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BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN

- La 126ème session régulière de la Diète s'est ouverte vendredi le 22.
- On Tuesday, the 26th, Prime Minister Miyazawa said before the Diet that obtaining permanent membership on the UN Security Council would not necessarily entail any obligation to participate in UN peacekeeping actions involving the use of military force. Foreign Minister Watanabe, however, disagreed saying it is "common sense" for permanent members of the council to order their overseas troops to participate in peacekeeping activities, even if such activities might involve the use of force.
- The LDP decided Wednesday, the 27th, that it will reactivate the party's research commission on the constitution, to be chaired by former defense agency director general Yukoh Kurihara.

HONG KONG

- As morale among strikers slips, Cathay Pacific is holding out in its bitter dispute with flight attendants union, now in its third week. Legislative Councillors have warned that the airline's insistence on taking disciplinary action could backfire and that Cathay's virtual monopoly of air services in Hong Kong was likely to be reviewed.
- Overseas interest in the local banking sector was the main feature of trading on 27 January, with local investors remaining cautious about the outcome of next month's legislative council vote on the governor's democratic reform package.

- Le taux d'inflation a atteint 9.4% en décembre, permettant au taux annuel pour 1992 de se maintenir légèrement en deçà de l'objectif du gouvernement. Le Secrétaire aux Finances, Hamish MacLeod, s'est réjoui de la bonne nouvelle mais certains économistes pensent que cette performance ne pourra être répétée en 1993 étant donné l'incertitude politique.

CHINA/CHINE

- In what has become an annual tradition, paramount leader Deng Xiaoping made a highly publicized appearance on Chinese New Years Eve in Shanghai. Deng's fulsome endorsement of CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin was emphasized by all media.
- Le discours de la veille du Nouvel an du Premier Ministre Li Peng, abondamment couvert par la presse, a mis l'emphase sur l'engagement de la Chine envers un développement économique accéléré, notamment dans les domaines de l'agriculture, de l'infrastructure et de l'énergie. Li a aussi parlé longuement de Hong Kong, demandant que le gouvernement Patten retire ses propositions de réforme démocratique.
- The China Daily of January 25 reported that France's sale of mirage fighter planes to Taiwan is hindering bilateral economic relations and has "seriously undermined previously good prospects" for French wheat sales and cooperation on the construction of the new Guangzhou subway.
- The English language China Daily of January 27 carried a brief article on changes in