



BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN

- The 26th, the Government formally decided to send some 50 GSDF personnel to engage in UN peacekeeping operations in Mozambique.

- Foreign Minister Watanabe said during an Upper House Foreign Affairs Committee session, on Monday the 29th, that the Government will not link the issues to be covered in the July G-7 Summit to Japan-Russia bilateral issues. He also said that the Northern Territories will not be an agenda item at the Summit.

- The Upper House Budget Committee on Friday the 26th voted to summon three company executives before the Diet for questioning about former LDP Vice-President Shin Kanemaru's income tax evasion and former PM Takeshita's alleged role in a scandal involving the sale of a gold folding screen.

HONG KONG

- The second batch of Hong Kong advisers announced by China on March 29 failed to include a single directly-elected legislator, sparking immediate criticism that Beijing would only listen to advice it wanted to hear.

- In a softening tone, Lu Ping, director of the Hong Kong-Macau Affairs office, halted a month-long tirade of criticism of Britain and Governor Patten over the constitutional reform proposals to say that the Sino-British Joint Liaison group should meet and the new airport should be built. He said the only issue was if Britain would consult Beijing over its construction.

- According to the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong companies in Canada have warned Premier Harcourt of British Columbia that tax increases and failures to adequately amend a corporate tax will hamper his effort to drum up investment for Canada during a visit to Hong Kong.

CHINA/CHINE

- The 26 March meeting in Beijing between the Right Honourable Joe Clark and Premier Li Peng was prominently reported by all official media. Emphasis was given to Li's pledge to work for the "all-round restoration of relations". Mr Clark had characterised the visit as "a step in our evolving relationship".

- National media have hailed the election of Jiang Zemin as President and the re-election of Li Peng as Premier. They omitted to mention, however, that more than 10% of the delegates either voted against Li or abstained.

- Le Congrès National du Peuple a promulgué des amendements à la constitution, entérinant le principe d'une économie de marché socialiste et diminuant du coup le rôle de l'État dans l'économie. Les amendements alignent la constitution du pays à celle du Parti, à laquelle des changements semblables ont déjà été apportés.

- The establishment of an NPC "Preparatory Committee on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" and Li Peng's remarks calling for a smooth transfer of power in the Territory were prominently reported by all official media.