

- Lors de la récente visite du Ministre de l'économie allemand, la Chine a signé des contrats d'achats d'une valeur de US\$ 1.2 milliard, incluant 12 avions airbus.

- The "Canadian Industrial Consortium", which provides technology and services to the Chinese pulp and paper industry, recently opened a Beijing office. It is the first Canadian manufacturing group to open an office in Beijing.

- Comments by the Governor of Fujian, made on the margins of the NPC, that his province would pioneer direct air links with Taiwan were prominently reported.

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- A Taiwan Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) delegation in Beijing, 25-28 March, reached an agreement with their PRC counterparts on document verification and compensation for lost registered mail. Cheyne Chiu, Secretary General of the SEF will go to Beijing in early April to ratify the agreement and for further preparation for the talks scheduled later in April, in Singapore, between SEF Chairman Koo Chen-Foo and Wang Daohan, Chairman of the mainland's Association for Relations across the Taiwan Strait.

- Taiwan Media continue to highlight Taiwan's growing aspirations to participate in the UN and other international organisations. Foreign Minister Chien stated on March 31 that, within the next 1 or 2 years, Taiwan would try to join various organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund and the International Development and Reconstruction Bank.

KOREA/CORÉE

- Le parti au pouvoir, le DLP, entend mettre fin au "scandale des propriétés" et prendre des mesures punitives contre une quinzaine de députés qui ont amassé des fortunes de façon douteuse. Déjà, certains députés ont démissionné. La décision de forcer les officiels à dévoiler leurs avoirs est fortement appuyée par le public mais suscite de fortes réticences dans

l'armée, au sein de laquelle plusieurs figures importantes sont visées.

- President Kim Young-Sam said that his government cannot remain still in the face of North Korea's nuclear development. A spokesman said that the President's statement should not be taken to mean that South Korea will go nuclear itself. One newspaper editorial also writes that FM Han has indicated that unless Pyongyang complies with the strong international call, there would be no alternative but to refer the issue to the Security Council.

- The Korean economy grew by 4.7% last year, the lowest rate in 12 years.

- Dans un changement dramatique de politique, le gouvernement a indiqué qu'il allait ouvrir des canaux de dialogue avec des organisations syndicales dissidentes.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR 1993

- Exhibition "Selected Treasures of Canadian craft" (Taipei); February 13-March 21

- Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting (Manila); May 4-6

- CONSUMER CHINA 93 (Guangzhou); June 8-13,

- World Economic Forum: Europe/East Asia Conference (Hong Kong); October 13-15

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