



BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

*based on media surveys in the North Asia region*

JAPAN/JAPON

- Starting this year, the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) will begin procuring computers from foreign as well as domestic manufacturers. According to the Nihon Keisai Shimbun, NTT will use an international tender to procure computers conforming to NTT's new software system, thus allowing foreign firms to participate in bidding. NTT is expected to procure Y500 billion in computers this decade.

- A Japanese delegation will visit Vietnam in March in anticipation of resuming aid to Vietnam, suspended in 1978 with Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia. It will consider Vietnam's development needs and how to deal with its foreign debt.

- Thanks to Japanese trade concessions, US President George Bush declared the visit a success and invited Prime Minister Miyazawa to attend a summit of permanent members of the UN Security Council and to visit Washington in May. Commenting on the concessions on auto and auto-part imports, computers, paper and glass, Miyazawa stated that it is in Japan's interest to improve the US balance of trade with Japan. The issues of Japanese rice imports and the Superconducting Super Collider remain to be resolved.

CHINA/CHINE

- Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will visit China Jan. 22-27 in order for China and Israel to establish diplomatic ties. This follows secret visits to China by Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens in early November, and to Israel by Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang in December. Israel is reported to have required diplomatic normalization as a condition for

Chinese participation in the Middle East peace talks, the third round of which is scheduled for late January in Moscow.

- Dans des communiqués séparés, la Chine a établi des relations diplomatiques avec l'Ukraine, l'Ouzbékistan, le Kazakhstan et le Tadjikistan. Toutes les républiques reconnaissent la République populaire de Chine comme le seul gouvernement légitime de Chine. Pour sa part, la Chine a formellement reconnu l'indépendance de toutes les anciennes républiques soviétiques.

- At a Jan. 6 national economic planning meeting attended by most senior central and provincial leaders, Premier Li Peng stated that China "would quicken" economic reform in 1992. Reforms will be oriented towards enterprise management and social security systems.

- Suite à la visite en Chine du 4 au 6 janvier du Ministre japonais des Affaires étrangères, Michio Watanabe, le Secrétaire général du parti communiste chinois, Jiang Zemin, se rendra au Japon cette année dans le cadre des célébrations du 20<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire des relations diplomatiques sino-japonaises.

KOREA/CORÉE

- Experience Canada '92 will be held in Seoul Feb. 10-24, 1992. The fourth such event since 1988, it will feature seminars on investment opportunities in Canada, tourism promotion and trade. Canadian food products will be on display, as well as featured on restaurant menus. Canadian recreation and leisure products will also be featured in a small solo show.

- North Korea announced its intention to sign an IAEA full-scope nuclear safeguard agreement before the end of January.

- South Korea has announced the cancellation of its annual "Team Spirit" military exercises with the USA. This move is seen as a confidence-building measure in the context of talks with the North.

- During his visit to South Korea, US President Bush indicated that the US would upgrade relations with North Korea if it signed the IAEA agreement, implemented IAEA inspections and improved its human rights record. He also urged Seoul to remove non-tariff barriers to free trade such as unjustified standards and regulations, cumbersome customs procedures and delays in scheduled reductions of duties and financial restrictions.

- Despite concern over the slow domestic development of alternatives to CFCs, South Korea will sign next month the Vienna Convention for Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

- Les sociétés coréennes ont reçu 3,03 milliards \$US de contrats pour des projets de construction outremer en 1991, comparé à 6,77 milliards \$ en 1990 (dont 4,6 milliards \$ pour un projet libyen). Les contrats avec des pays de l'Asie du sud-est (62% du total) ont dépassé pour la première fois en 1991 ceux du Moyen-Orient.

- Hyundai founder Chung Ju-yung, 77, resigned his position as honorary chairman of Hyundai in order to form his own political party. He will not personally run for the National Assembly but is gathering together former politicians and business-people to run the party.

### HONG KONG

- The announcement on Dec. 31 by the British government that Governor David Wilson will be retiring by the end of 1992 has led to intense speculation about who will be the last British Governor of Hong Kong. No official comment on his likely successor is expected until after

the elections in the United Kingdom this spring, but speculation in the UK and Hong Kong press includes David Owen and Geoffrey Howe, who was Foreign Secretary when the Sino-British declaration on Hong Kong was concluded. LEGCO has planned a debate for Jan. 23 on the qualifications and attributes desirable in a new governor. Canada may be among the first countries the new governor will visit, since a visit to Canada is planned in connection with Festival Hong Kong in October 1992.

### CAMBODIA/CAMBODGE

- The highest-ranking Japanese official at the UN, Yasushi Akashi, was appointed U.N. Special Representative for Cambodia on Jan. 9. The appointment of Akashi, formerly Under Secretary General for Disarmament Affairs, is generally regarded positively, in the hope that he may be able to lobby effectively for Japanese financial contributions to the UNTAC exercise. UNTAC is the UN's most ambitious peacekeeping mission so far, involving the deployment of 10-20,000 troops to monitor the disarmament of factional armies, supervise elections in 1992, and help manage Cambodia's reconstruction.

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### ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR

1992

- Japanese Mission to Toronto Furniture Show - Jan. 12-15
- Quebec Mission to China - Jan. 5-13
- Quebec Mission to Vietnam - Jan. 14-20
- Canada-Japan Forum 2000, Tokyo - Jan. 14-16
- Experience Canada, Seoul - Feb. 10-24

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