Ishiba said."

"Japan's 'peace constitution' threatened," By Axel Berkofsky, AsiaTimes 5/14/03. "As the head of state, the Emperor should be ensuring that Japan's military is on the "forefront establishing and maintaining global peace and stability". So concluded a report drafted by the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) research commission on the constitution last week, raising fears in the neighborhood that Japan plans to turn into a regional military bully before too long. The House of Representatives Research Commission on the Constitution was established in 2000 in an effort to revise the constitution to authorize the military to defend Japan's security at home and abroad."

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Japan/EE14Dh01.html>

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JAPAN-SECURITY

5/15 - The lower house of Japan's Diet passed a set of bills that would strengthen Japan's military ability to respond to attacks from other countries, The Associated Press reports. The legislation would create guidelines for Japanese troops to use private-owned property, and would allow the government to punish anyone who willfully ignores emergency laws. The new legislation also would give the Cabinet and central government ministries more control over local governments and strategically important public and private institutions in case of war. The bills now go to the less-powerful upper house on May 19th, where passage is expected before the current session ends June 18.

“Tokyo Passes Bill Enabling Response to Military Attack,” FT5/16/03, p6. Diet Lower House passes three emergency legislation bills.

“Some LDP Lawmakers Propose Revision of Japan-US Military Pact,” Kyodo News, 5/15/03 [FBIS Transcribed Text JPP20030515000094]. A group of LDP lawmakers finished a finalized draft revision of the US-Japan Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). The draft would allow Japanese authorities to take custody of US military personnel suspected of crimes before indictment. It would also allow Japanese authorities to enter US bases on suspicion of the violation of environmental laws.

Challenges to the rebirth of politics: Crisis of Japan-U.S. alliance; "Constitutional issues" bypassed, leaving effectiveness [of alliance] in big doubt,” SANKEI, 5/8/03, p5, [US Embassy Translation 5/12/03]. “Addressing the National Institute for Defense Studies on April 24, New Komeito Policy Research Council Vice Chairman Masao Akamatsu summed up the last 10 years this way: "The past 10 years might have been economically depicted as the lost decade, but from the standpoint of national security, it has been 10 years for us to explore what we can do within the bounds of the Constitution." The implication was that the LDP, having won over, as a coalition partner, the New Komeito, which has been cautious about the overseas dispatch of SDF troops, managed to successfully enact such important legislation as the law on emergencies around Japan [*shuhen jitai-ho*] and the antiterrorist special measures law. But Akamatsu pointed out that the current approach had "reached its limits." "Now that we have entered uncharted waters, we should not be bound by past fetters," he said, stressing the need to immediately address the issue of the right to collective defense.”

“New conservative group in Minshuto (Part 1): Cooperation to enact security policy outside parties,” NIHON KEIZAI 5/15/03, p2, [US Embassy Translation 5/16/03]. Seiji Maehara (41), the lawmaker in charge of security affairs of the "Next Cabinet" of Minshuto (Democratic Party of Japan), the largest opposition party...was talking to his counterpart: "Our basic policy is to ease the standards of defensive action on the seas by the Maritime Self-Defense Force, as well as for the use of arms in action in order to keep public order. We would also change the contents of measures taken against violation of territorial airspace." What he meant was to allow the Self-Defense Forces to maintain public order, which is an ardent wish of the Defense Agency.”

“ANALYSIS: Minshuto gets real, ushers in a new era in security debate,” By Masaaki Fujisaki, Asahi Shimbun, 5/15/03. “The agreement between the ruling coalition and opposition Minshuto (Democratic Party of Japan) on military emergency legislation marks a major turning point in Japan's national security debate. The lead opposition party, despite heated internal dissension, nevertheless worked hard to find common ground with the ruling coalition on the critical package of bills.” Still, even with all the give and take and revisions, the planned legislation has its flaws. The backbone of the package seems to be outdated-the product of Cold War thinking-when the bogeyman was a massive invasion of Japan by the Soviet Union. Also less than perfect is the lack of safeguards in the legislation to protect the interests of the people. <http://www.asahi.com/english/politics/K2003051500257.html>

“Victim of Alleged Rape Tried to Have Police Drop Charges Against US Marine,” Kyodo News, 5/13/03. [FBIS Transcribed Text JPP20030513000218]. Japanese police forced Philippine woman to press charges against Major Michael Brown after incident on 11/2/02 even though she expressed her desire to withdraw her accusation.

