

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - L'ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- The House of Representatives was dissolved and a general election announced for Feb. 18. The election could lead to a drastic change in Japan's political structure in the 1990's. The Liberal Democratic Party stated that the choice in the election will be between liberalism and socialism.

- D'après le quotidien Mainichi, le gouvernement du PM Kaifu aurait le soutien de 33% des électeurs (3% de plus qu'au sondage de novembre), les opinions hostiles demeurant à 28%. La cote du parti libéral démocrate gagne 5 points pour atteindre le niveau enregistré avant le scandale Recruit soit 43%. Le parti socialiste obtient 19% de soutien (1 point de plus qu'en novembre) mais loin des sommets de l'été dernier (25%).

- Japan's unadjusted trade deficit for the first ten days of this month was US\$2.063 billion from the US\$1.23 billion deficit a year ago.

- According to a recent MITI report, prices of almost all imported goods are 60%-70% higher than in the countries of origin.

- Finance Minister Hashimoto said that Japan is expected to become the number two power at the International Monetary Fund when a planned expansion of the IMF's resources are approved.

- Japan launched its first space probe to the moon. If successful, Japan will become the third nation to send a craft to the moon.

- Japan will order up to 10 MD-90s, a new twin-jet aircraft developed by McDonnell Douglas Corp., and a number of Boeing 747-400 jumbo jets.

- The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Assoc. reported that auto production in 1989 exceeded 13 million units for the first time ever.

CHINA/CHINE

- The Chinese Communist Party leadership, following the dissolution of communist regimes in Eastern Europe, has decided on more stringent party control over the government authorities to adhere to the party line. According to the German Press Agency (DPA), the plans provide for the reestablishment of party groups inside the ministries.

- According to the Japanese press, Deng Xiaoping has forecast the downfall of Soviet President Gorbachev, emphasizing perestroika and other "misguided reforms" as the cause of the Soviet leader's troubles.

- La presse japonaise rapporte que la Chine enverra ce printemps une mission au Vietnam afin d'améliorer les relations entre les deux pays.

- Chinese State-Planning Minister Zou Jiahua said China will not alter its reform and open-door policies despite the momentous changes occurring elsewhere in the world.

- The Chinese Communist Party is calling for at least three years' austerity and has outlined tough measures to suppress non-essential industries and social demand.

TAIWAN

- Legislation to protect Taiwanese assets and business deals was introduced in the Australian parliament by a government concerned with minimizing possible damage to relations with Beijing. The Cabinet agreed on measures which would stop future attempts by China to seize Taiwanese assets in Australia.