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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

*based on media surveys in the North Asia region*

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JAPAN/JAPON

- The new cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was announced on Nov. 5, and has been generally well received. It is seen as strong on economic and agricultural issues, which will be useful in tackling the major policy issues of trade imbalances and modification of the ban on rice imports. Tackling political reform may be tougher, since seven Cabinet ministers are tainted by the Recruit or Lockheed scandals. Half of the 20 Cabinet seats are controlled by the two most powerful factions: the Watanabe faction bagged the powerful portfolios of deputy prime minister and foreign minister (Michio Watanabe), while the Takeshita faction boasts finance (Tsutomu Hata), MITI (Kozo Watanabe), justice (Takashi Tawara) and education (Kunio Hatoyama). The chief cabinet secretary is Koichi Kata of Miyazawa's own faction.

- Miyazawa's first policy speech to the Diet after he is installed as Prime Minister is expected to address his commitment to early passage of legislation to create Japan's new U.N. peacekeeping force, political reform, Japan's solidarity with Asia, and its close partnership with the USA.

- Japan's trade surplus for September increased 41% over the previous year. Imports decreased 7.7% to \$16 billion, exports increased 7.3% to \$27 billion. Japan's current account surplus rose 91% to \$8.8 billion, bringing the total current account surplus for the first half of the year to \$38 billion, up 149%.

CHINA/CHINE

- Le sous-ministre canadien du commerce international, Donald Campbell, a mené une

délégation en Chine pour traiter des questions de commerce et d'investissement dans le cadre de la onzième session du Comité conjoint du commerce Canada-Chine. La session précédente a eu lieu en 1987.

- Le Secrétaire d'État, James Baker, a annoncé qu'il visitera la Chine ce mois-ci. Ce sera la première visite d'un secrétaire d'État américain depuis les événements de juin 1989.

- On Nov. 1, the State Council's information office published a lengthy white paper on human rights in the PRC. The paper claims that human rights are fully protected by China's legal system.

- Le gouvernement chinois révisera à partir du 1er janvier 1992 les tarifs d'importation de 225 articles, dont ceux des matières premières et des machines agricoles. En prenant cette mesure, la Chine entend accorder ses tarifs douaniers avec ceux des autres grandes nations commerçantes, afin de promouvoir l'ouverture de la Chine vers le monde extérieure.

KOREA/CORÉE

- La Secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures, Mme Barbara McDougall, et le Ministre du Commerce international, M. Michael Wilson, participeront à la conférence ministérielle de la Coopération économique Asie-Pacifique à Séoul du 12-14 novembre. M. Wilson effectue une mission commerciale en Corée du 10 au 12 novembre avec 25 hommes d'affaires dans les secteurs des télécommunications, de l'énergie et de l'industrie automobile.

- Plusieurs centaines d'étudiants ont lancé des bombes à feu vers la police à Séoul pour protester contre un accord entre la Corée et les États-Unis selon lequel la Corée fournirait du matériel aux soldats américains en cas de guerre sur la péninsule coréenne.

- North Korea is trying to attract foreign capital in order to carry out 83 projects in 11 industrial sectors including electric, electronic, fabrics, garments and chemicals. The projects were developed in cooperation with UNIDO and require US \$1.561 billion.

- The Deputy Prime Minister of Korea said that he is pessimistic about the future trade environment and believes that Korea will be unable to satisfy US demands to speed up the opening of Korea's capital market.

- Le déficit commercial pendant les dix premiers mois de 1991 a atteint 10 milliards \$ US, selon les chiffres douaniers.

### HONG KONG

- United Democrat's Chairman Martin Lee and LEGCO Member Lee Wing Fat travelled to London and met with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Labour Leader Neil Kinnock. Hurd was asked to consult LEGCO before and after any Sino-UK communications on Hong Kong's internal affairs. Martin Lee said that the controversy surrounding the Sino-British JLG agreement over the court of final appeal was a typical result of Britain's failure to consult the assembly in advance. The agreement cannot be implemented without LEGCO approval.

- Le plus important télédiffuseur TVB a demandé au gouvernement de lui permettre de couper la plupart de ses programmes en anglais, peu lucratifs, y compris les émissions sportives, pour enfants et les nouvelles. Nicholas James de TVB a expliqué que puisque seulement 3% de la population était anglophone, la chaîne anglaise de TVB se limitait à un très petit marché. TVB compte substituer des programmes en mandarin, japonais et coréen.

- More Hong Kong people will be able to settle

in Canada under new immigration rules announced last week. Canada increased its global intake by 30,000 to 250,000 next year. The admission target for family class would be raised from 80,000 to 100,000. Almost 40% of all Canadian immigration quotas are now offered for family migrants. In recent years, 20% of all settlers were from Hong Kong. A recent survey conducted for the South China Morning Post concluded that three times as many emigrants are returning to Hong Kong from abroad than previously: 19% this year compared to 6% in 1990.

- Hong Kong detention centres holding almost 60,000 Vietnamese boatpeople could be cleared in 3 years after a deal was finally struck with Hanoi authorities. The first Vietnamese boatpeople to go back would be over 200 "double backers" and immediate relatives, and new arrivals who may be sent back within 6 weeks of reaching the territory. The cost of flying them back will be shared by the UK and Hong Kong.

### VIETNAM

- After 13 years of hostility, China and Vietnam normalized relations during the visit to Beijing from November 5 to 8 of the Communist Party of Vietnam General Secretary Do Muoi and Premier Vo Van Kiet. The driving force of Sino-Vietnamese cooperation is expected to be economic and trade links rather than ideological solidarity as they both seek to improve their economies while battling international isolation.

### ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR

- Hong Kong Bldg Prod. Mission to Canada - Nov.2-14
- International Trade Minister to Japan - Nov. 4-9 and Korea - Nov.10-14
- Power Seminars in China - Nov. 10-20
- Telecom Mission to Seoul and Taipei - Nov. 11-15
- Minister of Revenue to Hong Kong Nov. 12-15, Korea Nov. 16-20
- Taipei Aerospace Technology

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