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BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

JAPAN

- A survey of investment plans by 1,507 major companies showed that they plan to cut capital spending by 4.1% in FY 93, beginning April 1, Nippon Credit Bank reported. It's the second annual decline in a row, and the figure is marginally worse than the estimated drop of 3.3% for FY 92, the bank said.

- As part of its plan to "recycle" its ballooning trade surplus by pumping up its foreign aid budget, Japan will set aside substantial amounts to fund AIDS research in the U.S. and Europe, anonymous officials said. They called the plan to provide aid to other industrial countries "unprecedented" and said it will be announced at the G-7 summit in July. The plan to channel funds to research groups in the advanced nations is one of several steps with which the government hopes to undercut complaints in the U.S. and Europe about the size of the surplus.

HONG KONG

- D'après le "South China Morning Post", le Secrétaire aux Finances, Hamish MacLeod, est prêt à annoncer un surplus de près de \$20 milliards dans son discours du budget du 3 mars.

- Reports of further delays in the debate over Governor Patten's election proposals sent investors back into the market this week, pushing the Hang Seng index up 61.79 points and through the 6,100 level.

- Inflation last month headed into double figures for the first time since last February, but the Government was keen to describe it as a minor

setback caused largely by a burst of expenditures due to an early Lunar New Year this year.

- Visit of SSEA Barbara McDougall to Hong Kong this week is seen by the standard as a reflection of immense anger in Canada at the recent allegations that the Canadian servicemen were drunken cowards as Hong Kong fell to Japanese invaders in 1941. The Standard also says that Ms. McDougall will also reiterate the Canadian Government's support for Governor Patten's democratic reforms.

CHINA/CHINE

- Le journal de langue anglaise "Business Weekly" a fait état de la participation de quelque 25 experts canadiens à un séminaire sur l'environnement, à Guangzhou, séminaire parrainé par le gouvernement canadien. Le Canada espère vendre de la technologie environnementale à la province de Guangdong, dont l'essor économique a créé d'importants problèmes environnementaux.

- A statement by the MFA spokesman calling on Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten to abandon his proposal for democratic reform was carried on the front page of the 19 February English-language "China Daily". Hong Kong issues have received very little coverage in the Chinese media recently.

- The legal Daily reported on 24 February that China's first suit for computer software copyright infringement was tried in Beijing this

week. The plaintiff, who had developed software for safeguarding databank programs, was successful.

- Le quotidien du système légal a publié le texte de la nouvelle loi sur la sécurité d'état, adoptée par le Congrès National du Peuple le 22 février. La loi établit une définition de l'"atteinte à la sécurité nationale" et exige des forces de sécurité une obéissance scrupuleuse de la loi.

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- According to a report by Taiwan's environment protection administration, Taiwan's environment has been steadily deteriorating since 1986, and the rate of deterioration has increased, judging by such factors as sanitation, natural environment, standard of living and raw materials use.

- Tel que prévu, Lien Chan a été confirmé dans son poste de Premier Ministre, le 23 février, par un vote de 109 à 34 à l'assemblée législative, et ce malgré les questions quant à ses biens personnels et certaines allégations d'évasion fiscale. Lien Chan a refusé de dévoiler ses biens personnels tant qu'une législation à cet effet ne serait pas adoptée. La composition de son nouveau cabinet devrait être annoncée le 27 février.

KOREA/CORÉE

- President elect Kim Young-Sam appointed on the 23 February Hwang Insung, Chief Policy maker of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, as Prime Minister. The selection of Hwang, a retired Major General and former Transportation and Agriculture Minister, was opposed by the opposition Democratic Party as being a "man of the past", even though he hails from the Cholla province, traditional base for the Democratic Party.

- President Elect Kim Young-Sam has added credence to his claim to clean up government by appointing Supreme Court Justice Lee Hoichang as Chairman to the powerful Board of Audit and Inspection. Mr. Lee has built up a reputation for standing up against "external influences" which

will serve him well in this new position.

- One of the first acts of president elect Kim Young-Sam upon being inaugurated 25 February will be to ease access to the Blue House and the nearby Mt. Inwang, off limits since 1969. This, along with the reduction in number and rank of presidential secretaries, is part of his reforms to portray the Blue House as "standing for peoples-hope rather than a symbol of power".

- L'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique, dans une décision sans précédent, a demandé à la Corée du Nord d'accepter une inspection spéciale et immédiate de deux sites suspectés de recevoir des déchets nucléaires. La Corée du Nord a refusé d'accepter les visites et critiqué vivement l'AIEA qu'elle accuse de s'immiscer dans ses affaires internes.

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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