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BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN

- La 126^{ème} session régulière de la Diète s'est ouverte vendredi le 22.
- On Tuesday, the 26th, Prime Minister Miyazawa said before the Diet that obtaining permanent membership on the UN Security Council would not necessarily entail any obligation to participate in UN peacekeeping actions involving the use of military force. Foreign Minister Watanabe, however, disagreed saying it is "common sense" for permanent members of the council to order their overseas troops to participate in peacekeeping activities, even if such activities might involve the use of force.
- The LDP decided Wednesday, the 27th, that it will reactivate the party's research commission on the constitution, to be chaired by former defense agency director general Yukoh Kurihara.

HONG KONG

- As morale among strikers slips, Cathay Pacific is holding out in its bitter dispute with flight attendants union, now in its third week. Legislative Councillors have warned that the airline's insistence on taking disciplinary action could backfire and that Cathay's virtual monopoly of air services in Hong Kong was likely to be reviewed.
- Overseas interest in the local banking sector was the main feature of trading on 27 January, with local investors remaining cautious about the outcome of next month's legislative council vote on the governor's democratic reform package.

- Le taux d'inflation a atteint 9.4% en décembre, permettant au taux annuel pour 1992 de se maintenir légèrement en deçà de l'objectif du gouvernement. Le Secrétaire aux Finances, Hamish MacLeod, s'est réjoui de la bonne nouvelle mais certains économistes pensent que cette performance ne pourra être répétée en 1993 étant donné l'incertitude politique.

CHINA/CHINE

- In what has become an annual tradition, paramount leader Deng Xiaoping made a highly publicized appearance on Chinese New Years Eve in Shanghai. Deng's fulsome endorsement of CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin was emphasized by all media.
- Le discours de la veille du Nouvel an du Premier Ministre Li Peng, abondamment couvert par la presse, a mis l'emphase sur l'engagement de la Chine envers un développement économique accéléré, notamment dans les domaines de l'agriculture, de l'infrastructure et de l'énergie. Li a aussi parlé longuement de Hong Kong, demandant que le gouvernement Patten retire ses propositions de réforme démocratique.
- The China Daily of January 25 reported that France's sale of mirage fighter planes to Taiwan is hindering bilateral economic relations and has "seriously undermined previously good prospects" for French wheat sales and cooperation on the construction of the new Guangzhou subway.
- The English language China Daily of January 27 carried a brief article on changes in

Canadian aid policy reportedly to be put to cabinet for approval next month. Canadian aid sources were quoted as saying that, under the new policy, Canada's aid programme would shift its focus from the third world to Eastern Europe.

- Minister of Commerce Hu Ping was quoted in the Southern Daily as saying that foreigners would be allowed to participate in joint ventures in the retail sector in six major cities and the five special economic zones. The decision was based on rising levels of urban consumption, notably in Beijing and Guangzhou.

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- Taiwan's newly elected legislature is to be sworn in on February the 1st, and jockeying is under way for the election of the legislature's president and vice-president, scheduled to place the same day. Meanwhile the resignation of premier Hau Pei-Tsun and his cabinet (and timing thereof) continue to be hotly debated within the KMT.

- Taiwan released its first comprehensive report on its foreign policy on January 21. The 500 pages-report emphasizes "one China, two equal political entities in friendly competition", Taiwan's aims of enhancing its international status by improving its economic strength and providing loans, aid, and technical assistance to developing countries, and its long-term goal of rejoining the United Nations.

- In a sign of Taiwan's cautious tiptoeing toward greater media freedom, Taiwan's government information office has announced that applications for new radio stations will be accepted from January 30.

KOREA/CORÉE

- Le 25 février, jour de son inauguration, le président-élu Kim Young-Sam convoquera l'assemblée nationale pour obtenir l'approbation du premier ministre qu'il aura choisi. Le lendemain, il tiendra sa première réunion de cabinet pour passer un ordre présidentiel d'amnistie et de restauration des droits civils d'un grand nombre de prisonniers.

- The South and North Korean chairmen of the Inter-Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission meet today to restart the stalled nuclear talks, but the prospects are not bright.

- Le gouvernement a prévu 26.5 milliards de wons cette année pour des projets de coopération avec des pays en développement, une augmentation de 12 pour cent sur l'an dernier.

- The government will supply 100 billion won in loans from the state to small and medium businesses this year. Special bank loans amounting to 500 billion won will also be channelled to them to increase support for technological R and D by small industries.

- The government will construct an additional 448 kms of electric railways and subways in six major cities by 2001. The cities are Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Taejon, Kwangju and Incheon.

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,

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