

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN/JAPON

- During Prime Minister Miyazawa's visit to South Korea, he was asked by President Roh Tae-woo to help arrange a meeting between Mr. Roh and his North Korean counterpart Kim Il-Sung. Roh also asked for help in reducing South Korea's chronic trade deficit with Japan, which was \$8.8 billion last year.

- La visite en Chine du président du parti socialiste japonais Makoto Tanabe a été suivie avec beaucoup d'attention par la presse japonaise et chinoise. Selon le quotidien *Asahi*, le premier ministre chinois Li Peng a promis à M. Tanabe d'aider à la fois le rapprochement entre les deux régimes de la péninsule coréenne et la normalisation entre Tokyo et Pyongyang, en notant cependant que le meilleur moyen d'encourager l'insertion de la Corée du nord dans la communauté internationale était que tous les pays - y compris les États-Unis - entament un dialogue avec elle. Le secrétaire général du parti communiste chinois, Jiang Zemin, a indiqué à M. Tanabe que sa visite au Japon cette année avancerait les relations sino-japonaises, ce qui contribuerait à la paix mondiale et la sécurité régionale.

- During his visit to Cambodia, the head of the Japanese socialist party was asked by Prince Sihanouk and Chea Sim, chairman of Cambodia's National Assembly, whether Japan would send troops to help clear mines and restore peace. Tanabe responded that Japan could not send troops, but that he would endeavour to get funding for non-military reconstruction assistance.

- According to Sankei, the Japanese emperor and empress will visit China next October 22 to

27, in conjunction with celebrations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the treaty normalizing diplomatic relations between China and Japan.

CHINA/CHINE

- Statistics published by the Customs Bureau show that China enjoyed a trade surplus of US\$8.11 billion in 1991. Exports grew by 15.8% to US\$71.9 billion, and imports increased by 19.5% to US\$63.79 billion.

- According to Chinese statistics, China's border trade last year reached US\$1.07 billion. The most active regions are the Heilongjiang-Russian border and the Yunnan-Myanmar border.

- China has just published comprehensive regulations concerning PRC citizens who visit Taiwan. Enacted to promote exchanges that do not jeopardize China's "security, honour or interests", the regulations require PRC citizens to seek public security bureau approval in advance of their travel.

- On a state visit to Singapore and Malaysia, Chinese President Yang Shangkun stated to a Singaporean journalist (reported in the *People's Daily*) that China remains concerned about the potential overseas deployment of Japanese troops participating in UN peacekeeping operations.

Dans un discours publié à la mi-janvier dans le quotidien du peuple, le premier ministre Li Peng a souligné la nécessité de renforcer la qualité idéologique des enseignants chinois. Son appel s'insère

Dept. of External Affairs
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dans le cadre de l'insistance récemment remarquée de la part des dirigeants chinois sur la fiabilité politique des cadres.

KOREA/CORÉE

- Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa visited South Korea Jan. 16-19 amid public protests of Japanese mistreatment of Korea women during World War II. Miyazawa offered apologies over the "comfort girl" issue to President Roh, the National Assembly and at a press conference. About 100 demonstrators burned an effigy of Emperor Akihito, but they were kept away from the Japanese Embassy by police.

- Local elections in South Korea, which had been scheduled for mid-year, have been postponed in view of the National Assembly and presidential elections to be held this year. The new National Assembly will consider when local elections should be rescheduled. The opposition Democratic Party has criticized Roh's decision to postpone local elections.

- South Korea joined Canada, Japan and others at a trade negotiations committee meeting in Geneva Jan. 13 in opposing the GATT plan for tariffication of all import barriers without exception. South Korea remains reluctant to allow even the smallest opening of the rice market.

- The Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry predicted economic growth of 8% in the first quarter of 1992. Private consumption is expected to lead with 8.8% growth and exports should grow 12.6% with a slowing of the rise of current account deficit and prices.

- Le total des investissements coréens à l'étranger en 1991 a atteint \$5.1 milliards, une augmentation de 19 % sur l'année précédente. 63% des investissements sont en Asie du sud-est. Le Canada représente la troisième destination de choix avec des investissements de \$118 millions, après les États-Unis (\$403 millions) et l'Indonésie (\$199 millions).

- The Economic Planning Board has announced an austerity drive featuring a 10% cut in events

and ceremonies, a 5% increase in public utility rates, senior executive pay freezes, and a request to all public officials not to use their private cars one day in each ten. These and other schemes are intended to limit inflation, upgrade competitiveness, and conserve energy.

MONGOLIA/MONGOLIE

- On Jan. 13, Mongolia adopted a new constitution, changing the country's name from People's Republic of Mongolia to Republic of Mongolia; calling for Mongolia to become a republic with a parliamentary form of government; calling for the president of be chosen in a general election; emphasizing a mixed economy, including the right to private land ownership; and guaranteeing human rights in accordance with the UN Charter.

CAMBODIA/CAMBODGE

- Media sources report the release of 290 Cambodian political prisoners under the supervision of the International Commission of the Red Cross, pursuant to the provisions of the comprehensive peace settlement.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/
A VENIR

1992

- World Bank Agriculture Mission to China - Feb. 10-20
- Experience Canada, Seoul - Feb. 10-22, including tourism, food, agriculture, audio, corporate investment and telecom seminars and trade shows.
- Nova Scotia Mission to Hong Kong and Singapore - Feb. 15-28, involving St. Mary's University, ITC Halifax and 10 companies
- Canadian Softwood Plywood Mission to Japan - Feb. 17-27
- Taipei Telecom Show - Feb. 27- Mar. 1

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