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JAPAN-SOCIETY & CULTURE

150th Anniversary of the US-Japan Relationship Website

[Black Ships, 7/8/1853] <http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/n-america/us/relation/150th/index.html>

“Transsexual assembly member sees Japan changing,” Kyodo 5/15/03. “By: Janice Tang Two weeks after making headlines by winning a seat as a transsexual in the assembly of Tokyo's Setagaya Ward, Aya Kamikawa says she has seen the Japanese public slowly change.” <http://asia.news.yahoo.com/030515/kyodo/d7r1e20g0.html>

“Japanese Cult Vows To Save A Seal And The World,” NYT5/14/03, A10. Pana Wave Laboratory.

“New Religious Cults in Japan: Part One – Pana Wave Laboratory Cult,” Social Trends, Series #36, GLOCOM Platform, 12 May 2003. http://www.glocom.org/special_topics/index.html#trends Or try: http://www.glocom.org/special_topics/social_trends/20030512_trends_s36/index.html

JAPAN-RELEVANT

CHINA-ECONOMY

“China’s Once-Booming Textile Exports Falter as SARS Fears Take Grip,” FT5/10-11/03, p4.

“Buffett Takes a Stake in Chinese Oil; Investor’s Interest Shows How Things Are Opening Up Since Beijing Joined WTO in 2001,” FT5/16/03, p19.

“China’s New Privatization May Elude Foreigners,” WSJ5/14/03, A12. Under a policy set by departing Chinese leader Jiang Zemin, local governments now have full-shareholder rights over state-owned enterprises and, most importantly, the right to sell these assets. This will result mainly in “stealth privatization” with limited foreign involvement.

CHINA-FOREIGN POLICY

“US politicking in Asia to rein in China,” By Alan Boyd, AsiaTimes, 5/15/03. “US containment policies for China are drawing Asia back into Washington's strategic embrace even as traditional European allies dig their way out of the diplomatic rubble from the Iraqi conflict. That Asian leaders have been so quick to discard their war vitriol and take a more pragmatic view of the US role in the region says much for the uncertain security outlook as the economic balance shifts toward Beijing.” <http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/EE15Ad01.html>

“SARS Spread Affecting Cross-Strait Relations: DPP Official,” Taipei Central News Agency, 5/14/03. [FBIS Transcribed Text CPP20030514000178].

“PRC Scholar Wang Jisi on China’s Diplomacy, New International Situation,” Beijing Xiandai Guoji Guanxi, 4/20/03, p1-3. [FBIS Translated Text CPP20030514000196]. Paper by Wang Jisi (Director and Research Fellow, Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), paper presented to a 3/28/03 panel. “The great powers, the United States, Russia, and India do not have major economic and political interests on the Korean peninsula, while China and Japan for their part are extremely unwilling to see the DPRK turn into a hot spot. Rationally, even if the international political focus shifts to here, it should not stop for long in that place. The problem is that international political behavior does not always make rational choices but always plays its cards in abnormal fashion. I hold the view that China's line of thought on the DPRK nuclear issue should be to make efforts to get the parties in contradiction to act according to convention, while at the same time it should itself draw up early warning plans against various conflict incidents. If the focus of international security continues to remain in the Eurasian hinterland, China's strategic opportunity period will be relatively long. Getting something done regarding the DPRK nuclear issue is therefore the current key link in preserving national security.”

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CHINA-POLITICS

“Outbreak Gave China’s Hu an Opening; President Responded to Pressure Inside and Outside Country on SARS,” WP5/13/03, A1.

CHINA-SARS

“SARS Poses Test for Chinese Economy,” People’s Daily, 5/13/03. The Chinese economy is facing its toughest challenge since the 1998 Asian financial crisis as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) takes its toll on key industries. The tourism, civil aviation, railway and road passenger transport, restaurant, hotel and service sectors suffered marked losses in April. http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/200305/13/eng20030513_116598.shtml

“China Issues Strict Rules On Reporting Of Disease,” NYT5/14/03, A6.

“Chinese Police Arrest Sars Demonstration ‘Ringleaders,’” FT5/12/03, p4. Protest by more than 300 people in Tianjian draws arrest of its organizers.

“Rude Awakening; SARS Shakes Complacent Mood of China and Spotlights Shortcomings in Its System,” NYT5/13/03, A1. “Just where the unleashed demons will lead is uncertain. But one casualty, welcomed by some scholars, may be the smug complacency many Chinese had developed about the country’s political system and future.”

“Hong Kong Chief Executive Accused Of Mishandling The Outbreak,” FT5/15/03, p6.

