

- North Korea announced its intention to sign an IAEA full-scope nuclear safeguard agreement before the end of January.

- South Korea has announced the cancellation of its annual "Team Spirit" military exercises with the USA. This move is seen as a confidence-building measure in the context of talks with the North.

- During his visit to South Korea, US President Bush indicated that the US would upgrade relations with North Korea if it signed the IAEA agreement, implemented IAEA inspections and improved its human rights record. He also urged Seoul to remove non-tariff barriers to free trade such as unjustified standards and regulations, cumbersome customs procedures and delays in scheduled reductions of duties and financial restrictions.

- Despite concern over the slow domestic development of alternatives to CFCs, South Korea will sign next month the Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

- Les sociétés coréennes ont reçu 3,03 milliards \$US de contrats pour des projets de construction outremer en 1991, comparé à 6,77 milliards \$ en 1990 (dont 4,6 milliards \$ pour un projet libyen). Les contrats avec des pays de l'Asie du sud-est (62% du total) ont dépassé pour la première fois en 1991 ceux du Moyen-Orient.

- Hyundai founder Chung Ju-yung, 77, resigned his position as honorary chairman of Hyundai in order to form his own political party. He will not personally run for the National Assembly but is gathering together former politicians and business-people to run the party.

HONG KONG

- The announcement on Dec. 31 by the British government that Governor David Wilson will be retiring by the end of 1992 has led to intense speculation about who will be the last British Governor of Hong Kong. No official comment on his likely successor is expected until after

the elections in the United Kingdom this spring, but speculation in the UK and Hong Kong press includes David Owen and Geoffrey Howe, who was Foreign Secretary when the Sino-British declaration on Hong Kong was concluded. LEGCO has planned a debate for Jan. 23 on the qualifications and attributes desirable in a new governor. Canada may be among the first countries the new governor will visit, since a visit to Canada is planned in connection with Festival Hong Kong in October 1992.

CAMBODIA/CAMBODGE

- The highest-ranking Japanese official at the UN, Yasushi Akashi, was appointed U.N. Special Representative for Cambodia on Jan. 9. The appointment of Akashi, formerly Under Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, is generally regarded positively, in the hope that he may be able to lobby effectively for Japanese financial contributions to the UNTAC exercise. UNTAC is the UN's most ambitious peacekeeping mission so far, involving the deployment of 10-20,000 troops to monitor the disarmament of factional armies, supervise elections in 1992, and help manage Cambodia's reconstruction.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR

1992

- Japanese Mission to Toronto Furniture Show - Jan. 12-15
- Quebec Mission to China - Jan. 5-13
- Quebec Mission to Vietnam - Jan. 14-20
- Canada-Japan Forum 2000, Tokyo - Jan. 14-16
- Experience Canada, Seoul - Feb. 10-24

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