

BULLETIN

Dept. of External Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères

VOL VI NO 20

SEP 23 1993

le 14 mai, 1993

NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

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JAPAN

- Russian sources in Tokyo said on the 12th that President Yeltsin may hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Miyazawa on the margins of the July Tokyo Summit. While official negotiations would not be held on the Northern Territories dispute, there were conflicting reports about whether it would be on the agenda.

- According to a report released on the 6th by the Finance Ministry, Japan's trade surplus in 1992 amounted to a record high of 126.76 billion dollars, up 39.7% from the previous year.

- Prime Minister Miyazawa stressed at the Lower House's plenary session on the 11th that Japan does not intend to terminate its peacekeeping operations in Cambodia and withdraw its mission. Foreign Minister Muto added that the Government will not withdraw the mission even after the election.

- Le 11, six membres des forces d'auto-défense japonaises ont quitté Tokyo pour participer aux opérations onusiennes de maintien de la paix au Mozambique. Les autres membres de l'unité japonaise de l'ONUMOZ (53 au total) les rejoindront le 17 mai.

HONG KONG

- Le Gouverneur Patten est rentré à Hong Kong le 9 mai, satisfait d'avoir pu bien livrer son message à Washington à propos des préoccupations commerciales de Hong Kong mais pessimiste sur les chances que la Chine puisse échapper à un renouvellement conditionnel de son statut de Nation-la-plus-favorisée. Il a affirmé que l'échéance du 3 juin

serait cruciale pour le futur des relations sino-américaines.

- China and Britain struck their first deal for months on May 11 by agreeing to release 127.8 hectares of Hong Kong land for development in the current financial year. They failed to agree, however, to make land available for the controversial container terminal 9 project, which was resubmitted after approval given in last year's land disposal programme lapsed.

- Follow-through buying on a wave of optimism over the future of Sino-British relations blasted the Hang Seng index past the 7,000-point barrier on May 12, sending Hong Kong's brokers into a spin as property stocks made record gains.

- Hong Kong's gross domestic product grew an average 5% over 1992.

CHINA/CHINE

- The official media gave low-key coverage to a May 4 mortar attack on a Chinese engineering unit serving with the UN Peacekeeping mission in Cambodia. No casualties were reported. All the Cambodian factions except the Khmer Rouge met again in Beijing, on May 6, to seek a total cease-fire prior to the May 23 elections.

- According to a survey published in the official media, 63% of Chinese workers approve of further market-based economic reforms. 77% thought success of the reforms would depend on development of political democracy, which in turn they thought would