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BULLETIN

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**NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD**

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

**JAPAN**

- On Thursday the 25th, Japan's Supreme Court ruled that residents living near two military air bases are entitled to compensation for damages caused by aircraft noise, but rejected the plaintiff's demand for a ban on night and early morning flights.

- Plusieurs quotidiens s'intéressent à la nomination, comme ambassadeur du Japon au Canada, de M. Nakahira, jusqu'à présent négociateur en chef pour la normalisation des relations avec Pyongyang, et à son remplacement par M. Endo. Certains observateurs y voient une évolution de la politique de Tokyo à l'égard de Pyongyang.

- Le Groupe Nissan multiplie ses décisions d'investissement au Mexique en préparation de l'ALENA. Trois de ses manufacturiers de pièces vont construire de nouvelles usines ou accroître la capacité de production de celles qui existent déjà au Mexique.

- Le 2 mars, le PLD a approuvé les grandes lignes des mesures de réforme électorale qu'il veut soumettre à la Diète. Parmi les points à retenir sont: la réduction du nombre de sièges à la chambre basse de 512 à 500; l'application du principe d'un député par circonscription; l'étude de modifications à la carte électorale; les changements dans le système de collecte de fonds.

- German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Prime Minister Miyazawa confirmed, Saturday the 27th, their intention to strengthen bilateral relations in economic and political areas. They agreed to set up a dialogue forum to discuss how to improve

bilateral relations. They also agreed on the need to support President Yeltsin's political and economic reform policies.

**HONG KONG**

- Le Secrétaire aux Finances, Hamish MacLeod, a dévoilé, le 3 mars, le budget le plus généreux de l'histoire de Hong Kong, budget alliant coupures d'impôt et hausse des dépenses publiques. Le budget a été très bien accueilli par les leaders de la communauté et des gens d'affaires, bien qu'on craigne qu'il n'alimente l'inflation. Les analystes s'attendent à une réaction négative de la part de la Chine, dont les craintes de prodigalité pendant les dernières années du mandat britannique vont être alimentées par ce budget. MacLeod a réfuté ces inquiétudes en soulignant que les réserves, lors du transfert de pouvoir en 1997, devraient être de US\$10 milliards.

- The Hong Kong stock market has regained its place as the best performer of the 20 developed capital markets surveyed by the Capital International Perspective of Bank Morgan Stanley. This was boosted by the weakness of the US dollar, which reduced the returns from other markets.

**CHINA/CHINE**

- Les médias chinois ont abondamment couvert la démission du Premier Ministre Mulroney, en citant la récession et l'échec de l'accord constitutionnel pour expliquer sa décision.

- A national meeting on grain production and

marketing, from 24 to 26 March, produced the first direct contracts between grain producers and consumers, marking the end of the state grain monopoly. The establishment of a state fund to protect farmers from sharp fluctuations in grain prices was also announced.

- The first formal Sino-American consultation on China's GATT application in four years ended recently in Beijing. A senior Chinese official stated that conditions are ripe for China to reenter the GATT, but US officials said that China was being over-optimistic, noting the PRC's lack of a market price system.

### TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- The new Taiwan cabinet appointments include P.K. Chiang as minister of economic affairs, Dr. Liu Chao-Shiuan as Minister for Transportation and Communications, and Dr. Sun Chen as Minister of Defence. All have a good knowledge of Canada, especially Dr. Liu (PhD Toronto) and P.K. Chiang who was Vice-Minister Economic Affairs

- Energy Mines and Resources Minister McKnight recently concluded a brief private visit to Taiwan. He was accompanying a Canadian Chamber of Commerce delegation and addressed the Canadian Society of Taiwan.

### KOREA/CORÉE

- President Kim Young-Sam has initiated Korea's first genuine civilian government in 32 years. It was only the second time in Korea's modern history that the people have witnessed a peaceful transfer of power, the first being when President Roh took office in 1988.

- On Friday, President Kim announced his cabinet. An editorialist writes that it imparts overall a tone of freshness, modesty and technical prowess, and he adds that the heavy emphasis on professional expertise and experience in the new cabinet is a positive step toward vigorous reforms based on stability and toward civilianizing the government.

- The new Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

economic planning said that the government will keep wages and interest rates stable to help domestic business regain competitiveness in the price of their products. He added that the government will remove administrative restrictions that prevent private business from promoting creativeness and competitiveness.

- The Government plans to regulate most interest rates this month and unveil a schedule for the mandatory use of real names in financial transactions in May. The second phase of deregulation will allow commercial banks to determine most of the deposit and lending rates now under its regulation.

- Lors de leur discussions au sommet, le 2 mars, le Président Kim Young-Sam et le Chancelier allemand Helmut Kohl se sont entendus pour unir leurs efforts afin d'augmenter les échanges investissements et d'élargir la coopération entre les deux pays dans les domaines de haute technologie.

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### 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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