

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN/JAPON

- MITI figures show that Japan's seasonally adjusted industrial output fell 0.8% in January.

- C'est au tour du quotidien Nihon Keizai de faire paraître les résultats d'un sondage sur la popularité du PM Miyazawa; avec 22% seulement d'opinions favorables, le premier ministre perd 37% sur le sondage effectué en décembre 91.

- En l'an 2010, la proportion des personnes de plus 65 ans dans la population japonaise aura doublé en passant à 23%. Le ministre de la santé soutient que le gouvernement n'aura pas les moyens de faire face seul à ce problème et que l'aide du secteur privé et le bénévolat seront indispensables.

- MITI Vice Minister Hatakeyama has warned ASEAN not to unilaterally decide to tax shipping in the vital Malacca Strait.

CHINA/CHINE

- Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin will pay an official visit to Japan April 6 through 10.

- According to the Government Work Report submitted to the Seventh National People's Council by Li Peng, the Chinese economy grew impressively in 1991. GNP increased by 7%, with agricultural output growing by 3% and industrial output value by 14%. Investments in fixed assets increased by 18.6%. Total volume of imports and exports increased by 17.5%, while retail prices rose by 2.9%. Projected for next year is growth in GNP of 6% and in retail sales of 12.3%.

- Chinese media widely and favourably reported the visit on March 16 and 17 of Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev.

- China is raising prices of rice, wheat and corn by about 30%, the second such increase in a year.

- The draft 1992 budget predicts a \$3.8 billion deficit this year while boosting defence spending 12%.

- Cette semaine fut l'occasion d'une campagne de propagande de grande envergure visant la protection et la promotion des droits des consommateurs.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The South Korean government is going to limit new investments in certain areas to avoid oversupply problems. No new investments will be permitted in naphtha cracking plants until 1995 to prevent oversupply of ethylene. Investment in synthetic rubber plants will only be permitted after 1993 because a shortage will not be felt until 1995.

- Determined to limit wage hikes to 5%, the government has released a list of 1,434 companies which it has placed under "wage surveillance".

- Tariffs will be raised by up to 100% on 14 farm and marine products, including carrots, soybean malt, certain live fish, and wood for toothpicks. Though no Canadian products are yet affected, farmers are demanding additional protections still.