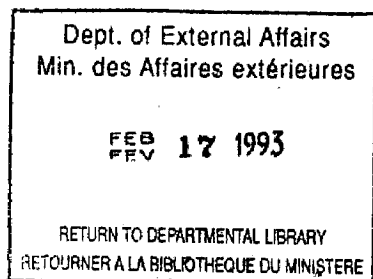


BULLETIN

NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region



JAPAN

- According to a quick report released Friday, the 5th, by the Finance Ministry, the nation's current account surplus in 1992 hit a record high of \$117.62 billions, up 61.3% from the previous year. The 1992 trade surplus also increased by 28.7% to total a record \$132.63 billions.

- It became official, Monday the 8th, that Finance Minister Hayashi will hold a meeting with his U.S. counterpart Bentsen, on the 13th, in Washington.

- Dimanche, le 7, un tremblement de terre d'une magnitude de 6.6 sur l'échelle de Richter a secoué le district de Hokuriku, sur la côte de la Mer du Japon, faisant 20 blessés.

- D'après un rapport de l'agence foncière nationale, le prix des terrains dans les districts commerciaux et résidentiels de toutes les grandes régions urbaines a continué de baisser durant le dernier trimestre de 1992. La baisse a été particulièrement importante à Tokyo, Osaka et Nagoya, où les prix sont tombés de 10%.

- Foreign Minister Watanabe, who will visit Washington 11-14 February, is expected to put forth a proposal for the establishment of a forum to conduct bilateral discussions of environmental problems and energy issues.

HONG KONG

- Le produit national brut a augmenté de 5.2% en termes réels durant le troisième trimestre de 1992 et les politiques fiscales introduites par le Secrétaire aux Finances semblent avoir contribué

à stabiliser l'inflation, bien que la monnaie soit liée au dollar américain.

- Hong-Kong's huge \$30 billion deficit in commodity trade last year had been more than offset by the surplus in the service trade. The Director-general of trade, Donald Tsang, said the service industry was estimated to have brought to the territory a net gain of \$40 billion last year.

- The Hong-Kong government is in line for another cash windfall with land revenue likely to greatly exceed its original estimate of \$14.1 billion. The booming property market in 1991 resulted in a record windfall of more than \$20 billion in land income during the last financial year, and the government expects the trend to continue.

- Legislators have already approved about \$4.1 billion in funds for the airport railway - \$400 million more than the government's intended equity injection.

CHINA/CHINE

- Les médias ont fait grand état d'un rapport du Ministère du commerce et des Relations économiques extérieures affirmant qu'en 1992 la Chine est devenue la 11ème nation commerçante au monde. Le volume record de E.U. \$165.3 milliard du commerce international de la Chine en 1992 a surpassé celui de ses rivaux régionaux tels que Taiwan, la Corée du Sud et Singapour.