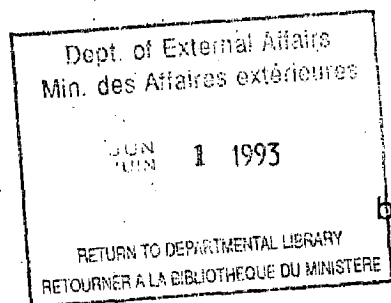


BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region



JAPAN

- Au cours d'une rencontre à Moscou le 18 mai avec l'ancien Premier ministre Nakasone, le Président Eltsine a demandé que le Japon ne lie pas la question d'aide économique à la Russie à celle des Territoires du Nord. Il a ajouté qu'il sera difficile de régler cette dispute rapidement à cause des problèmes internes russes.

- With regard to situation in Cambodia, Foreign Minister Muto and Home Affairs Minister Murata contended on the 18th at a press conference that the government should promptly revise provisions of the Peace Cooperation Law, which currently prohibits Japanese troops from monitoring ceasefires, helping to demobilize warring factions or patrolling buffer zones between combatants.

- During plenary sessions of both houses of the Diet held on the 18th, Finance Minister Hayashi asked for quick approval of a ¥2.188 trillion supplementary budget to bolster the economic recovery. The deliberations in the Lower House begin on the 20th.

- During a visit in Cambodia, Shunichi Yanai, Secretary General of Japan's International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, requested of UNTAC authorities on the 19th that the Japanese civilian police be allowed to withdraw from Cambodia immediately after the elections.

- The government and the LDP agreed on the 17th that the Self Defense Forces troops in

Cambodia can protect the Japanese election monitors and other civilian staff "within the scope of common sense", even using arms if necessary.

HONG KONG

- The Hang Seng Index continued its record-setting ways this week in anticipation of forthcoming Sino-British talks in Beijing. Brokers said investors had ignored problems such as China's Most Favoured Nation trade status with the USA or the possibility that Sino-British differences would not be resolved.

- The Sino-British Joint Liaison Group legal working team will resume meetings on May 20. It will be the first meeting of a JLG-related team since December when a plenary session of the JLG was held. The working group meeting will start a day before Britain and China sit down for the third round of talks in Beijing on Hong Kong's 1994-95 elections.

- According to the South China Morning Post exporters and shipping lines are actively looking for alternative ports to Hong Kong as the delay in providing the territory's badly needed new terminal threatens the territory's position as China's gateway to the world. Faced with soaring costs and growing congestion, exporters have expressed fears that Hong Kong's container business will shift to China.