



BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN

- The 26th, the Government formally decided to send some 50 GSDF personnel to engage in UN peacekeeping operations in Mozambique.

- Foreign Minister Watanabe said during an Upper House Foreign Affairs Committee session, on Monday the 29th, that the Government will not link the issues to be covered in the July G-7 Summit to Japan-Russia bilateral issues. He also said that the Northern Territories will not be an agenda item at the Summit.

- The Upper House Budget Committee on Friday the 26th voted to summon three company executives before the Diet for questioning about former LDP Vice-President Shin Kanemaru's income tax evasion and former PM Takeshita's alleged role in a scandal involving the sale of a gold folding screen.

HONG KONG

- The second batch of Hong Kong advisers announced by China on March 29 failed to include a single directly-elected legislator, sparking immediate criticism that Beijing would only listen to advice it wanted to hear.

- In a softening tone, Lu Ping, director of the Hong Kong-Macau Affairs office, halted a month-long tirade of criticism of Britain and Governor Patten over the constitutional reform proposals to say that the Sino-British Joint Liaison group should meet and the new airport should be built. He said the only issue was if Britain would consult Beijing over its construction.

- According to the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong companies in Canada have warned Premier Harcourt of British Columbia that tax increases and failures to adequately amend a corporate tax will hamper his effort to drum up investment for Canada during a visit to Hong Kong.

CHINA/CHINE

- The 26 March meeting in Beijing between the Right Honourable Joe Clark and Premier Li Peng was prominently reported by all official media. Emphasis was given to Li's pledge to work for the "all-round restoration of relations". Mr Clark had characterised the visit as "a step in our evolving relationship".

- National media have hailed the election of Jiang Zemin as President and the re-election of Li Peng as Premier. They omitted to mention, however, that more than 10% of the delegates either voted against Li or abstained.

- Le Congrès National du Peuple a promulgué des amendements à la constitution, entérinant le principe d'une économie de marché socialiste et diminuant du coup le rôle de l'État dans l'économie. Les amendements alignent la constitution du pays à celle du Parti, à laquelle des changements semblables ont déjà été apportés.

- The establishment of an NPC "Preparatory Committee on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region" and Li Peng's remarks calling for a smooth transfer of power in the Territory were prominently reported by all official media.

- Lors de la récente visite du Ministre de l'économie allemand, la Chine a signé des contrats d'achats d'une valeur de US\$ 1.2 milliard, incluant 12 avions airbus.

- The "Canadian Industrial Consortium", which provides technology and services to the Chinese pulp and paper industry, recently opened a Beijing office. It is the first Canadian manufacturing group to open an office in Beijing.

- Comments by the Governor of Fujian, made on the margins of the NPC, that his province would pioneer direct air links with Taiwan were prominently reported.

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- A Taiwan Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) delegation in Beijing, 25-28 March, reached an agreement with their PRC counterparts on document verification and compensation for lost registered mail. Cheyne Chiu, Secretary General of the SEF will go to Beijing in early April to ratify the agreement and for further preparation for the talks scheduled later in April, in Singapore, between SEF Chairman Koo Chen-Foo and Wang Daohan, Chairman of the mainland's Association for Relations across the Taiwan Strait.

- Taiwan Media continue to highlight Taiwan's growing aspirations to participate in the UN and other international organisations. Foreign Minister Chien stated on March 31 that, within the next 1 or 2 years, Taiwan would try to join various organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund and the International Development and Reconstruction Bank.

KOREA/CORÉE

- Le parti au pouvoir, le DLP, entend mettre fin au "scandale des propriétés" et prendre des mesures punitives contre une quinzaine de députés qui ont amassé des fortunes de façon douteuse. Déjà, certains députés ont démissionné. La décision de forcer les officiels à dévoiler leurs avoirs est fortement appuyée par le public mais suscite de fortes réticences dans

l'armée, au sein de laquelle plusieurs figures importantes sont visées.

- President Kim Young-Sam said that his government cannot remain still in the face of North Korea's nuclear development. A spokesman said that the President's statement should not be taken to mean that South Korea will go nuclear itself. One newspaper editorial also writes that FM Han has indicated that unless Pyongyang complies with the strong international call, there would be no alternative but to refer the issue to the Security Council.

- The Korean economy grew by 4.7% last year, the lowest rate in 12 years.

- Dans un changement dramatique de politique, le gouvernement a indiqué qu'il allait ouvrir des canaux de dialogue avec des organisations syndicales dissidentes.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR 1993

- 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,

- World Economic Forum: Europe/East Asia Conference (Hong Kong); October 13-15

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