ESPIONAGE

“The Impossible Task for America’s Spies,” William J. Broad, NYT5/11/03, W1. “Now, the Bush administration’s doctrine of preemption has given this iffy, imprecise art grave new responsibilities. It presumes that American intelligence can ferret out the most secret of foreign science with near infallibility, doing so not only to inform policy-makers but potentially build a case for war. In effect, it posits a crystal ball.”

ENERGY

“Oil’s New World Order Faces Its First Test in Postwar Iraq; China and Russia are Taking More Control of Their Destinies – and Changing the Industry’s Balance of Power,” FT5/12/03, p12.

“Western Oil Majors Flex Their Muscles; Move by Eni, Exxon, Total and Shell to Block Chinese Expansion into Caspian Sea Shows Where Balance of Power Lies,” FT5/10-11/03, p8. Western oil companies will use right of first refusal on BG sale of its 16.67% stake in the North Caspian oilfields to CNOOC and Sinopec.

“Siberian Pipeline Projects Vie for Support,” FT5/16/03, p5. Russian government still debating trans-Siberian pipeline ending in Daqing, China or Nakhodka, Russia.

FOREIGN POLICY

“No Weapons, No Matter. We Called Saddam’s Bluff,” Michael Schrage (Senior Advisor, Security Studies Program, MIT), Opinion, WP5/11/03, B2. “but suppose Hussein was bluffing. Suppose Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction of any significance. That shouldn’t matter at all. To the contrary, why should the international community respect totalitarian brinkmanship based on a bluff? A brutal despot who bets his regime on a bluff deserves to lose everything... Making every effort to increase the risks and reduce the rewards for regimes dependent on WMD ambiguity for their legitimacy should be a global responsibility – not just an American one.”

GLOBAL ECONOMY

“Looming Currency War between U.S., Japan and EU,” Donga Online, 5/16/03. “A series of warnings have been issued concerning a looming worldwide depression, putting the three major economic powers, the United States, Japan and the EU on alert. Preventing a global depression, however, will not come easy. It is hard to further lower interest rates or boost government spending. Interest rates in those countries have already hit bottom, and budget deficits are still a lingering threat. Therefore, developed countries have resorted to the last option: adjustment of exchange rates. Some analysts are saying that an “exchange rate war” has already started in anticipation of the G8 summit scheduled for early next month.” <http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?biid=2003051705688>

“Why Washington Isn’t Sweating The Dollar’s Drop,” NYT5/13/03, C1. With inflation and interest rates low, policymakers are focusing on the positives of a weaker-dollar.

“Living With A Lower Dollar,” Editorial, FT5/10-11/03, p6. “A lower dollar should be a boon for the world’s economy. It could allow the US to reduce its dangerous economic imbalances and give room for a significant boost to domestic demand in Europe. The worrying alternative is for the US to export deflationary pressures around the world. It is the task of monetary authorities in large economies to head off this threat. Though it has conspicuously failed to date, this is the time for Europe to take a lead.”

“Boosting Growth is ‘Top Priority’ at G8 Meeting,” FT5/16/03, p5. Treas. Sec. John Snow, before leaving for G-8 finance minister’s meeting in France. See: <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js377.htm>.

“Snow Says US Won’t Attempt to Defend Dollar from Sliding,” WSJ5/14/03, A2. Treas. Sec. John Snow, testifying before House Financial Services Committee on 5/13, said that, “countries don’t have much ability to control the value of their currency,” sparking speculation that the administration is shying away from support for the strong dollar policy. See: <http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js371.htm>.

“Dollar Dilemma: A Weak Currency Helps Economy; Snow’s Remarks Push Down Greenback Against The Euro, Raising Questions On Policy,” WSJ5/13/03, A1. US Treasury Secretary John Snow said on ABC’s “This Week,” “When the dollar is at a lower level it helps exports, and I think exports are getting stronger as a result.” Taken along with other recent comments by Snow, it suggests that the US is backing away from the strong dollar policy.

“The Benefits To The Economy Of A Weaker Dollar And Global Coordination,” Jeff Madrick (Editor, Challenge Magazine), Economic Scene, NYT5/15/03, C2. Good for American manufacturers but needs coordination.

“UN Survey Sees End To Slump In Flow Of Investment,” FT5/15/03, p8. See: UNCTAD Report, <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=3452&intItemID=1634&lang=1>.

