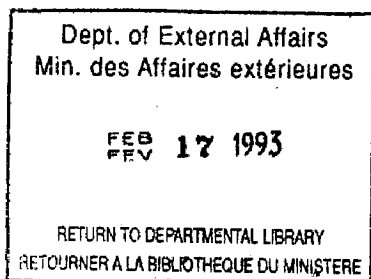


BULLETIN

NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region



JAPAN

- According to a quick report released Friday, the 5th, by the Finance Ministry, the nation's current account surplus in 1992 hit a record high of \$117.62 billions, up 61.3% from the previous year. The 1992 trade surplus also increased by 28.7% to total a record \$132.63 billions.

- It became official, Monday the 8th, that Finance Minister Hayashi will hold a meeting with his U.S. counterpart Bentsen, on the 13th, in Washington.

- Dimanche, le 7, un tremblement de terre d'une magnitude de 6.6 sur l'échelle de Richter a secoué le district de Hokuriku, sur la côte de la Mer du Japon, faisant 20 blessés.

- D'après un rapport de l'agence foncière nationale, le prix des terrains dans les districts commerciaux et résidentiels de toutes les grandes régions urbaines a continué de baisser durant le dernier trimestre de 1992. La baisse a été particulièrement importante à Tokyo, Osaka et Nagoya, où les prix sont tombés de 10%.

- Foreign Minister Watanabe, who will visit Washington 11-14 February, is expected to put forth a proposal for the establishment of a forum to conduct bilateral discussions of environmental problems and energy issues.

HONG KONG

- Le produit national brut a augmenté de 5.2% en termes réels durant le troisième trimestre de 1992 et les politiques fiscales introduites par le Secrétaire aux Finances semblent avoir contribué

à stabiliser l'inflation, bien que la monnaie soit liée au dollar américain.

- Hong-Kong's huge \$30 billion deficit in commodity trade last year had been more than offset by the surplus in the service trade. The Director-general of trade, Donald Tsang, said the service industry was estimated to have brought to the territory a net gain of \$40 billion last year.

- The Hong-Kong government is in line for another cash windfall with land revenue likely to greatly exceed its original estimate of \$14.1 billion. The booming property market in 1991 resulted in a record windfall of more than \$20 billion in land income during the last financial year, and the government expects the trend to continue.

- Legislators have already approved about \$4.1 billion in funds for the airport railway - \$400 million more than the government's intended equity injection.

CHINA/CHINE

- Les médias ont fait grand état d'un rapport du Ministère du commerce et des Relations économiques extérieures affirmant qu'en 1992 la Chine est devenue la 11ème nation commerçante au monde. Le volume record de E.U. \$165.3 milliard du commerce international de la Chine en 1992 a surpassé celui de ses rivaux régionaux tels que Taiwan, la Corée du Sud et Singapour.

- The official English-language "China Daily", in a 10 February banner headline, announced that "shipping between mainland China and Taiwan is not far off". The report quoted the president of Cosco, China's largest shipping firm, who said his group had already visited Taiwan to discuss the establishment of direct shipping links.

- The "Economic Daily" reported on 09 February that 1992 had been a record year for foreign investors in China. The volume of foreign investor-connected foreign trade peaked at US\$ 43.8 billion, over a quarter of China's 1992 foreign trade volume.

- Une photographie montrant le décernement du titre de "citoyen honoraire" au Président Yang Shang Kun par la ville de Guangzhou a fait la première page de l'édition du 7 février du "Quotidien du Peuple".

- L'arrivée, le 10 février du Premier Ministre espagnol Filipe Gonzales, pour une visite officielle de 4 jours, a été abondamment couverte par les médias. Le Premier Ministre Gonzales visite la Chine à l'invitation de Li Peng, qui est lui-même allé en Espagne l'année dernière.

- Li Qiyang, executive deputy secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee, was elected mayor of Beijing, Friday the 5th. The mayor promised to solve power shortage problems in Beijing and speed up the rebuilding of dangerous residential houses.

KOREA/CORÉE

- The prosecution has indicted Chung Ju-Yung, leader of the United Peoples Party, without physical detention, on charges of embezzling money from a Hyundai group subsidiary and violating the presidential election law. Chung Ju-Yung has now announced his retirement from politics. The survival of the party is threatened as lawmakers began bolting from the party. Four of them have already left since the beginning of the week. The UPP now controls 31 out of the 299 National Assembly seats.

- D'après des sources gouvernementales, la Russie va envoyer des observateurs à l'exercice

militaire américano-sud coréen "Team Spirit".

- Le Premier Ministre Hyun a indiqué que les élections locales se tiendront pendant la première moitié de 1993.

- South Korea, Japan, Russia, Mongolia and China agreed at a regional meeting that it was too early to discuss institutionalization of the regional cooperation mechanism in an environment, but they selected energy and air pollution, environmental capacity building, and ecological management as priority areas for joint projects.

- Korea plans to permit foreign firms operating in Korea to buy real estate and commercial buildings linked to business operations from July this year, but the government will continue to bar foreigners from buying real estate for speculative purposes.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR 1993

- ENPROTECH 93 (Taipei); February 8-11

- Canadian trade office mission to Kaohsiung; February 15-16

- 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,

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