

Dept. of External Affairs  
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## BULLETIN

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### NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

#### JAPAN

- February 11th, during a meeting with Foreign Minister Watanabe, President Clinton called on Japan to curb its trade surplus with the US. Clinton did not rule out the use of super 301 retaliatory measures where warranted. Prime Minister Miyazawa is expected to visit Washington in March or April.

- Vendredi, le 12, à Washington, le Secrétaire d'État américain, M. Christopher, a pressé le Ministre des Affaires étrangères japonais, M. Watanabe, d'ouvrir le marché japonais du riz et de stimuler l'économie japonaise.

- The 12th, during a meeting with Finance Minister Hayashi, in Washington, U.S. Secretary of Treasury Bentsen called for Japan to consider additional financial measures to boost its economy. They agreed that the exchange level of the currencies should reflect each country's fundamentals, indicating acceptance of the slowly strengthening Yen.

- Foreign Minister Watanabe was hospitalized Monday 15th, ostensibly due to complications from a cold and overwork during his recent trip to Washington. He is expected to stay in hospital for a period of 1 to 2 weeks, though speculation is rife that his illness is more serious.

#### HONG KONG

- Amid hopes that China and Britain may resume talks on the subject, the Executive Council deferred a decision on whether to go ahead with Gazetting the Bill giving effect to Governor Patten's constitutional package. Officials from the two sides are stepping up

efforts to find a way to re-open the talks.

- Dans un marché très actif où la valeur des transactions a plus que doublé par rapport à la moyenne de la semaine dernière, les rumeurs à propos de consultations secrètes entre la Chine et la Grande-Bretagne ont fait grimper l'index Hang Seng au delà de la marque des 6000, et ce pour la première fois depuis que Beijing a attaqué les propositions du Gouverneur Patten.

- La Fédération de sport amateur, la Comité olympique et M. A. de O. Sales, l'homme le plus important dans l'univers sportif de la colonie, ont décidé de soutenir la candidature de Beijing comme ville hôte des Jeux olympiques de 2000.

- A consortium of major Hong Kong, China and Singapore investors, including the influential PRC State Council-Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, has been formed to tap the huge growth potential of Asia and especially China. Based in Hong Kong, New China Hong Kong Group starts with an initial paid-up capital of HK \$400 million.

#### CHINA/CHINE

- The Spanish Prime Minister Filipe Gonzales' visit to Beijing was accorded extraordinary media profile. Prominence was given, however, to Premier Li Peng's remarks to Gonzales calling for the further expansion of China's relations with the West.

- Le "Quotidien du Peuple" a annoncé que, pour la première fois, 80 représentants du "monde des affaires" assisteraient comme