

NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

JAPAN/JAPON

- Le gouvernement koweïtien n'a pas fait mention de la contribution japonaise dans l'encart publicitaire diffusé dans le Washington Post pour remercier la trentaine de pays qui ont participé et aidé à la libération de son territoire.
- A study by a group of scholars on USA-Japan relations on the 30th anniversary of the Mutual Security Treaty suggests that anti-American nationalism is on the rise in Japan, resulting from trade issues and hostility towards the USA for leading the alliance into war in the Gulf.
- Le MITI a informé différentes compagnies pétrolières de son intention d'autoriser les pays producteurs à se lancer dans la distribution des produits énergétiques au Japon.
- Results from the referendum on unity in the Soviet Union show the majority of people living in the disputed Northern Islands voting against the islands' return to Japan. Japan has indicated that its claim to the islands still stands.
- Moscow is reported to have offered the return of the Shikotan and Habomai islands to Japan in return for the USSR's continued sovereignty over Kunashiri and Etorufu.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The Korean Government announced on March 14 a policy package to strengthen manufacturing competitiveness, comprising support measures for technology development, efforts to ease the shortage of technological manpower, land reclamation for new industrial sites and financing.
- The Ministry of Trade and Industry has announced that the Government will support plans for the development of the database industry to prepare for the market opening of the communications industry. The number of database firms is to increase from 15 to 300 by 1995.
- D'après l'association coréenne du fer et de l'acier, la Corée a produit l'an dernier 23.1 millions tonnes d'acier non-traité et consommé 21.2 millions tonnes.
- The Office of Supply announced that it will purchase U.S.\$972.7 million of goods for government offices and state-controlled companies this year through international bidding. The procurement fund will be drawn from the

government's foreign exchange holdings, the Japanese Overseas Cooperation Fund, the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank.

#### CHINA/CHINE

- While meeting with Premier Li Peng in Peking, Soviet Deputy PM Yuri Masylukov expressed gratitude to China for the US\$ 800 million commodity loan which China has provided to the USSR. Li Peng has indicated that cooperation between the two countries relating to economics, trade, science, technology and the defence industry will be strengthened.
- The National People's Congress will convene for its annual session on March 25. The session will last two weeks and will address a wide range of issues, including political and economic stability, administration and socialist morality.
- Over the course of the last five-year plan (1985-90), China's GNP has grown at an annual rate of 7.8 per cent. Agricultural growth met the levels set for the plan period, while crude oil production failed to achieve target levels.
- Le ministre chinois des Affaires étrangères, Qian Qichen a exposé un plan de paix en cinq points pour le proche-orient, axé sur la convocation d'une conférence internationale de paix sous les auspices des Nations Unies avec la participation des cinq membres permanent du conseil de sécurité.
- USA Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Richard Solomon, visited Peking March 10-12 to discuss bilateral issues, Cambodia and the post-Gulf war situation.
- The Chinese authorities have permitted a prominent intellectual associated with the demonstrations at Tiananmen Square in 1989, Goa Xin, to leave for the USA.

#### HONG KONG

- There have been calls for the resignation of Hong Kong Financial Secretary, Sir Piers Jacobs, following his announcement of government projections in the budget last week. Mr. Jacobs intends to retire in August.
- Selon le secrétaire des Services économiques, Anson Chan, la concurrence entre les compagnies internationales de construction impliquées dans la reconstruction du Koweit, pourraient générer des retards dans le projet de développement du port et de l'aéroport de Hong Kong.
- One hundred prominent businessmen and professionals have expressed an interest in joining an influential lobby group to be launched in the next two months. The group, which has

registered with the Hong Kong Government, will be called "The Business and Professionals Federation of Hong Kong."

- A Hong Kong drug dealer was executed in Guangdong, China. He had been charged with selling more than 1.6k of heroin and 15k of opium over several transactions between 1983-87.

#### TAIWAN

- The Chinese Government, in its first official response to Taiwan's "Guidelines for National Unification" has welcomed Taiwan's desire to facilitate the reunification of China, while criticising extensively the content of the plan.

- According to the Malaysian investment authorities, Taiwan has become the largest foreign investor in Malaysia, surpassing Japan.

- The Small and Medium Business Administration of Taiwan has warned its industrial sectors' exporters not to rely overly on the USA and Canada for export markets, in view of "rising international trade protectionism." Canada and the USA absorb 60 per cent of Taiwan's industrial sectors' exports.

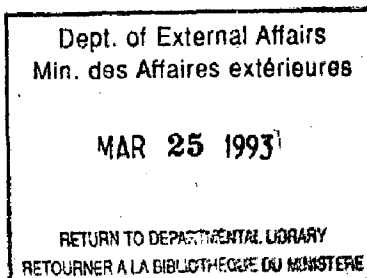
#### ONGOING AND UPCOMING/A VENIR

-Fifth Annual Canada-Taiwan Business Association (CTBA) Meeting -- Montreal, April 14-16. Joint meeting to develop business contacts with companies in Taiwan. For info contact Patricia Kanaya at (613) 238-4000.

-Festival Canada--Hong Kong June 18-July 1. Two week multidimensional festival (trade, public affairs, academic, cultural). For info contact Georgina Wainwright at (613)992-8077.

-Great Canada '91--Tokyo, July 1-14. Two week cultural festival featuring Canadian visual and performing arts. For info contact Georgina Wainwright at (613)992-8077.

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