



BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN

- Le gouvernement du Premier ministre Miyazawa vient d'être défait, par 35 voix, lors d'un vote de non-confiance à la Chambre basse. On s'attend maintenant à ce que des élections soient appelées pour la fin juillet. La perte de pouvoir et de crédibilité, du Premier ministre japonais suite à ce vote de non-confiance aura un impact certain sur le Sommet du G-7 qui doit se tenir à Tokyo le mois prochain.

- Previous to these events, on the 16th, the LDP had formally decided that it would submit to a vote its original proposal calling for a simple single-member constituency system for the Lower House.

- President Clinton announced on the 11th that he will appoint former Vice President Walter Mondale to serve as the next U.S. Ambassador to Japan, citing the importance of U.S.-Japan relations. Mondale said he will assume the post in late July, after the Tokyo G-7 Summit.

- Le ministère de la Construction a décidé, le 10, de revoir en profondeur le système d'appel d'offres pour les travaux publics, en réponse aux critiques, provenant du pays et de l'étranger, quant au manque de transparence du processus. Des mesures concrètes seront discutées par un groupe interministériel qui sera formé en juillet.

- During a meeting held on the 15th, the Deputy Vice Minister for External Affairs, Koichiro Matsuura, informed President Yeltsin of Japan's intention not to negotiate the territorial issue during President Yeltsin's meeting with Prime Minister Miyazawa, scheduled to be held in July

in Tokyo.

- The Defense Agency publicly announced on the 14th that a test of firing of new missiles by North Korea took place on May 29 in the sea of Japan, and the missiles fired were most likely the Nodong-1, North Korea's medium-ranged ballistic missile. The Agency believes that The Nodong-1 is almost fully developed.

CHINA/CHINE

- La visite du Premier ministre malais Mahathir a été digne d'attention, tant sur le plan domestique que sur celui de la politique étrangère. Le Premier ministre Li Peng, apparemment en pleine forme, a accueilli Mahathir, le 14 juin, mettant ainsi fin à une absence de 7 semaines. Les médias ont fait une place importante aux commentaires de Mahathir à l'effet que la modernisation de l'armée chinoise n'est pas dirigée contre ses voisins.

- To mark the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the media have carried a series of articles reiterating China's human rights position. They note that for developing countries like China, economic development must take precedence over political rights, and that no country should force its views on others.

- A State Council circular calling for the concentration of investment funds in agriculture, efficient state enterprises and major national construction projects was carried on the front page of the People's Daily

of June 12. The circular restricts use of investment funds in the real estate and stock market.

- Le rapport national sur la situation environnementale en Chine pour 1992 est paru dans le Journal Chinois de l'Environnement du 15 juin. Le Canada y est mentionné comme l'un des partenaires bilatéraux les plus actifs dans ce secteur.

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- On June 15, the "Sunshine Bill" requesting all government officials to reveal their personal assets was finally passed by Taiwan's legislature, reflecting public demand to eliminate corruption. Despite objections from the core of the ruling KMT, the bill was passed thanks to cooperation between the opposition DPP and the breakaway new KMT Alliance faction. The potential for repeating such cooperation threatens the effectiveness of the KMT's comfortable majority in the legislature.

- On June 13, Taiwan media reported that the USA is seeking Taiwan's cooperation in combating crime, especially the smuggling of people from the PRC, narcotics and illegal money into the USA. Meanwhile, Taiwan authorities have broken up several drug rings in Taiwan with the assistance of U.S. intelligence.

- June 11, France and Taiwan reached an arrangement on establishing direct air links and strengthening exchanges in energy, electronics, transshipment, aerospace, telecommunications and environmental protection.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The US has been criticised in the press for not procuring explicit acceptance of International Atomic Energy Agency inspections of suspected nuclear sites from the North Koreans in the 11th June statement, announcing that North Korea would not withdraw from the NPT.

- President Kim, on June 16, noted the apparent lack of concern on the part of his citizens about

the danger posed by the North Korean nuclear facilities to national and regional security. He said he instructed his top generals to "be fully prepared to counter any North Korean provocative act".

- The Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy said in Washington that the Korean "New Economy" planning committee has decided to create, beginning in 1994, a network of "Free Investment Zones", where foreign investors will be able to lease factory sites and bring in offshore capital. He also said that, in 1996, all limitations on the number, size and sales volume of foreign-investment outlets will be abolished.

- According to the Deputy Prime Minister, major indicators are pointing to economic recovery: the GNP is growing, prices remain stable, wage increases are manageable and exports are picking up.

- The Government will ease restrictions on entry into the oil refinery business and on imports and exports of petroleum products. The electricity generation and liquified natural gas businesses will be opened to the private sector by 1997.

- Le Ministère de la construction a indiqué qu'il construira 550,000 à 600,000 nouvelles habitations par année d'ici 1998.

- The Government plans to establish, by 1995, an agency equivalent to the US Food and Drug Administration for consumer protection. The Government will introduce safety inspection procedures similar to those used by the FDA.

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