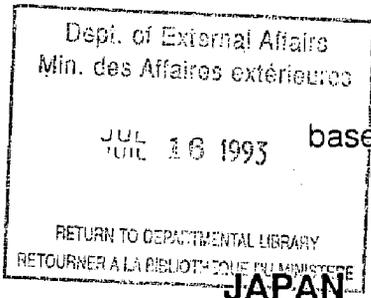


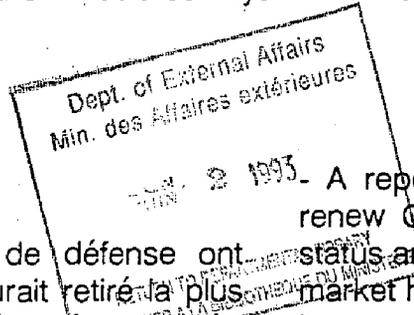
BULLETIN

VOL VI NO 22
le 28 mai, 1993



NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region



HONG KONG

- Des sources de l'Agence de défense ont indiqué le 27 que la Russie aurait retiré la plus grande partie des MiGs déployés sur l'île d'Etorofu. Certains y voient un signal envoyé de Moscou avant la venue de M. Eltsine à Tokyo pour le Sommet "7+1".

- The American dollar continued its plunge against the Yen Friday, to a new postwar low of ¥107.38, down ¥0.67 from Thursday, also a record low close. Neither interventions by the Federal Bank in New York nor by the Bank of Japan in Tokyo and Singapore this morning, did much to control the slide, and wire service reports said traders now think it will fall to ¥105. Some analysts fear that, with the current low level of consumer spending, the last remaining source of profit for many Japanese companies would disappear.

- Foreign Minister Kabun Muto told the Lower House's Foreign Affairs Committee on the 26th that the Government has begun consultations with other countries about holding an international conference to support the new Cambodian government after the election.

- PM Miyazawa and LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama agreed on the 25th that the LDP would propose a meeting of all party leaders if opposition parties successfully came up with a unified compromise plan on electoral system reform for the lower house.

A report that US President Clinton could renew China's Most Favoured Nation trade status and the unabated flow of liquidity in the market helped the Hang Seng Index continue its record-setting ways on May 25, with a 91.79 point jump, to 7,368.18.

- In a move that has surprised and delighted British and Hong Kong officials, China has agreed to approve three vital contracts straddling 1997, the Wharf pay television licence, the new scheme of control agreement for the Hong Kong electric company and the franchise for the Northwest New Territories landfill. Beijing also agreed to Hong Kong's second extradition treaty - with Canada - and indicated that approval of two more would follow.

- Inflation fell to a five-year low, for the second month in a row, thanks to the plunging value of the Chinese Yuan keeping food prices at a near standstill compared with last April.

CHINA/CHINE

- Extensive media coverage was given in the Chinese media to Vice-Premier Zhu Rongji's visit to Canada, including his meeting with Trade Minister Michael Wilson and his speech on China's economic climate to the Goodman Forum. Wilson's comment that Canada would continue to accord China MFN status was prominently reported.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 26 May, issued a statement condemning as "sheer

fabrication" Western media reports that hundreds of Tibetans had been arrested following anti-government demonstrations in Lhasa on 24 May, adding that two Tibetans remained under detention following the incident.

- The visit of Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen to Seoul, the highest-ranking ever by a PRC official to South Korea, has been front page news in Beijing. Discussion of North Korea was a priority for the visit. South Korean sources were quoted expressing satisfaction with China's cooperation on these issues.

- The English-language China Daily of May 22 reported on an IMF study which, using the purchasing-power parity method of calculation, ranks China as the worlds third largest economy. The study, which was not reported in the Chinese-language press, has major implications for World Bank policy towards China.

- An interview given by President Jiang Zemin to the American network CNN was reported on the front page of the People's Daily of 24 May. Jiang said that withholding of China's MFN status by the USA would harm both sides, and that "normal" relations were in their mutual interest.

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- Starting from July 1, visitors from Canada and five European countries will be eligible for 14-day visas on arrival in Taiwan. This new policy is being initiated on a trial basis in order to boost tourism from abroad. Its manner of implementation remains to be clarified.

- In order to enhance Taiwan's international image concerning maritime resource protection, two armed Taiwan patrol boats set out on May 18 to monitor drift-net fishing in the North Pacific.

- Taiwan's South China Sea Task Force decided on May 16 to host a conference in late 1993 on the disputed Spratly and Paracel Islands, aimed at protecting the historical claim to them by China (shared by both the PRC and Taiwan). Conference participants will be limited to representatives of Taiwan, the PRC, Hong Kong and Macau.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The Chinese Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, on a four-day visite to Seoul, held a first round of talks, devoted solely to the North Korean nuclear issue. Seoul and Beijing agreed to strengthen their joint effort to resolve this issue.

- Responding to a proposition of contact by South Korea, North Korea suggested that a vice-ministerial meeting be held at Panmunjom May 31.

- En visite en Corée, le Président Ramos de Philippines a indiqué avoir demandé au Président Kim que des investissements sud-coréens importants se fassent aux Philippines dans le domaine énergétique, des télécommunications, des transports et de la construction d'autoroutes. Ils se sont entendus aussi pour encourager le renforcement des liens entre l'ANASE et Séoul.

- The Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, addressing the conference of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, called for free trade and investment in the Pacific Basin.

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

The North Asia Bulletin is produced weekly by the North Asia Relations Division in a single bilingual edition only. Le E Nord est un hebdomadaire bilingue produit par la Direction des Relations Nord-Asie qui paraît dans une seule édition. Editor/rédacteur Hélène L. 0896; fax 613-996-4309

