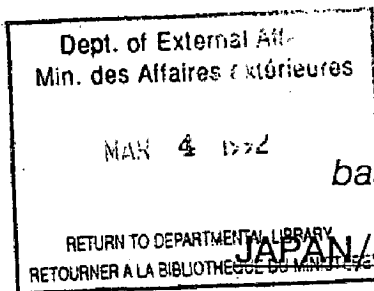


BULLETIN

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NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD

based on media surveys in the North Asia region



JAPAN/JAPON

- Les dirigeants du PLD ont décidé de séparer de leur propos de réforme politique l'idée de remplacer les circonscriptions à sièges multiples par des circonscriptions à siège unique. Puisqu'aucune perspective pour un accord sur le projet de réforme politique ne semble possible, ils ont officiellement conclu que le travail de réflexion sur le sujet devrait repartir d'une page blanche. La priorité devrait maintenant être donnée à la correction des écarts de représentativité entre les circonscriptions agricoles et urbaines.

- On a recent visit to Japan, U.S. Joint Chief Chairman General Colin Powell said the international community would like to see major countries such as Japan involved in peacekeeping operations, which he described as a "growth industry".

- Le président de Fiat, M. Agnelli, de passage à Tokyo, a déclaré au Nihon Keizai que l'accord nippo-européen sur les ventes d'automobiles japonaises en Europe couvre bien la question des transplants.

- Après Ozawa, c'est au tour de Kanemaru, président de la faction Takeshita, de joindre sa voix au chœur de ceux dans le PLD qui disent que le Japon doit se résigner à d'inévitables concessions sur le problème de l'accès au marché de riz.

CHINA/CHINE

- The Chinese media gave prominent coverage to the 15-17 Nov. visit of US Secretary of State James Baker. The coverage emphasized China's desire to improve relations with the USA, and Baker's expressed similar desire.

The media acknowledged that difficulties remain regarding nuclear and missile proliferation issues and human rights, but portrayed the visit as a success. The visit by former US Secretaries of State George Schultz and Alexander Haig immediately prior to Baker's arrival was also used by the media to convey a similar message.

- The Emir of Kuwait visited Peking Nov. 15-17 and was accorded a very high media profile, surpassing that given US Secretary of State Baker. The Chinese leadership used the visit to reiterate their support for Kuwait's independence and desire to see outstanding Middle East issues resolved through negotiations.

- Au cours d'une conférence de presse, le porte-parole du Ministère des Affaires étrangères a réagi très négativement à la proposition d'établir une commission internationale pour assurer les droits de la personne à Hong Kong après 1997. Notant que l'opposition du gouvernement chinois à l'internationalisation de Hong Kong était notoire, Wu Jianmin a dit qu'après 1997, les affaires de Hong Kong seront les affaires intérieures de la Chine.

- According to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, China is planning to pass a new regulation defining the origins of its exported goods, in an effort to ease trade friction with major Western partners.

-According to the China Daily, China's large and medium state-owned enterprises are finally introducing changes in their management systems in the hope of shrugging off their chronic economic

problems.

-China has established its first juvenile court in Shanghai. Composed of jurists who have worked together on juvenile matters for nearly a decade, the court will deal with criminal, civil, economic and administrative cases concerning juveniles.

KOREA/CORÉE

-The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministerial Meeting, which took place in Seoul Nov.12-14, welcomed three new members: China, Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei. Ministers also adopted the Seoul APEC Declaration, issued a strong statement calling for a balanced, comprehensive and substantial result to the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations by the end of this year, and made progress on a large number of other issues.

-President Roh Tae Woo called for a non-nuclear Korean Peninsula and declared that South Korea will not manufacture, store or use nuclear weapons and called on North Korea to do the same. He also announced South Korea's full support for the total elimination of chemical and biological weapons.

- The South Korean government plans to allow 30,000 conscripts to work in industrial sites for 5 years in place of 2 1/2 or 1 1/2 years of military service due to shortage of manpower. Conscripts would receive the same pay as ordinary workers and if fired, would have to rejoin the military.

- Oil refineries in Korea plan to increase prices by 10.1% on Nov. 9. The Ministry of Energy and Resources is working to decide on the final increase rates.

- Korea delivered an objection to opening its rice market to GATT but Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of GATT, said an exception can hardly be granted as it would trigger a chain reaction from other countries.

- Korean rice is scheduled to become the world's costliest later this year if the government

decides on a 10% raise in local prices. Korea has continued to raise prices since 1985 when Japan froze its price. Rice accounts for 50% of Korean farmers' income and 60% of arable land. There is a large rice surplus in Korea.

HONG KONG

- Last week's NAB erroneously stated that 20% of immigrants to Canada had come from Hong Kong in recent years. The figure should have been 12%.

CAMBODIA/CAMBODGE

- Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Chairman of the Supreme National Council, made an emotional return to Phnom Penh on Nov. 14 after several years of house arrest under the Khmer Rouge, followed by twelve years in exile. The establishment of the SNC in Cambodia is an important step in the implementation of the Cambodian peace agreements.

- The press in China gave prominent coverage to Sihanouk's "victorious return" to Cambodia, while the later return to Phnom Penh of Khmer Rouge Supreme National Council Member Son Sen was reported factually.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR

- Taipei Aerospace Technology Exhibit - Nov. 19-23
- Defence Info Booth in Seoul - Nov. 20-24
- Power Mission Seminars in China - Nov. 22-29
- Alberta Mission to Vientiane, Laos - Nov. 23-24
- Canadian Telecom Seminar Mission to Japan - Nov. 25-29
- Canadian Log Home Show in Japan - Dec. 2-6
- Taipei International Travel Fair - Dec. 3-8

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