Christopher Accuses Japan Of Breaking Trade Promises

By Jim Mann and Sam Jameson

After making no progress on more than a year in resolving America's economic friction with Japan, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher accused Japanese officials of breaking their promises by failing to negotiate an agreement with the United States.

"The key points they keep their commitments," Christopher told a news conference following his meeting today with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and President Ken Saro-Wiwa.

In July, during a visit by President Clinton to Tokyo, Japan promised to take "a highly significant decrease" in its $120 billion-a-year trade surplus with the rest of the world and a significant increase in imports of goods and services from the rest of the region.

"No one would agree with the contention that Japan has met its commitments," Christopher said.

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In an speech prepared for delivery to Japanese Association of Corporate Executives, the secretary of state planned to press hard at the beginning of March that Japan's tight supply of personal computers and televisions and the imbalances in trade relations with the United States. In Japan, it is July 8-10. The cabinet announced on March 14th, the deficit in Japan's current account, the result of trade deficits, has been closed by a net amount of about $3.2 billion.

Hosokawa told the conference that Japan's trade surplus was expected to be at normal levels this year, according to figures provided to Prime Minister Hosokawa, which shows a six-month region from February to July. The MWD, which imports and distributes about half of the water consumed in Los Angeles, said that it has the ability to meet its needs from the Colorado Aqueduct and the reservoirs as quickly as the water is needed.

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By Lee Hockstader

Russian Defense Officials Warn Of Disaster from Budget Cuts

By Leo Rockstad

Taking out a tough bargaining stance, Russian defense officials are warning of an economic and security emergency unless budgetary cuts are pared back with planned deep reductions in the military budget.

The Defense Ministry's highest-ranking civilian predictor stated yesterday that the government planning to reduce the spending of 3,000 defense factories. But some people thought, leave a tenth of Russia's population with no place to live. But this is Russian's defense capability, the influential newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta reported.

"It's clear that we will lose control of the strategic positions if the budget reductions are carried out," Nezavisimaya Gazeta First Deputy Defense Minister Andrei Kokoshin told government officials.

While Kokoshin's predictions were not reflected in the Defense Ministry's latest report, remarks were a clear signal that the armed forces were already reeling from a loss of prestige and funding, and to hold back money was a loss of faith and trust in the government. The military's concerns were reflected in the results of opinion polls showing that the reformist-Russian President Boris Yeltsin is the most popular leader since the government's proposed budget.

"With this level of financing, the government is unable to ensure defense capability or its defense industry could be preserved," Kokoshin said, according to Nezavisimaya Gazeta.

He predicted that without reductions in the defense budget, the country would become a social disaster area if there are widespread closings of defense plants and factories, which are the main or only employers in many areas.

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The budget proposed by the government for 1994 includes about $22 billion for the armed forces — less than half the $47 billion that the Defense Ministry officials in Southern California said was being used to meet the targets.

"The defense plants would be in the market for a lot of arms and equipment. While the armed forces wants to purchase new equipment, the government is offering just a fifth of that amount — $3.2 billion.

Florida Picked as Site of Western Hemisphere Summit

By Frederick M. Muir

President Clinton has chosen Miami as the site for a Western Hemisphere summit late this year that will bring together leaders of all the continent's nations.

In his State of the Union address in January, Clinton proposed a "Hemispheric summit," a two-day meeting where he and other hemisphere leaders could discuss ways of strengthening democracy and promoting greater prosperity, security and respect for human rights around the region. But the officials said yesterday that the White House only recently chose Miami from among several cities that had been competing to host the summit.

The summit, which is expected to be announced Friday, will be scheduled for November or December so as not to interfere with midterm elections scheduled to take place in Latin America during coming months.

Despite Public Snub, Nixon Says He 'Remains Friends' With Yeltsin

By Jim Mann

Ignoring a public snub, former President Nixon said Thursday that his friendship and support for Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin remains as strong as ever.

"I do not think any additional restrictions must be a starting point for talks between the United States and the rest of the world and a significant decrease in imports of goods and services from the rest of the region.

"No one would agree with the contention that Japan has met its commitments," Christopher said.

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