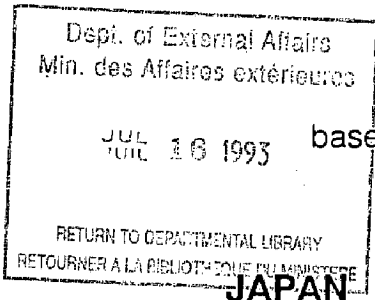


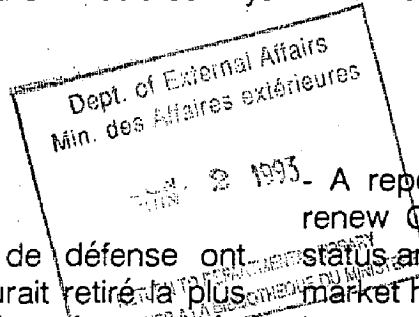
BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region



HONG KONG

- Des sources de l'Agence de défense ont indiqué le 27 que la Russie aurait retiré la plus grande partie des MiGs déployés sur l'île d'Etorofu. Certains y voient un signal envoyé de Moscou avant la venue de M. Eltsine à Tokyo pour le Sommet "7+1".

- The American dollar continued its plunge against the Yen Friday, to a new postwar low of ¥107.38, down ¥0.67 from Thursday, also a record low close. Neither interventions by the Federal Bank in New York nor by the Bank of Japan in Tokyo and Singapore this morning, did much to control the slide, and wire service reports said traders now think it will fall to ¥105. Some analysts fear that, with the current low level of consumer spending, the last remaining source of profit for many Japanese companies would disappear.

- Foreign Minister Kabun Muto told the Lower House's Foreign Affairs Committee on the 26th that the Government has begun consultations with other countries about holding an international conference to support the new Cambodian government after the election.

- PM Miyazawa and LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama agreed on the 25th that the LDP would propose a meeting of all party leaders if opposition parties successfully came up with a unified compromise plan on electoral system reform for the lower house.

A report that US President Clinton could renew China's Most Favoured Nation trade status and the unabated flow of liquidity in the market helped the Hang Seng Index continue its record-setting ways on May 25, with a 91.79 point jump, to 7,368.18.

- In a move that has surprised and delighted British and Hong Kong officials, China has agreed to approve three vital contracts straddling 1997, the Wharf pay television licence, the new scheme of control agreement for the Hong Kong electric company and the franchise for the Northwest New Territories landfill. Beijing also agreed to Hong Kong's second extradition treaty - with Canada - and indicated that approval of two more would follow.

- Inflation fell to a five-year low, for the second month in a row, thanks to the plunging value of the Chinese Yuan keeping food prices at a near standstill compared with last April.

CHINA/CHINE

- Extensive media coverage was given in the Chinese media to Vice-Premier Zhu Rongji's visit to Canada, including his meeting with Trade Minister Michael Wilson and his speech on China's economic climate to the Goodman Forum. Wilson's comment that Canada would continue to accord China MFN status was prominently reported.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 26 May, issued a statement condemning as "sheer