“Key Ocean Fish Species Ravaged, Study Finds,” WP5/15/03, A1. Study published in 5/15 issue of *Nature* demonstrates that 90% of the world’s large ocean fish have disappeared since 1950. See: <http://www.nature.com/nature/links/030515/030515-1.html> [Password Required].

INDONESIA

“For A Change, Asia’s Woes Are Bypassing Indonesia,” NYT5/15/03, W1. Future of Indonesian economy bright as Standard and Poor’s raises Indonesian credit rating from CCC+ to B- and economic supervision by IMF comes to an end. See: http://www2.standardandpoors.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=sp/sp_article/ArticleTemplate&c=sp_article&cid=1052691075703&s=&ig=&b=2&dct=22

“Jakarta Ready to Launch Attack on Aceh Rebels,” FT5/10-11/03, p4. Indonesian government appears set to attack Aceh separatists after talks crumble between government and Free Aceh Movement (GAM).

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“First Trial Begins in Bombing on Bali That Shocked Indonesia,” NYT5/12/03, A17. Amrozi, suspect in Bali bombing of April 2002, goes on trial.

IRAN ISSUES

“Iranian WMD: The View From Washington and Moscow,” Stratfor, 5/16/03. “Under intense American pressure, the Russian government has recommended that Iran open its nuclear-related sites to full international inspections. The United States remains unsure of how or when to confront Iran, but Washington knows that it must ensure that Iran has no nuclear capabilities when and if it does so.”

<http://www.stratfor.biz/Story.neo?storyId=217489>

“Iran Said to Be Producing Bioweapons; Opposition Group Names Anthrax as First of Six Pathogens in Intensive Effort,” WP5/15/03, A22. Claim by Mujaheddin-e Khalq, Iranian opposition group based in Iraq.

“Remarks By Iran’s President Indicate No Sign Of Thaw With U.S.,” NYT5/15/03, A6. Anti-American and pro-Hizbollah remarks by Iranian President Khatami on trip to Lebanon.

“US Ruffled By India’s Growing Tied With Iran,” FT5/15/03, p6.

IRAQ ISSUES

“A Battle in Washington Breaks the Peace in Iraq,” Philip Stevens, Commentary, FT5/16/03, p13. “[T]he bigger concern is the absence of anything resembling a strategy in Washington to steer Iraq toward a better long-term future. I the US is serious about building a new Iraq it needs some sense of the architecture. But, as far as I can tell, there is not a design drawing in sight.”

LEADERSHIP

“Keepers of Bush Image Lift Stagecraft to New Heights,” NYT5/16/03, A1. “Officials of past Democratic and Republican administrations marvel at how the White House does not seem to miss an opportunity to showcase Mr. Bush in dramatic and perfectly lighted settings. It is all by design: the White House has stocked its communications operation with people from network television who have expertise in lighting, camera angles and the importance of backdrops.”

“Paths of Glory,” by Paul Krugman, Op-Ed, NYT5/16/03, A27. “The truth is that the pursuit of televised glory – which led the Bush administration to turn its attention away from Al Qaeda, and to pick a fight with a regime that, however nasty, posed no threat – has made us much less safe than we should be.”

NORTH KOREA

“US Aides Remain Divided As They Weigh Korea Risks,” NYT5/11/03, p1. “Mr. Bush’s advisers are engaged in a running argument over whether to continue negotiating with a country that says it is building nuclear weapons, or to organize an international economic blockade meant to leave North Korea’s leadership with a stark choice between collapse and dismantling its nuclear programs.”

“Lessons From Iraq Include How to Scare Korean Leader,” NYT5/12/03, A17. “Now the military’s ability to mount precision attacks on leadership targets in Iraq is being examined to see how it might apply in a tense standoff with North Korea, perhaps influencing North Korea’s behavior without ever firing a shot.”

“DPRK Defector Claims 90 Percent of Parts for DPRK Missiles Come From Japan,” Yonhap News, 5/16/03. [FBIS Transcribed Text KPP0030516000003]. Press conference held in Washington at National Press Club with North Korean defector and German Doctor Norbert Vollertsen.

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“North Korea has dozens of nukes, top defector says in Japan,” AFP 5/14/03. – “A man claiming to be a former North Korean People's Army general who fled the impoverished state last year has told a Japanese publication that Pyongyang secretly imported nuclear bombs from the former Soviet Union and developed dozens of its own weapons. The claims were among details about the Stalinist state's military command and its leader Kim Jong-Il contained in an article in the June edition of the respected Gekkan Gendai (Modern Times Monthly), based on an interview.”

