



BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

- During the visit to Japan of US President George Bush Jan. 7-10, Prime Minister Miyazawa is expected to make no concessions on rice imports. With automobiles the likely central issue of the visit, however, Miyazawa has hinted that auto concessions may be in the offing. He urged Japanese auto makers to import more from the U.S., and to limit their exports to the US voluntarily, even though the official quota of 2.3 million cars has not been filled for several years.

- According to the Finance Ministry, Japan's current account surplus in November increased to \$7.25 billion, bringing the accumulated total of the first 8 months of the 1991 financial year to \$52.3 billion, 2.65 times the total for the same period the previous year. The current account surplus with the EC increased eightfold to \$11.8 billion, while the surplus with the US increased 3.3% to \$19.8 billion.

- Le Ministère des Finances a décidé en principe de réattribuer Y10 milliards au budget de l'Agence de la Défense. Cette augmentation de 3,7% pour l'année fiscale 1992 représente la plus petite augmentation depuis 1960. Le Ministère des Finances a aussi annoncé qu'il augmenterait de 5% à 7% le budget de l'aide au développement international, afin de permettre au Japon de remplir sa promesse de fournir \$50 milliards en aide au développement sur la période 1987-92.

CHINA/CHINE

- The People's Daily announced on Dec. 30 that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's parliament, had approved China's entry into the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The treaty must still be

formally ratified by the annual NPC plenary in March-April.

- The Standing Committee of the NPC has held further discussions on the Three Gorges project. Although they agreed on the necessity of building the dam, Committee members "voiced their opinions" on sand accumulation, migration, finances and environmental balance.

- China recognized the Russian federation on 27 Dec. and will accredit its ambassador in Moscow to Russia. At the same time, China recognized the independence of eleven other republics of the former Soviet Union and announced its intention to enter into negotiations with them with the objective of establishing diplomatic relations.

- Les travaux de construction de la nouvelle aéroport de Hongqiao à Shanghai - un des trois grands aéroports internationaux de Chine - viennent d'être achevés. L'aéroport de Hongqiao peut maintenant recevoir 7 millions de voyageurs par an, 3 millions de plus qu'auparavant.

- Xinhua a annoncé le 24 décembre que, suite à la demande du Prince Sihanouk, le Ministre chinois des Affaires étrangères, Qian Qichen, a reporté sa visite à Phnom Penh, prévue pour le 27 décembre.

- In a further move to bolster public confidence in the Party, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has issued a directive requiring security forces to crack down on members who abuse their powers, harass people, and use torture to extract confessions. Shaanxi province, which was tasked with leading the campaign, has dismissed nearly one

thousand police officers, and arrested two for beating a suspect to death.

- A deputy governor of the People's Bank of China has promised more loans will go to the technical renovation of large- and medium-sized state enterprises in the new year.

KOREA/CORÉE

- On Dec. 31, North and South Korea initialled the Inter-Korean Agreement on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It is to be signed by the prime ministers of both countries on Jan. 20, and is subject to ratification by both sides. It provides that neither side will test, manufacture, produce, introduce, possess, store, deploy or use nuclear weapons, nor possess nuclear reprocessing and uranium enrichment facilities, and that nuclear energy will only be used for peaceful purposes. In order to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, Seoul and Pyongyang will implement inspections of installations selected by the South-North Joint Committee for Nuclear Control. This Joint Committee will be created within one month after the declaration goes into effect.

- As expected, South Korea and China signed a trade agreement on Dec. 31 granting each other most favoured nation status and removing tariffs which discriminate against some Korean goods. Trade is expected to increase in 1992 to over \$5 billion, with a surplus of \$2.5 billion for China.

- The head of South Korea's trade office in Beijing, former Korean Ambassador to Canada Roh Jae-won, predicted that aviation and investment guarantee pacts will follow in late 1992 or early 1993. Sea links have recently been enhanced with the addition of Incheon-Tianjin service five times a week, to the existing thrice-weekly service between Incheon and Qingdao/Weihai.

HONG KONG

- Fisheries and Oceans Minister John Crosbie will visit Hong Kong, Japan and England Jan. 5-17, accompanied by representatives of the fisheries industry in Atlantic Canada and British Columbia. The purposes of the trip are to promote markets for Canadian seafood, particularly underutilized species, in Hong Kong and Japan, and to address the foreign overfishing issue at a conference on boundaries sponsored by the Royal Institute on International Affairs in London. While in Hong Kong, Crosbie will promote trade and investment in Atlantic Canada, highlighting services provided by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Atlantic Canada Chinese Business Association. ACOA is emphasizing Hong Kong as a gateway to Asian and Pacific markets, and as a source of new investment for Atlantic Canada.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR

1992

- 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. 10-22

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