

# Bush heads for Tokyo to negotiate fairer trade

**WORLD** SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Bush, heading for a trade showdown in Tokyo, said Monday that political foes were trying to trip him up with unrealistic expectations. Automakers back home reported big sales declines, underlining a major sore point Bush is sure to address in Japan.

With pressure building in both Tokyo and Washington, there were fresh signs that Japan was readying trade concessions to try to make Bush's trip a success. He has billed his visit as a bid to find jobs for Americans by tearing down Japanese trade barriers.

Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday that his country must be a "friend in need" to an economically struggling United States and that he would do everything he could to help U.S. automakers improve their sales in Japan.

In Detroit, the Big Three automakers were confirming their worst sales year since 1983. Ford Motor Co. said its 1991 Ford dropped 13.6 percent from the year before and Chrysler Corp. reported a 14.7 percent drop. General Motors Corp., the world's largest automaker, was still to report its figures.

Autos account for about three-fourths of the \$41 billion trade gap between Japan and the United States.

Bush left Seoul for Kyoto, Japan early today on the final leg of his four-nation Pacific tour.

In South Korea, the administration revealed it had privately approached North Korea about holding talks within a week or two on the issue of Pyongyang's nuclear-weapons potential.

North Korea replied that it was interested but wanted a de-

lay, officials said. Bush joined South Korean President Roh Tae-woo in offering to cancel an annual joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise — which North Korea views as an act of aggression — in exchange for Pyongyang's willingness to follow through on a commitment to Seoul to permit nuclear inspectors.

Bush told South Korean lawmakers that North Korea's "pursuit of nuclear arms stands as the single greatest source of danger to peace in all of North-east Asia."

The emphasis on security issues overshadowed disputes with South Korea on economic barriers. However, the trade issue will take center stage when Bush arrives in Tokyo on Tuesday, the last stop on a 26,000-mile tour through Australia and Asia.

A group of 18 business leaders — including chiefs of the Big Three automakers — will be part of Bush's delegation, helping him try to pry open Japanese markets.

In addition, Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady flew to Tokyo on Monday to join Bush in his trade talks with the Japanese. Brady decided to make the trip over the weekend, according to Deputy Secretary Claire Buchan, who said she was unaware of any unexpected development that contributed to the decision.

The stakes are high for Bush and Miyazawa.

Both face crucial election tests this year, and each man is suffering sagging popularity ratings. Both sides seem determined to find a formula allowing Bush to declare a victory from his visit.

"I can guarantee you, political opponents — no matter what is achieved — will be saying, 'Hey, you didn't jump quite high enough; you need to

get over the bar. We've just raised it another foot.' But that's politics," the president said.

At every stop on his Asian trip, Bush has hammered Japan for what the administration considers protectionist trade policies. In Australia last week, Bush fairly skipped over issues between those two countries and demanded "fair play" from the government in Tokyo.

"I want to see us get more jobs created in the United States, eventually, by concessions made or by positions taken in Japan," Bush said.

By his methodical rhetorical buildup ahead of the Japan visit, Bush has raised the political stakes. Democrats have pounced on the opening, say-

ing his trip will be a failure unless he comes home with a commitment from Tokyo to eliminate its trade surplus within five years.

In Tokyo, Miyazawa said he would do all he could "to see to it that more American cars can come free of encumbrances."

He also said he is trying to persuade the Japanese auto industry to do more to expand imports of American cars and car parts.

Tokyo has a \$41 billion trade surplus with the United States, and three-quarters of the imbalance comes from Japan's auto industry.

Before his arrival in Japan, Bush said he had "heard very

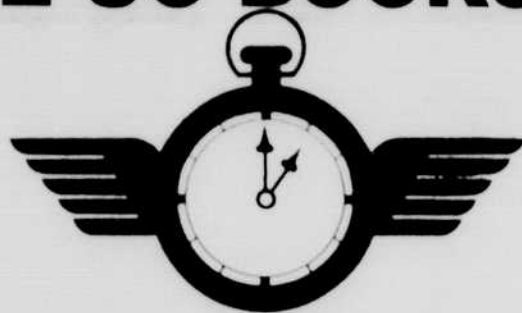
positive statements" from Miyazawa, and he also praised the Japanese for lowering interest rates.

At the end of his visit to Seoul, Bush appeared to hit a dead end in his effort to eliminate trade barriers in South Korea.

While crediting Seoul with great progress, Bush said that "doing business in Korea is still more difficult than it should be for such a proud and successful country."

South Korean President Roh Tae-woo said, "It will be exceedingly difficult to fully open our markets in the immediate future. He said he had asked for America's understanding and cooperation."

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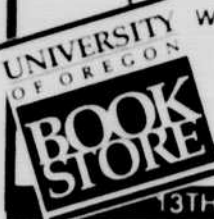
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## Saddam commends army for its courage

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — In a speech clearly aimed at bolstering his military support, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Monday praised the army's bravery in the Gulf War, which ended in a rout and tens of thousands of casualties.

Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, and were driven out by a multinational force seven months later.

Saddam, speaking on the 71st anniversary of the founding of Iraq's armed forces, said, "Iraq's army faced bravely the forces of unbelievers, treason and betrayal."

"Do not our forces deserve, after what happened, their prestige in the eyes of God and the people? Our forces deserve to celebrate their birthday on a national and on a human level," Saddam said. His speech was carried by the Iraqi News Agency, monitored in Cyprus.

Exiled foes of Saddam have been predicting that he will be toppled in a military coup, but little has emerged to back that up.

Although the war cut deeply into Iraq's military machine, it remains a powerful instrument of internal repression against Shiite Muslim and Kurdish rebels.

Saddam has increased military salaries at a time of hardship for much of the Iraqi people. Military privileges remain intact, though Iraq's economic crisis has deepened as U.N. trade sanctions remain in effect.

Saddam billed the war in advance as "the mother of all battles" and he has repeated that description frequently ever since.

"The mother of all battles came to cleanse the Arab knights of double vision after the al-Hussein and al-Abbas (Scud) rockets, in addition to stones, retaliated against Israel in response to its aggression and in answer to the world Zionist plot that hit Baghdad and Arabism," he said Monday.

Saddam has described the Gulf War and the earlier Iran-Iraq war as "Zionist plots."

Dozens of Iraqi Scud missiles rained on Israel during the Gulf War. Under pressure from Washington, the Israelis did not retaliate.

The stones Saddam apparently referred to the rocks hurled by Palestinians at Israeli troops during an uprising that has gone on for more than four years in Israeli-occupied territories.

### Weasel's World



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