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=afp/20030514/wl_afp/nkorea_nuclear_army_030514081339

“Heroin Trail Leads to North Korea; Freighter Delivered Shipment of Drugs to Australian Coast,” WP5/12/03, A1. North Korean freighter Pong Su tracked and seized by Australia.

“U.S. Blueprint for N. Korea War,” by Jamie McIntyre, CNN.com, May 13, 2003. The U.S. has "war-gamed" the scenario for years -- a blueprint for the defense of South Korea that Pentagon insiders know as "OP-PLAN 50-27." Every year the U.S. and South Korean military rehearse the plan and the result is always the same: The U.S. and its allies prevail, but at a terrible price.” <http://www.taiwansecurity.org/CNN/2003/CNN-051303.htm>

“North Korea: Pyongyang Says Inter-Korean Nuclear Agreement is ‘Dead’,” Global Security Newswire, 5/13/03. “North Korea declared a 1991 inter-Korean nuclear agreement to be “a dead document,” the state-run Korean Central News Agency said yesterday. Complaining of U.S. aggression, a KCNA statement said “The inter-Korean declaration on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was thus reduced to a dead document due to U.S. vicious hostile policy to stifle the D.P.R.K. with nukes.”

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/newswires/2003_5_13.html#4

“U.S. to blame for derailing process of denuclearisation on Korean Peninsula,” Pyongyang, May 12 (KCNA) – “The Korean Central News Agency issued today a detailed report denouncing the united states for reducing to a dead document the joint declaration on denuclearisation issued by north and south Korea with a view to removing the danger of nuclear war, creating an atmosphere for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and contributing to peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.” <http://www.kcna.co.jp/item/2003/200305/news05/13.htm#1>

“North Korea: Pyongyang Trying to Smuggle Nuclear Gear Through Germany, Officials Say,” Global Security Newswire, 5/16/03. “North Korea’s embassy in Germany is attempting to smuggle “sensitive goods” out of the country, according to a German report released Tuesday.”

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/newswires/2003_5_16.html#5

“Steps Across the Korean Divide; What Presidents Bush and Roh Should Agree On,” Editorial, FT5/12/03, p10. “For Mr. Roh, who owes his election victory in part to anti-Bush sentiment in Korea, going along with a policy that raises the stakes will be hard. But if a genuinely peaceful solution is to be found, the South Korean president should be aware that failure to pressure Pyongyang would be tantamount to giving in to blackmail. For his part, Mr. Bush should show some sensitivity to the concerns of Mr. Roh and the Korean people. Veiled threats from Donald Rumsfeld, US defense secretary, and others to withdraw US troops from the South will not help build trust with a nervous Korean population. And the US should desist from sending signals that its aim is to bring down the regime in the North.”

“Tourism in N Korea May Never be the Same,” FT5/12/03, p1. SARS outbreak forces North Korea to bar nearly all outsiders from the country.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

“HPC-Asia 2002,” ATIP03.030, May 2003. Report summarizes HPC-Asia 2002 (High Performance Computing Asia), held in December 2002 in Bangalore, India. For a summary including a table of contents:

<http://www.atip.org/public/atip.reports.03/atip03.030.pdf>

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http://www.atip.org/REPORTSMATRIX/public/year2003_total.html

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“Australasian Computer Science Week 2003,” ATIP03.031, May 2003. The Australasian Computer Science Week (ACSW), now in its 26th edition, is a yearly set of conferences designed to bring together researchers in the general field of computer science and related disciplines. This year, the conference was held in Adelaide and jointly hosted by the South Australian Consortium on Information Technology and Telecommunications, Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, and the University of South Australia. The present report summarizes the main themes addressed at the seven conferences, along with current trends and developments. For a summary including a table of contents: <http://www.atip.org/public/atip.reports.03/atip03.031.pdf>

To securely purchase the full version of this report for \$250:

http://www.atip.org/REPORTSMATRIX/public/year2003_total.html

“House Passes Nanotechnology Bill,” FYI, American Institute of Physics Bulletin of Science Policy News, Number 64: May 16, 2003. “After almost three hours of debate and a series of roll call votes, the House of Representatives has passed legislation authorizing \$2.4 billion for nanotechnology research over three years. With almost universal support expressed for nanotechnology, last week's debate on the House floor centered on possible societal impacts of what House Science Committee Chairman Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) called "a key to future economic prosperity." The Senate is expected to act on its own bill within the next few weeks.”

