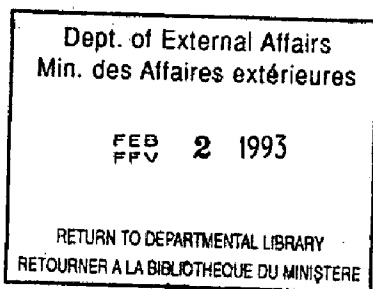


BULLETIN

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based on media surveys in the North Asia region



JAPAN

- Un tremblement de terre d'une magnitude de 7.5 sur l'échelle de Richter a frappé les côtes de Hokkaido vendredi soir, le 15. Deux personnes sont mortes et 425 autres ont été blessées.

- On January 17, Prime Minister Miyazawa called moves within the LDP to create a parliamentary body of all political parties to review the constitution "extremely dangerous" and "unfortunate".

- During a meeting with his Malaysian counterpart, Prime Minister Mahathir, on January 14, Prime Minister Miyazawa indicated Japan's reluctance to promote the proposed EAEC plan, which excludes the USA. Both prime ministers agreed to cooperate in helping Indo-China develop its economy.

- Lundi, le gouvernement a confirmé son appui aux activités militaires américaines en Irak.

- On January 16, in Bangkok, Prime Minister Miyazawa proposed the creation of an international forum to work out strategies for developing Indochina. He also stressed that Japan will be actively involved in promoting dialogue on political and security problems in the Asia Pacific region, as well as in the creation of a new framework for Asia Pacific security.

HONG KONG

- Barrie Wiggham, the Secretary for the Civil Service, will meet Chinese officials and academics in Beijing this week, signalling a possible thawing in Sino-British relations over Governor Patten's

political reforms. Wiggham is the highest ranking government official to visit China after Governor Patten's trip.

- Reviewing the territory's total trade in 1992, Donald Tsang, Director-General of Trade, said the Sino-British row over constitutional reform was unlikely to hurt trade in the short term. Hong Kong's domestic exports last year surged to US\$30 billion while re-exports and imports reached US\$90 billion and US\$120 billion respectively.

- Le terminal de cargo aérien de l'aéroport de Hong-Kong déclare avoir manutentionné à Kai Tak, l'année dernière, 918,518 tonnes de marchandises. Cela constitue un record mondial. Les données pour 1992 représentent une augmentation de 11.9% par rapport à l'année dernière.

- Plans for the next regular meeting between the British and Chinese Foreign Ministers have been put on hold. Britain's Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in London that there was no point in holding a meeting if it meant "simply getting out of a plane and doing nothing".

CHINA/CHINE

- The publication of a selection of Deng Xiaoping's speeches made between 1977 and the present on his theory of "socialism with Chinese characteristics" was prominently publicised, culminating in the front-page publication of extensive excerpts in the People's Daily of January 18.

- La signature par la Chine, et 120 autres pays, de la Convention sur les armes chimiques a été abondamment couverte par la presse. Le Quotidien du Peuple rapporte également que le Ministère des Affaires étrangères chinois a demandé au Japon de prendre la responsabilité pour les armes chimiques laissée en Chine par le Japon à la fin de la deuxième guerre.

- Premier Li Peng and Vice-Premier Zhu Rongji both addressed a recent national financial sector conference. Li stressed that the Party Central Committee had made it clear that the economy must not be allowed to overheat, and both called on banks to strictly control credit and the money supply in 1993.

- Jiang Zemin, Li Peng, and other senior leaders have received from the Drafting Committee a final draft of the Basic Law under which Macao will be run after 1999. Criticism of Governor Patten's proposals, meanwhile, continues to appear, though somewhat muted, in the press.

TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- La chute de 32%, en moyenne, qu'ont connue les valeurs en bourse à Taiwan, en 1992, représente la plus forte baisse enregistrée parmi les bourses les plus importantes. Par comparaison les valeurs à la bourse de Tokyo ont chuté de 29%, tandis qu'on enregistrait des hausses de 27.6% et 8% respectivement à Hong Kong et à Séoul.

- Following pressure from international groups in Taiwan, especially given Taiwan's bid to boost foreign investment and become a regional transportation and financial centre, on January 15 Taiwan relaxed the rules on employment of foreigners. The minimum capital requirements for a company to be eligible to hire foreigners has been reduced by 75% to Cdn\$250,000, while the minimum operating capital requirements for Taiwan branches of foreign companies have been reduced to \$125,000.

- According to local emigration consultants, the number of Taiwanese applicants for emigration rose 20-30% in December, compared to October and November. They suggested that this may be

related to the legislative elections in December, as well as the tightening of immigration restrictions in countries such as Canada, citing the increase in capital requirements for business immigrants to Canada from \$150,000 to 250,000 starting in 1993.

- According to Taiwan statistics, Taiwan became the world's 20th largest economy in 1992, with a GNP of US\$210 billion. This achievement was attributed to outstanding economic performance and the appreciation of the New Taiwan dollar. Per capita GNP of US\$10,196 ranks Taiwan 24th in the world.

- The Taiwan Ministry of Finance has drafted regulations governing the establishment of foreign insurance firms in Taiwan, allowing branches to be set up on the basis of reciprocity and national treatment. The Taiwan insurance market had been restricted to local and American firms. Stiff competition to enter the market is expected from European, Japanese, and Canadian insurance companies.

ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR

1993

ENPROTECH 93 (Taipei)
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