



BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

- During the visit to Japan of US President George Bush Jan. 7-10, Prime Minister Miyazawa is expected to make no concessions on rice imports. With automobiles the likely central issue of the visit, however, Miyazawa has hinted that auto concessions may be in the offing. He urged Japanese auto makers to import more from the U.S., and to limit their exports to the US voluntarily, even though the official quota of 2.3 million cars has not been filled for several years.

- According to the Finance Ministry, Japan's current account surplus in November increased to \$7.25 billion, bringing the accumulated total of the first 8 months of the 1991 financial year to \$52.3 billion, 2.65 times the total for the same period the previous year. The current account surplus with the EC increased eightfold to \$11.8 billion, while the surplus with the US increased 3.3% to \$19.8 billion.

- Le Ministère des Finances a décidé en principe de réattribuer Y10 milliards au budget de l'Agence de la Défense. Cette augmentation de 3,7% pour l'année fiscale 1992 représente la plus petite augmentation depuis 1960. Le Ministère des Finances a aussi annoncé qu'il augmenterait de 5% à 7% le budget de l'aide au développement international, afin de permettre au Japon de remplir sa promesse de fournir \$50 milliards en aide au développement sur la période 1987-92.

CHINA/CHINE

- The People's Daily announced on Dec. 30 that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's parliament, had approved China's entry into the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The treaty must still be

formally ratified by the annual NPC plenary in March-April.

- The Standing Committee of the NPC has held further discussions on the Three Gorges project. Although they agreed on the necessity of building the dam, Committee members "voiced their opinions" on sand accumulation, migration, finances and environmental balance.

- China recognized the Russian federation on 27 Dec. and will accredit its ambassador in Moscow to Russia. At the same time, China recognized the independence of eleven other republics of the former Soviet Union and announced its intention to enter into negotiations with them with the objective of establishing diplomatic relations.

- Les travaux de construction de la nouvelle aérogare de Hongqiao à Shanghai - un des trois grands aéroports internationaux de Chine - viennent d'être achevés. L'aéroport de Hongqiao peut maintenant recevoir 7 millions de voyageurs par an, 3 millions de plus qu'auparavant.

- Xinhua a annoncé le 24 décembre que, suite à la demande du Prince Sihanouk, le Ministre chinois des Affaires étrangères, Qian Qichen, a reporté sa visite à Phnom Penh, prévue pour le 27 décembre.

- In a further move to bolster public confidence in the Party, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has issued a directive requiring security forces to crack down on members who abuse their powers, harass people, and use torture to extract confessions. Shaanxi province, which was tasked with leading the campaign, has dismissed nearly one