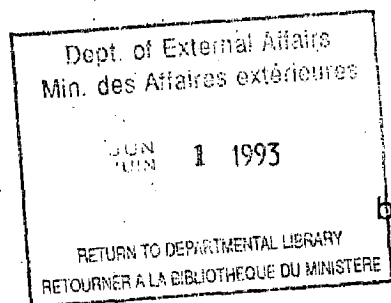


**BULLETIN**

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**NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD**

based on media surveys in the North Asia region



**JAPAN**

- Au cours d'une rencontre à Moscou le 18 mai avec l'ancien Premier ministre Nakasone, le Président Eltsine a demandé que le Japon ne lie pas la question d'aide économique à la Russie à celle des Territoires du Nord. Il a ajouté qu'il sera difficile de régler cette dispute rapidement à cause des problèmes internes russes.

- With regard to situation in Cambodia, Foreign Minister Muto and Home Affairs Minister Murata contended on the 18th at a press conference that the government should promptly revise provisions of the Peace Cooperation Law, which currently prohibits Japanese troops from monitoring ceasefires, helping to demobilize warring factions or patrolling buffer zones between combatants.

- During plenary sessions of both houses of the Diet held on the 18th, Finance Minister Hayashi asked for quick approval of a ¥2.188 trillion supplementary budget to bolster the economic recovery. The deliberations in the Lower House begin on the 20th.

- During a visit in Cambodia, Shunichi Yanai, Secretary General of Japan's International Peace Cooperation Headquarters, requested of UNTAC authorities on the 19th that the Japanese civilian police be allowed to withdraw from Cambodia immediately after the elections.

- The government and the LDP agreed on the 17th that the Self Defense Forces troops in

Cambodia can protect the Japanese election monitors and other civilian staff "within the scope of common sense", even using arms if necessary.

**HONG KONG**

- The Hang Seng Index continued its record-setting ways this week in anticipation of forthcoming Sino-British talks in Beijing. Brokers said investors had ignored problems such as China's Most Favoured Nation trade status with the USA or the possibility that Sino-British differences would not be resolved.

- The Sino-British Joint Liaison Group legal working team will resume meetings on May 20. It will be the first meeting of a JLG-related team since December when a plenary session of the JLG was held. The working group meeting will start a day before Britain and China sit down for the third round of talks in Beijing on Hong Kong's 1994-95 elections.

- According to the South China Morning Post exporters and shipping lines are actively looking for alternative ports to Hong Kong as the delay in providing the territory's badly needed new terminal threatens the territory's position as China's gateway to the world. Faced with soaring costs and growing congestion, exporters have expressed fears that Hong Kong's container business will shift to China.

## CHINA/CHINE

- The visit of first Vice Premier Zhu Rongji to Canada has been prominently reported by all domestic media, particularly Zhu's comments in Vancouver calling for greater economic cooperation between Canada and China.

- The failure of visiting New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger to meet Premier Li Peng passed virtually without comment by Chinese-language media. Official English-language media, however, reported that the Premier was still in hospital.

- La légère hausse des taux d'intérêt annoncée le 14 mai par la Banque populaire de Chine, la première en plus de deux ans, a été abondamment couverte par les médias. Dans une tentative pour contrôler l'inflation sans nuire à la croissance économique, divers taux d'intérêt sur les prêts ont augmenté de près de 1%, et ceux sur plusieurs types de dépôts gouvernementaux de plus de 2%.

- The State Council has released a circular stipulating beefed-up approval procedures for local development zones. The number of such zones has mushroomed in the past few years, aggravating shortages of energy, transport and raw materials, as well as increasing inflation through excessive issuance of credit.

- The Education Daily has announced that students wishing to study abroad will henceforth be allowed to do so without first working for five years, provided they have repaid the cost of their education.

- La vente de biens de consommation a augmenté de 25% en avril par rapport à avril 1992. Les économistes chinois attribuent la hausse en partie à la crainte d'une hausse des prix de la part des consommateurs. L'inflation en milieu urbain atteint près de 15%.

## KOREA/CORÉE

- U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee 18 May, cited China's non-obstruction of the present Security Council resolution on North Korea as evidence that it supported the effort by the Council to pressure North Korea to stay as members of the Non-Proliferation Treaty

- On May 17, a team of economic forecasters from 17 Pacific Rim nations, headed by Professor Lawrence Krause of the University of California at San Diego released their fifth annual Pacific Economic Outlook. They predicted continued strong growth of 4.2% for 1993 and 1994. They also predicted a turn around for Korea from a low of 4.4% in 1992 to annual rates of 6.4% for 1993 and 1994.

- Lee Won-Joe, ruling party representative and close friend and political fund raiser for past presidents Chung and Roh, abruptly left Korea on 18 May, apparently to avoid investigation into charges that he accepted a bribe from a major bank president.

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### ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR 1993

- CONSUMER CHINA 93 (Guangzhou); June 8-13,

- World Economic Forum: Europe/East Asia Conference (Hong Kong); October 13-15

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