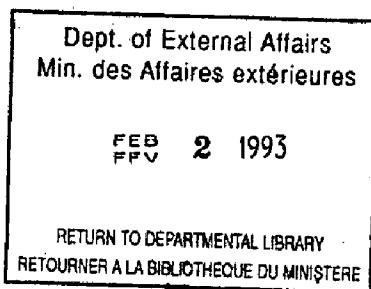


BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region



JAPAN

- Un tremblement de terre d'une magnitude de 7.5 sur l'échelle de Richter a frappé les côtes de Hokkaido vendredi soir, le 15. Deux personnes sont mortes et 425 autres ont été blessées.

- On January 17, Prime Minister Miyazawa called moves within the LDP to create a parliamentary body of all political parties to review the constitution "extremely dangerous" and "unfortunate".

- During a meeting with his Malaysian counterpart, Prime Minister Mahathir, on January 14, Prime Minister Miyazawa indicated Japan's reluctance to promote the proposed EAEC plan, which excludes the USA. Both prime ministers agreed to cooperate in helping Indo-China develop its economy.

- Lundi, le gouvernement a confirmé son appui aux activités militaires américaines en Irak.

- On January 16, in Bangkok, Prime Minister Miyazawa proposed the creation of an international forum to work out strategies for developing Indochina. He also stressed that Japan will be actively involved in promoting dialogue on political and security problems in the Asia Pacific region, as well as in the creation of a new framework for Asia Pacific security.

HONG KONG

- Barrie Wiggham, the Secretary for the Civil Service, will meet Chinese officials and academics in Beijing this week, signalling a possible thawing in Sino-British relations over Governor Patten's

political reforms. Wiggham is the highest ranking government official to visit China after Governor Patten's trip.

- Reviewing the territory's total trade in 1992, Donald Tsang, Director-General of Trade, said the Sino-British row over constitutional reform was unlikely to hurt trade in the short term. Hong Kong's domestic exports last year surged to US\$30 billion while re-exports and imports reached US\$90 billion and US\$120 billion respectively.

- Le terminal de cargo aérien de l'aéroport de Hong-Kong déclare avoir manutentionné à Kai Tak, l'année dernière, 918,518 tonnes de marchandises. Cela constitue un record mondial. Les données pour 1992 représentent une augmentation de 11.9% par rapport à l'année dernière.

- Plans for the next regular meeting between the British and Chinese Foreign Ministers have been put on hold. Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in London that there was no point in holding a meeting if it meant "simply getting out of a plane and doing nothing".

CHINA/CHINE

- The publication of a selection of Deng Xiaoping's speeches made between 1977 and the present on his theory of "socialism with Chinese characteristics" was prominently publicised, culminating in the front-page publication of extensive excerpts in the People's Daily of January 18.