INSTRUCTIONS: Report must be submitted in duplicate to the Registration Unit, Internal Security Section, Criminal Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530. The original must be signed by or on behalf of the registrant. All items in this form must be answered, unless the answer is "none" or "not applicable," in which case such an entry shall be made in the appropriate space. If additional space is needed for any item, attach supplemental sheet identifying each item.

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May 23, 1995	Hiroyuki Nemoto Director, Public Relations		dente

**April 1995** 

## Mustang, Cherokee Drive into Japan's Annual Hottest Products List

Imported beer, private label products and lower-priced American cars dominated Japan's top-10 hottest products list for 1994, as reported by *Nikkei Trendy*, a consumer-trends magazine.

The thirst for foreign-made suds (#1) and U.S. cars (#5) soared last year in part to the rising yen. But <u>market researchers also point to a dramatic change in the buying habits of Japanese consumers who are now seeking bargains instead of just quality.</u> Winners in this trend? Imported cola, private label mineral water and Ford's Mustang — an import so successful it has been dubbed a "domestic car killer." Chrysler's Cherokee

Mostly imported, private label goods (#2) won the hearts of Japan's shoppers with prices 30-50 percent less than similar national brand-name products.

Big-ticket electronics, the reigning top products since the 1980s, earned spots on this year's list with the help of major price cuts. Prices were halved for trendy car navigation systems (#3) and slashed on wide-screen TVs (#10).

## Retail Revolution Spurs Private Label Imports But Stings Mom-and-Pops

Foreign growers and manufacturers are gaining a direct channel to Japanese store shelves thanks to recession-weary consumers and much stiffer retail competition. The booming discount store market (\$22 billion annual sales) is forcing large retailers to slash prices by buying inexpensive private label products directly from foreign suppliers bypassing and any traditional distribution system.

Supermarket giant Ito-Yokado expects to sell 36 million cans of cola made by Cott Beverage of Georgia, one-year after its introduction. Foreign bottled water, including brands such as Hawaii Water, have stashed the market share of Japanese bottled waters to 35 percent from 80 percent four years ago.

But price pressures are pinching Japan's ubiquitous mom-and-pop stores, which account for 65 percent of all retail stores yet only 18 percent of total sales.

## Internet Surf Captures Japanese Market Information with JETRO Home Page

The information, or *joho*, superhighway just got a new lane with the addition of Japanese economic and import market information on home pages by JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) and MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry) — located via the Internet's World Wide Web.

Advice on exporting to Japan, trade statistics and articles are easily accessed through the JETRO Home Page (http://www.jetro.go.jp), as is information on procurement by the Japanese government. Or access the MITI Home Page at http://www.miti.go.jp.

For more information, contact JETRO-Houston at 713/759-9595, or contact Mark Klein at Fogarty Klein & Partners, 713/867-3207.