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JAPAN

- The LDP and opposition parties agreed Thursday to resume the upper house budget committee on the 19th, and to approve the 93 budget draft on the 31st.
- Friday the 19th, PM Miyazawa urged North Korea to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the NPT. He also opposed immediate counter measures such as economic sanctions against Pyongyang.
- The 20th, the Tokyo District Prosecutor's Office, investigating former LDP kingpin Shin Kanemaru, began questioning executives of 20 of the nation's top construction companies on suspicion of their involvement.
- Lundi le 22, le PM Miyazawa a confirmé l'appui du Japon au Président Yeltsin et son soutien aux politiques de réforme de la Russie.

HONG KONG

- Political fears have ceased to rock local stock prices, while a prevailing wind of encouraging corporate results has sent the Hang Seng Index bounding beyond the 6,200-point mark at 6,212.19. Brokers said the rise was triggered by a series of positive elements including the executive council's reservation in tabling the controversial reform policy and statement by the communist party chief that Beijing was keen to maintain the prosperity of Hong Kong after 1997.
- Le nouveau chef exécutif de l'autorité provisoire de l'aéroport, Dr Hank Townsend, a averti que le conflit politique entre la Chine et la Grande Bretagne met en péril la complétion, d'ici 1997,

- de la première phase du nouvel aéroport. Il a souligné la difficulté de planifier dans un contexte où les autorités chinoises et britanniques ne discutent même pas du financement de l'aéroport de Chek Lap Kok.
- Former Chief Secretary Sir David Akers-Jones and co-operative resources centre convenor Allen Lee both said they would accept the offer of a post as a Beijingappointed Hong Kong affairs adviser. An outspoken critic of Patten's political packages, Akers-Jones will be the first expatriate and high ranking ex-civil servant to become an adviser. A delegation of advisers will go to Beijing on 1 April.

CHINA/CHINE

- Shanghai's Liberation Daily has published an opinion piece calling for Hong Kong Governor Patten to resign. Official papers all across China echoed comments of Premier Li Peng and State Council Hong Kong Affairs Office Director, Lu Ping, that Patten had "shut the door for talks on Hong Kong".
- During a March 18 press conference, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, Mr Li Lanqing, denied rumours that the renminbi was about to be drastically devalued. Li also commented that the current Sino-British dispute over Hong Kong would "inevitably affect Sino-UK economic relations and trade".
- Lors d'une conférence de presse, le 20 mars, le Gouverneur du Tibet, Gyantsen Norbu, a soutenu que les journalistes étrangers peuvent se rendre au Tibet, pourvu