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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

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based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN/JAPON

- A second assembly line is planned for the Toyota factory in Ontario, involving a \$200 million investment. This will double output to 100,000 Corollas a year by 1996, anticipating increased demand under NAFTA.

- L'Asahi s'intéresse aux prévisions économiques pour 1992 qu'ont fait paraître les instituts de recherches économiques privés. A l'exception de l'Association des Etudes économiques nationales qui prévoit une croissance de 4%, les autres instituts prévoient des taux de 2,6% à 3,5%.

- Selon les statistiques provisoires pour le mois de novembre, les exportations ont augmenté de 5,1% en comparaison avec novembre 1990. C'est la 18^{ie} augmentation mensuelle successive. Les importations ont baissé de 12,7%, entraînées par une chute de 40% du prix du pétrole. Sur les 8 premiers mois de 1991, l'excédent commercial a déjà atteint \$53,7 milliards, soit à peu près le total de 1990. Le total pour 1991 atteindra probablement \$100 milliards.

- The LDP is considering introducing an "international contribution tax" in view of the likely failure of the bill which would allow Japanese troops to participate in international peacekeeping operations. Given the failure of the bill in this session of the Diet, the opposition is expected to delay it long enough to make it an issue in elections next July. The LDP is also considering the creation of an environment tax to curb carbon dioxide emissions.

CHINA/CHINE

- Chinese Premier Li Peng is visiting India Dec. 11-16, the first such visit since Zhou Enlai

visited in 1960. This reciprocates the late Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China in 1988. Li Peng called for greater cooperation among the two most populous nations in the world to contribute to a new world order, in view of developments in the Soviet Union and their impact on regional and world security.

- Chinese media have given low-key coverage to the declaration of the Slavic commonwealth by the presidents of Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine: it was mentioned briefly in the English-language China Daily, but not in the Chinese-language People's Daily. Similarly, coverage of President Gorbachev's attempt to preserve the union have hardly been mentioned.

- La Chine a réagi très négativement à la rencontre entre le Dalai Lama et le premier ministre britannique John Major. Le porte-parole du gouvernement chinois a qualifié "d'intervention brutale dans la souveraineté de la Chine" toute rencontre, sous quelque forme que ce soit, de n'importe quel chef d'état et de gouvernement avec le Dalai Lama.

- A report by the State Environmental Protection Bureau stated that China will rely on advanced technology to improve the environment in the 1990s. The Bureau has proposed wide adoption of modern recycling, afforestation and coal-burning technologies.

KOREA/CORÉE

- In a historic development in Seoul on Dec. 13, during their 5th round of talks, the prime ministers of North and South Korea signed an agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression Exchanges and Cooperation.