



BULLETIN

VOL VI NO 6
le 5 février, 1993

NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN

- On 29 January, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono warned the Cabinet to use caution in referring to constitutional reform, as PM Miyazawa had no intention of including constitutional revision in his political agenda.

- Le 4 février la Banque du Japon a abaissé son taux d'escompte de 0.75%, à 2.5%, mesure prenant effet immédiatement. Cette baisse du taux d'escompte est la première depuis le 29 juillet dernier et la sixième de la présente période de récession.

- On 03 February, Foreign Minister Watanabe reassured the Diet that the Government was not considering withdrawing Japanese members of UN Peacekeeping Operation Forces in Cambodia.

HONG KONG

- Hong Kong property developers, on February 3, paid a record \$3.53 billion for a single plot of crown land on the Diamond Hill site, suggesting confidence in the residential market is not waning despite political uncertainties and mortgage finance restrictions.

- D'après un porte-parole gouvernemental, le Gouverneur Patten est décidé à rester en poste jusqu'en 1997, malgré ses traitements pour problèmes cardiaques. Le gouverneur a insisté sur le fait qu'il lui reste beaucoup de travail à accomplir à Hong Kong et qu'il a l'intention de mener ce travail à bonne fin.

- Tout les membres d'équipage de Cathay Pacific sont retournés au-travail le 29 janvier, mettant fin

à la plus longue et dure bataille syndicale qu'ait connue Hong Kong dans son histoire récente. La grève a duré 17 jours et s'est terminée après que le Conseil législatif ait adopté une résolution demandant au Gouverneur de porter la dispute en arbitrage.

- The share market greeted Governor Patten's heart operation on February 3 with a 48.27 point gain in the Hang Seng index, driven by rising prices for some property stocks. However, brokers said the rise was more of a reaction to four days of falls rather than hopes that the Governor might be replaced.

- Sino-British relations are likely to haemorrhage further following an orchestrated three-pronged attack on 29 January on the British Hong Kong administration's controversial Chek Lap Kok airport plan and constitutional reforms package. Salvos were fired from both Hong Kong and Guangzhou, and contained stern warnings to Britain to return to the road of co-operation and consultation with Beijing.

CHINA/CHINE

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the 3rd of February, issued a public statement proclaiming "serious concern" about the offensive by the "State of Cambodia" troops against Khmer Rouge positions near Pailin. The statement was carried on the front page of major newspapers.

- En rapportant la déclaration du Gouverneur de la Banque de Chine le 30 janvier, la presse économique et la presse anglophone ont mis l'emphase sur l'assurance donnée par le

Gouverneur que les niveaux de crédit augmenteraient en 1993. Le plus conservateur Quotidien du Peuple n'a mentionné que l'appel du gouverneur pour un meilleur contrôle macro-économique des finances.

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- Taiwan's media report that the current provincial Governor Lien Chan is likely to be nominated premier, following the resignation of Hau Pei-Tsun. The current KMT Secretary General, James Soong, is also rumoured to replace Lien as provincial Governor, while the KMT deputy Secretary General, Hsu Li-Teh, would replace Soong. The KMT Central Standing Committee is expected to approve Hau's resignation and take steps to consolidate Lien's support within the party. Lien, 57, has previously been Minister of Transportation and Communications, and Vice-premier.

- Taiwan is the world's largest producer of computer monitors, keyboards, mouse inputs and scanners. In 1992, monitor production grew 33%, resulting in Taiwan producing 47% of the computer monitors worldwide.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The Korean ambassador to the United Nations said that his country will participate in operations in Somalia, to improve its status in the world organization.

- Le parti gouvernemental et l'administration étudient la possibilité d'amnistier de nombreux prisonniers politiques à l'occasion de l'inauguration du Président Kim, le 25 février. La clémence ne toucherait cependant pas ceux qui sont accusés d'activités subversives.

- Hong Kong, China and Taiwan will emerge as a powerful new "China trade area" that may provide South Korea with an effective counterbalance to its chronic trade deficit with Japan, according to the Korean Consul General to Hong Kong. He added that this means that Korean companies will have to deal mostly in Hong Kong in order to do business in China.

- Kodeco started production of offshore gaz near Madura island, in Indonesia, after a 12-years joint development with Indonesia's Pertamina. The output marks the first successful venture for a Korean developer to produce natural gaz.

- Korea's exports and imports in 1993 are estimated to grow 8.1 percent and 5.9 percent from last year to 83 billion dollars and 86.5 billion dollars, according to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

- Korea notified the United States of its plan to file complaints with the GATT about American preliminary antidumping charges on Korean steel products. It also protested against recent US moves to place antidumping charges on Korean semiconductors.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR 1993

- ENPROTECH 93 (Taipei); February 8-11

- Canadian trade office mission to Kaohsiung; February 15-16

- Exhibition "Selected Treasures of Canadian craft" (Taipei); February 13-March 21

- Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting (Manila); May 4-6

- CONSUMER CHINA 93 (Guangzhou); June 8-13,

The North Asia Bulletin is produced weekly by the North Asia Relations Division in a single bilingual edition only. Le Bulletin de l'Asie du Nord est un hebdomadaire, rédigé par la Direction des Relations Nord, qui paraît dans une édition bilingue. Editor/rédacteur H. [illegible] -943-0896; fax 613-996-

