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BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN

- February 11th, during a meeting with Foreign Minister Watanabe, President Clinton called on Japan to curb its trade surplus with the US. Clinton did not rule out the use of super 301 retaliatory measures where warranted. Prime Minister Miyazawa is expected to visit Washington in March or April.

- Vendredi, le 12, à Washington, le Secrétaire d'État américain, M. Christopher, a pressé le Ministre des Affaires étrangères japonais, M. Watanabe, d'ouvrir le marché japonais du riz et de stimuler l'économie japonaise.

- The 12th, during a meeting with Finance Minister Hayashi, in Washington, U.S. Secretary of Treasury Bentsen called for Japan to consider additional financial measures to boost its economy. They agreed that the exchange level of the currencies should reflect each country's fundamentals, indicating acceptance of the slowly strengthening Yen.

- Foreign Minister Watanabe was hospitalized Monday 15th, ostensibly due to complications from a cold and overwork during his recent trip to Washington. He is expected to stay in hospital for a period of 1 to 2 weeks, though speculation is rife that his illness is more serious.

HONG KONG

- Amid hopes that China and Britain may resume talks on the subject, the Executive Council deferred a decision on whether to go ahead with Gazetting the Bill giving effect to Governor Patten's constitutional package. Officials from the two sides are stepping up

efforts to find a way to re-open the talks.

- Dans un marché très actif où la valeur des transactions a plus que doublé par rapport à la moyenne de la semaine dernière, les rumeurs à propos de consultations secrètes entre la Chine et la Grande-Bretagne ont fait grimper l'index Hang Seng au delà de la marque des 6000, et ce pour la première fois depuis que Beijing a attaqué les propositions du Gouverneur Patten.

- La Fédération de sport amateur, la Comité olympique et M. A. de O. Sales, l'homme le plus important dans l'univers sportif de la colonie, ont décidé de soutenir la candidature de Beijing comme ville hôte des Jeux olympiques de 2000.

- A consortium of major Hong Kong, China and Singapore investors, including the influential PRC State Council-Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, has been formed to tap the huge growth potential of Asia and especially China. Based in Hong Kong, New China Hong Kong Group starts with an initial paid-up capital of HK \$400 million.

CHINA/CHINE

- The Spanish Prime Minister Filipe Gonzales' visit to Beijing was accorded extraordinary media profile. Prominence was given, however, to Premier Li Peng's remarks to Gonzales calling for the further expansion of China's relations with the West.

- Le "Quotidien du Peuple" a annoncé que, pour la première fois, 80 représentants du "monde des affaires" assisteraient comme

délégués au prochain Congrès National Populaire, au mois de mars.

- All the official media prominently reported the 11 February statement by the Foreign Ministry calling on Thailand not to admit the Dalai Lama: No mention was made of his participation, with other Nobel laureates, in the internationally publicized call for the release of the Burmese political leader Aung San Su Kyi.

- The English-language China Daily of 13 February reported that, following talks in Beijing, Japan has agreed to start bilateral negotiations with China on tariff and non-tariff trade barriers. Japan also indicated that it would continue to grant China unconditional MFN status

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- A Canadian delegation met with Wu Den-Yih, mayor of Kaohsiung, during a February 15-16 mission to Taiwan's second largest city and biggest port. Eleven delegates from the Taipei trade offices of Canada, Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia met with senior government, business and industrial leaders to promote Canadian trade, investment, education and tourism industries in Kaohsiung.

- Pendant sa visite à Taipei, du 11 au 14 février, le maire de Vancouver, Gordon Campbell, a souligné que Vancouver est la destination favorite pour les asiatiques voulant faire affaire au Canada. M. Campbell et le maire de Taipei, Huang Ta-Chou, ont assisté à l'inauguration d'une exposition canadienne au Musée des Beaux arts de Taipei.

- Commenting on the intellectual property rights dispute between Taiwan and the USA, Taiwan Economics Minister, Vincent Siew, warned that the threat of trade retaliation would harm ties between the two countries. Taiwan legislators have refused to pass eight provisions of the copyright law which they view as an unfair demand imposed on Taiwan by the USA.

- Taiwan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, F. Chien, arrived in Japan on February 16, for what is

termed a private visit. A Taiwan business delegation, led by Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs P.K. Chiang is simultaneously visiting Japan. This is a breakthrough since the 1972 rupture in diplomatic relations.

KOREA/CORÉE

- President elect Kim Young Sam announced 17 February his new Blue House staff. As expected Kwan-Yong, PR manager of the Kim campaign and long time fellow assemblyman from Pusan Park, was named to the top position of Chief Presidential Secretary.

- While South Korea is ranked 12th in the world trade, it was only ranked 30th in the number of Science and Technology papers published world wide last year. Even with a 35% increase in 1992 they still lag behind other newly industrializing countries

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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