<http://www.aip.org/enevs/fyi/2003/064.html>

“DOD Technology Advisory Group Says Military Capability Is In Doubt Due To Loss Of Electronics Industry; Pentagon Did Not Authorize Release Of AGED Report,” Manufacturing News, May 16, 2003 Vol. 10, No. 10. “The Department of Defense "faces shrinking advantages across all technology areas" due to the rapid decline of the U.S. electronics sector, warns the Pentagon's Advisory Group on Electron Devices (AGED). "Off-shore movement of intellectual capital and industrial capability, particularly in microelectronics, has impacted the ability of the U.S. to research and produce the best technologies and products for the nation and the warfighter," says AGED in a controversial and unpublished briefing paper. “DOD is forced to rely on perceived system integration advantages to maintain superiority.”” <http://www.manufacturingnews.com> [by subscription]

“The Driving Forces Behind The Loss Of Manufacturing Jobs,” Manufacturing News, May 16, 2003 Vol. 10, No. 10. “Despite business cycle ups and downs, the United States has now lost 10 percent of its manufacturing jobs during the past decade, the worst decade-long decline since 1934. Recent job losses have all come in the past five years, when 14 percent of manufacturing jobs have been lost following only tepid job growth even during the bubble economy of the late 1990s. With 16.25 million jobs in May, the manufacturing sector now has fewer employees than at any time since 1961 when the U.S. population was 100 million smaller.” <http://www.manufacturingnews.com> [by subscription]

SECURITY

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz Remarks as delivered to the National Defense University Conference on Counterproliferation, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, DC, Tuesday, May 13, 2003. Wolfowitz said the Defense Department's new strategy to end the counterproliferation of WMDs will be more proactive, like U.S. counterterrorism efforts currently in place. "Our approach calls for earlier and more aggressive efforts to prevent and neutralize threats before they materialize, recognizing that it will no longer do to simply wait until after the fact to retaliate," he said. Weapons of mass destruction in the wrong hands is the "greatest security risk of this decade." <http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/2003/sp20030513-depsecdef0203.html>

“Wolfowitz’s War’: Not Over Yet,” David Ignatius, Op-Ed, 5/13/03, A19. “If this has been Wolfowitz’s war in terms of its strategic goals, then it’s clearly far from over. To judge by his comments, the Pentagon’s leading planner isn’t thinking about future conflicts against adversaries such as Syria and Iran but about making sure that America has truly won this war in Iraq.”

“Rumsfeld is right on the money,” Michael O'Hanlon, Op Ed, Washington Times 5/16/03. “After a winter in which he distinguished himself, perhaps more on the battlefield than in the world's diplomatic halls, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has just uttered a very constructive and convincing political statement: North Korea

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needs a market economy, not only to solve our security problems, but to improve the lot of its own people. Now, the Bush administration needs a strategy for accomplishing this objective.”

<http://www.washtimes.com/op-ed/20030516-11854068.htm>

SOUTH ASIA

“Armitage Visit Chills U.S.-Indian Relations,” Stratfor 5/13/03. “During his recent tour of South Asia, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage signaled that the United States is strengthening its bonds with Islamabad -- a key ally in the war against al Qaeda--rather than with New Delhi. As a result, India likely will seek to forge new alliances and reinforce old ones with countries like China, Russia and France.”

<http://www.stratfor.biz/Story.neo?storyId=217256>

“American Official Praises India’s Move to Defuse Tensions with Pakistan,” NYT5/11/03, p4. Dep. Sec. of State visits India on last leg of three-day trip. See: Press Availability 5/10, <http://www.state.gov/s/d/rm/20492.htm>.

“Vajpayee Warned on Kashmir Concessions,” FT5/12/03, p4. The Rastriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the ruling-BJP party’s parent organization, releases a statement critical of offers of compromise over Kashmir by India. See:

http://www.rss.org/New_RSS/News/NewsDetail.jsp

SOUTH KOREA

“U.S. Shares His Stance On N. Korea, Roh Says,” WP5/14/03, A25. South Korean President Roh gives speech at US Chamber of Commerce on 5/13, where he said, “I have confidence that it will be resolved peacefully. President Bush has also emphasize many times publicly that the nuclear issue will be solved peacefully through diplomatic means.” See:

http://www.president.go.kr/warp/app/en_for_your_info/view?group_id=en_archive&meta_id=for_your_info&id=3156d5ed3567549a6d6bb005&list_op=YTo3OntpOjA7czo1OiJsc3RvcCI7aToxO3M6MTI6ImFyY2hpdmVfbGlzdCI7aToyO2E6Mjp7czo3OiJzcmNoY2F0IjtzOjA6IiI7czo3OiJzcmNoY29uIjtzOjA6IiI7fWk6MztzOjI6ImlkIjtpOjQ7aTowO2k6NTtpOjIwO2k6NjtpOjEwO30%3D.

