

BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region



JAPAN/JAPON

- La chambre des représentants a adopté le 3 décembre le projet de loi permettant au Japon de participer à des opérations onusiennes de maintien de la paix. Seuls le Komeito et le PLD ont voté pour. Le parti démocrate social s'est joint au PLD et au parti bouddhiste en votant pour le projet permettant l'envoi à l'étranger, pour des missions de secours humanitaires après des catastrophes naturelles, des troupes des forces d'auto-défense. Les projets ont immédiatement été déferés au Sénat.

- Selon un sondage du Nihon Keizai sur le projet de loi sur l'envoi des troupes japonaises dans les opérations de maintien de la paix, 62.6% des personnes interrogées sont méfiantes vis-à-vis ce projet puisqu'elles souhaitent qu'il soit examiné avec "prudence", alors que seuls 9.7% veulent qu'il soit adopté rapidement, et 21.2% ne souhaitent pas son adoption.

- Selon un sondage de la NHK, 60% des Japonais estiment que les États-Unis sont un allié fiable, alors que la même proportion des Américains pensent exactement le contraire du Japon.

- Le Sankei Shimbun note que les compagnies japonaises ont toutes retiré leur publicité des magazines américains qui produisaient des numéros spéciaux ou des articles importants portant sur Pearl Harbour. Le manque à gagner en termes de recettes publicitaires est estimé à plusieurs millions de dollars.

CHINA/CHINE

- Le ministre chinois responsable de la Commission d'État sur le planning familial a

indiqué qu'un record de 24 millions de bébés naîtront en Chine l'an prochain.

- In a ceremony marking "World AIDS Day", the Minister of Health stated that China is monitoring the spread of AIDS and is taking stringent measures to control it. China has identified 8 persons who suffer from AIDS and 607 who are HIV positive. However, the spread of drug use in Southern China has led many observers to believe that the true numbers are considerably higher.

- According to Chinese news reports, the 8th Party plenum of the 13th Central Party Committee which was held Nov. 25-29 focused exclusively on agriculture policy questions. Contrary to speculation prior to the plenum, no leadership changes were made. The only significant decision was that the 14th Party Congress be held in late 1992.

- Le Vice-premier ministre chinois, Tian Jiyun, effectuée une visite au Japon du 2 au 11 décembre. M. Tian a sollicité de nouveaux prêts pour le développement de l'agriculture, et l'expansion de la coopération technologique. Il a aussi demandé à nouveau que le couple impérial se rende en Chine l'an prochain.

- The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade has issued a statement regretting the failure of talks with the USA on intellectual property rights. It also called the US decision to take retaliatory measures against China under Super 301 "an unfair practice which neither conforms to mutual benefits nor to international norms".

- Le maire de Pékin, Chen Xitong, a

annoncé que sa ville soumettra une demande formelle au Comité international olympique pour accueillir les Jeux olympiques d'été en l'an 2000.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The Foreign Ministry issued a mild statement of concern over the Japanese Diet's concurrence in sending peacekeeping forces overseas, recording Korea's understanding of why the decision was taken, but noting the feelings of Korea and other Asian countries on the matter.
- The opposition Democratic Party has criticized the \$3 billion loan program to the USSR in light of moves towards dissolution of the union. Repayment in kind is being considered, but \$700 million of contracts for consumer and industrial plant equipment exports in 1992 may be reviewed.
- With an improved US economy and a depreciated won expected in the range of 780 to the US dollar, the Korean Foreign Trade Association believes the economy will expand by 9% in 1992, with inflation also at 9%. Although the trade deficit is projected to rise over \$13 billion, exports will nonetheless grow at 13%.
- The government finally succeeded in getting its budget passed in the National Assembly, with only a token cut from 33.5 to 33.2 trillion won, representing a 23% rise over last year's budget estimate. Business groups, the media and some research institutes have been highly critical of the "inflationary impact" of the budget proposals.
- Despite the return of export growth to double digit level in the past two months, the trade deficit on customs clearance basis is now expected to reach \$12 billion in 1991.
- Manufacturers of passenger cars will be banned from using asbestos in auto parts. The ban will take effect next year, and car owners will be expected to replace all parts using asbestos by the beginning of 1993.
- Twelve Korean dissident groups have

amalgamated into "Chongkuk Yonhap" (National Alliance for Democracy and Unification). The move is being dismissed by government supporters as evidence of the declining level of involvement, with the end of the cold war.

TAIWAN

- Taiwan has dropped a four-decade ban on trade with North Korea.
- The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is leading a trade mission to Taiwan, Dec.9-11. Senior executives of twelve well-known companies will introduce Canadian services and technologies which can contribute to Taiwan's six-year national development plan.

CAMBODIA/CAMBODGE

- In a Chinese commentary on the near-lynching of Khieu Samphan and Son Sen on their return to Phnom Penh on Nov. 27, the People's Daily said that the incident constitutes an obstruction to the implementation of the peace agreement on Cambodia and runs counter to the fundamental interests of the Cambodian people. However, at a meeting in Pattaya, the SNC reached agreement on security arrangements for the return of its Khmer Rouge members, who will stay at the SNC's headquarters.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/

A VENIR

- Canadian Chamber of Commerce Trade Mission to Taiwan (Six Year Plan Mission - Dec. 9-11
- POLMET Environmental Info Booth and Conference Taiwan - Dec. 9-13
- Quebec Mission to China - Jan. 5-13
- Quebec Mission to Vietnam - Jan. 14-20

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