

**BULLETIN**

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**NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD**

**JAPAN/JAPON**

- Afin de maintenir l'unité du parti, les dirigeants du Parti libéral démocrate (PLD) ont décidé de répartir les trois principaux postes de l'exécutif parmi les factions dominantes. M. Ichiro Ozawa demeure secrétaire général, l'ancien ministre de l'Éducation, M. Takeo Nishioka sera nommé président du conseil exécutif du parti et M. Mutsuki Kato, qui fut ministre de l'Agriculture, deviendra président du conseil de recherche sur les affaires politiques.

- Japan posted an unadjusted trade surplus in the first 10 days of February of \$US 2.15 billion, up from the \$US 1.98 billion a year ago. Exports for the 10-day period decreased 2.7% from \$US 8.11 billion a year ago, to \$US 7.89 billion. Imports also declined 6.4% to \$US 5.75 billion from \$US 6.14 billion during the same period a year ago. In January, Japan posted a trade surplus of \$US 342 million, sharply below the \$US 3.25 billion surplus for the period a year before.

- Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp. (NTT) will spend ¥57 billion on purchases of foreign-made hi-tech equipment.

- The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Assoc. reported that motor vehicle production fell 10.3% in January 1990, to 903,273 units.

- A group from the Soviet Union will arrive in Japan to study Japan's free market mechanisms and its labour management relations.

- Kyocera Corp. of Japan may commercialise its version of the solar car within the next five years.

- East Germany intends to import steel and manufacturing equipment worth 3.6 billion West German marks.

- Fearing another increase in interest rates, the Tokyo stock market plunged 1169 points this week, the greatest single day loss since the 1203 point loss on October 23, 1987 (Black Monday).

**CHINA/CHINE**

- The China International Trust and Investment Corp. (CITIC) is expanding its Canadian interests by acquiring a one-third stake in a C\$40 million Alberta sawmill project.

- The National People's Congress will convene on March 20th, and besides discussing 1989-1990 economic plans, the legislative body will also approve the draft HongKong Basic Law and amendments to the Joint Venture Law.

- President Bush's decision to order the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corp. (CATIC) to divest itself of a US aircraft parts company has met with a restrained response from the Chinese. A CATIC statement said that the decision would undoubtedly cause a negative impact on future Sino-US aviation industry cooperation.

- China's imports in January fell 12.6% from a year ago to \$US 2.56 billion, leaving a trade surplus of \$US 280 million for the month. Exports were up 1% to \$US 2.84 billion.

**TAIWAN**

- The Central Bank of China (CBC) has decided to issue commemorative gold coins. As the quality of the government-owned gold in stock does not meet the standards for minting such coins, the bank will have to purchase more gold from foreign countries.

- The Cooperative Bank of Taiwan predicts that rents for large, well-located offices will rise quickly this year due to robust and expanding business activity.

- Taiwan will begin phasing out its drift-net fishing fleet and will ban all drift-net operations by 1992. Operations in the South Pacific will cease as of July 1991.