“Bush Sees ‘Good Progress’ On North Korea,” FT5/15/03, p6. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun visits Washington, DC and meets with Pres. Bush. After meeting, Bush said, “We, of course, discussed the need to have a nuclear weapons-free Korean Peninsula. I assured the President we will continue to work to achieve a peaceful solution. We’re making good progress toward achieving that peaceful resolution of the issue of the Korean Peninsula in regards to North Korea.” See: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/05/20030514-18.html>.

“Seoul seeks Bush accord on diplomacy,” Washington Times, 5/12/03, p1. “President Roh Moo-hyun will urge President Bush to join him this week in a public promise to resolve growing tensions with North Korea by peaceful means, exempting the communist nation from the U.S. policy of “pre-empting” regimes that pursue weapons of mass destruction. “The mere thought of a military conflict with North Korea is a calamity for us,” Mr. Roh told The Washington Times in an interview.” <http://www.washingtontimes.com/world/20030512-60441550.htm>

“South Korean Leader Wants US Troops To Stay, For Now,” NYT5/13/03, A18. NYT Interview with Pres. Roh Moo-hyun.

“Leaving South Korea,” Editorial, WSJ5/14/03, A14. “Perhaps the US President will be able to persuade Mr. Roh to come around at their meetings today. But if he can’t, a sharper message to the Korean people is in order. America’s ‘trip-wire’ days in Asia are numbered.”

“Money Sent to N. Korea as Part of “Checkbook Diplomacy” Amounts to \$500 Million,” Donga Online, 5/13/03. “Independent Counsel Song Doo-hwan, who has been investigating the checkbook diplomacy scandal of former President Kim Dae Jung, announced yesterday that the money wired to North Korea amounted to \$500 million.”

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“Government Deal Ends South Korean Truck Strike,” FT5/16/03, p6. Pusan truck drivers strike blocked \$450 million of exports before their labor union agreed to concessions offered by the government, including fuel subsidies, tax cuts and lower highway tolls for truck drivers.

“Korea Distiller Is Ordered Into Bankruptcy,” NYT5/15/03, W1. Goldman Sachs, which holds \$449million in Jinro’s debt, won a court settlement to force Jinro into bankruptcy and replace the company’s management. See: Jinro, <http://www.jinro.co.kr/>.

“Restless Koreans, Stifled at Home, Head Overseas; Fulfillment Counts More than Money,” NYT5/16/03, A13. “Now, South Korea’s economic takeoff and democratization, which began in the 1980’s, have created widespread opportunity and hope. Fewer people are seeking their fortunes abroad – and those who do increasingly tend to be among the most successful, those who find that even the newly affluent and open South Korea cannot match their ambitions.”

STEEL

“Legal Moves Counter Steel Tariffs,” FT5/12/03, p4. Law firm Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw finds that a record 417 anti-dumping and safeguards occurred in 2002, up from 401 in 2001. The number of investigations rose to 132 in 2002 from 53 in 2001. See: <http://www.mayerbrown.com>; contact: cstevenson@mayerbrownrowe.com.

“Countries Close to Accord on Steel Subsidies,” FT5/16/03, p6. OECD talks have made progress, and officials expect to conclude an agreement in principle by July on reducing government subsidies and surplus capacity.

TAIWAN

5/14 - Bill passed by Senate and waiting action by the White House: “Concerning participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization. (Enrolled as Agreed to or Passed by Both House and Senate)” S.243, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c108:5:./temp/~c108dZ6nVn::>

“SARS; Epidemic Worsens In Taiwan; Home Quarantines Are Often Violated,” WP5/15/03, A16.

“Medical Experts In Taiwan Expecting Disease To Return Periodically,” FT5/16/03, p6. Deng Jou-fang, President of Taiwan International Medical Alliance, said, “SARS is here to stay.”

“WHO Steps Up Taiwan Presence,” FT5/10-11/03, p4. As SARS spreads in Taiwan, WHO to send a larger team to the island beyond the 2 officials already in country.

