

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- M. Shintaro Abe du PLD a déclaré que les élections générales du 18 février devraient être l'occasion d'accorder l'absolution à tous les gens impliqués dans le scandale Recruit. L'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères est perçu comme un successeur éventuel au PM Kaifu.

- According to a Mainichi Shimbun poll, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will likely win 265 of the 512 lower house seats, down from the 295 seats it presently holds. The Japan Socialist Party may win 137 seats, up from its present 83 seats. The Komeito, Japan Communist Party and the Democratic Socialist Party are all expected to lose seats, securing 51, 20, and 20 seats respectively.

- The Bank of Japan's new Governor Yasushi Mieno met with the US Federal Reserve Board Chairman to discuss monetary policy issues. US officials are concerned about the adverse impact of the dollar's strength on the country's efforts to improve its trade deficit with Japan.

- Japan's global trade surplus plunged 89.5% from a year ago on a customs-clearance basis to US\$342.4 million before adjustment. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the trade surplus was \$US3.98 billion in January, up from the revised \$US3.75 billion in December. Exports fell 3.8% from a year ago to \$US18.62 billion while imports rose 13.4% to an unadjusted \$US18.28 billion.

- Canada's trade deficit with Japan reached C\$126.7 million in November 1989. This compares with a deficit of C\$34.7 million for the same month a year ago. Canadian exports declined 12.1% from a year ago to C\$682.7 million while Japanese imports to Canada decreased 0.2% to C\$809.4 million.

- Le Japon a l'intention de participer plus activement à la lutte anti-droque et annoncera son plan d'action la semaine prochaine lors d'une session spéciale des Nations Unies.

- All eleven Japanese automakers outlined their combined car and parts import plans for FY'92, estimating combined imports valued at ¥1.03 trillion, up 280% from FY'88.

CHINA/CHINE

- The final session for the committee drafting HK's Basic Law began in Beijing and a final version of the law is expected to be submitted to the National People's Congress for approval next month.

- Premier Li Peng stated that the establishment of special economic zones and the further opening of coastal areas form an important part of China's plan to reform and open to the outside world.

- The second round of discussions about troop reduction on the Sino-Soviet border began in Beijing with both sides expressing readiness to further reduce military strength on the border.

- Pour la première fois depuis les incidents de la place Tiananmen, la Banque mondiale a accordé un prêt de \$30 millions à la Chine pour un projet de reconstruction suite à un séisme.

- China rejected a report by the UN Secretary General accusing it of gross violations of human rights and freedoms.

- China has repaid, on time and including interest, all of its foreign debts that came due last year. A senior official stated that China will continue to tighten control over borrowing, using and repaying foreign funds this year.

- According to a Seoul newspaper, talks between China and South Korea are scheduled this month to discuss consular relations.