

BUSINESS

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STAN HONDA AFP/Getty Images
STACKED PARKING: Scion cars from Toyota on display this month at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

Toyota eyes U.S. buildup

The carmaker wants to add N. American plants to avoid a backlash against imports.

By JOHN O'DELL

plans had said the automaker wanted to build as many as five new North American assembly plants by 2016, including the facility in the South.

Toyota executives would not comment on the report or discuss expansion.

Not made in Japan

Annual number of vehicles built by Toyota in North America (In millions)

2.0 2006:

total to 13 and could represent an investment of about \$5 billion and the addition of 10,000 jobs, according to the Bloomberg report.

"It's an aggressive plan but conceivable if they really want to do it," said Jim Hossack, sen-

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