“Taiwan and WHO: Time to Move On,” by Alan Romberg (Stimson Center) PacNet Newsletter, CSIS, #17C May 16, 2003. “Treating Taiwan appropriately in this crisis should have been possible, but in reality it has proven extremely difficult. Thus the SARS issue has underscored the unreasonableness of the PRC’s rigid position on Taiwan’s international role, the counter-productiveness of Taipei’s penchant for pushing the political envelope when real interests of its people are at stake, and the utility of the U.S. and others urging each side to serve their people, which both claim is their first priority.” <http://www.csis.org/pacfor/pac0317c.htm>

“Here’s How a Tiny Virus Can Help Improve Cross-Strait Ties,” By Alastair Iain Johnston (Harvard), Straits Times, May 17, 2003. “Beijing now sees Taiwan’s participation in the WHO as a zero-sum issue. But with a little creative thinking, the standoff could be changed into a win-win outcome.” <http://taiwansecurity.org/ST/2003/ST-051703.htm>

U.S ECONOMY

“U.S. Trade Deficit Surges in March as Oil Imports Hit Record (No help yet from declining exchange value of U.S. dollar)” US State Dept, 5/13/03. “The U.S. trade deficit jumped in March to its second highest level on record as the value of crude oil imports reached a record, the U.S. Department of Commerce reports. In a May 13 press

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release, the department said the March deficit amounted to a seasonally adjusted \$43,456 million, up from a revised \$40,372 million in February. March's deficit comprised a goods deficit of \$47,109 million and a services surplus of \$3,653 million. Large bilateral deficits were reported in March with China, \$7,670 million; Japan, \$5,831 million; Canada, \$5,205 million, the highest level since January 2001; Mexico, a record \$3,924 million; Germany, \$3,375 million; Italy, \$1,428 million, and Taiwan, \$1,152 million.” <http://lists.state.gov/SCRIPTS/WA-USIAINFO.EXE?A2=ind0305b&L=WF-EASIA&P=R13942>

Census Bureau Report and Statistics: <http://www.economicindicators.gov/>

“Factory And Price Data Sag; But Lesser Indicators Are More Promising,” WP5/16/03, E1. Federal Reserve reports that factories are using only 72.5% of capacity, 5% less than at the bottom of the 1990-1 recession; factory production dropped by 0.6%. Labor Department says producer prices fell 1.9%. See: Industrial Production and Capacity Utilization, <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/g17/current/default.htm>; Producer Price Index, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ppi.toc.htm>.

“Weak Data Drive Deflation Fears; Decline In Retail Sales And Import Prices Add To Concern Over The Economy And Raise Prospects Of An Interest Rate Cut,” FT5/15/03, p1. US Retail sales dropped 0.1%; Import prices dipped 2.7%. See: Import/Export Prices, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ximpim.nr0.htm>; Retail Sales, <http://www.census.gov/svsd/www/fullpub.html>.

5) WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

Research Institute of Strategic Studies (RISS) Tehran, Iran.

Self-description: "This Institute [est. in 1376(1997) - ed.] is a scholar center with a strategic and national security view which research in order to: growing and developing political and security studies literature in theoretical and Executive levels, representing efficient strategies to managers and administrators based on theoretical and scientific approaches, to optimizing decisional process and identifying and Communication with domestic and Foreign relevant centers and researchers in this field. Institute studies in politics, economics, sociology, management, law, communications, international relations and security studies methodology. The institute has three scholarly groups: Iranian studies, regional and international studies, and methodology and basic studies. [...] Geographic Focus: Iran, Middle Asia and Middle East and International Community. Staff: In sum: 37; Researchers: 10 (in addition to 50 non-resident researchers and translator); Logistic scientific Staff: 7; Executive Staff: 20; [...] Library: The Institute has an expert Library with 5500 volumes of which 4000 in Persian and 1500 in English, Also, it is subscriber of 50 general and professional magazines."

URL <http://www.risstudies.org/index-e.asp>

6) KEY & QUICK NEWS LINKS

*****Many are by subscription*****

*Asahi Shimbun (AS): <http://www.asahi.com>

*BBC Online: <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

*Economist (EC): <http://www.economist.com>

*Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER): <http://www.feer.com>

*Financial Times (FT): <http://www.FT.com>

*Inside U.S. Trade (IUST): <http://www.insidetrade.com>

*Japan Digest (JD): <http://www.japandigest.com>

*New York Times (NYT): <http://www.nytimes.com>

*Nikkei (NK): <http://www.nni.nikkei.co.jp>

*Oriental Economist (OE): <http://www.orientaleconomist.com>

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*Wall Street Journal (WSJ): <http://www.wsj.com>

*Washington Post (WP): <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

*Yomiuri On-line (YM): <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/index-e.htm>

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