



**BULLETIN**

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**NORTH ASIA - ASIE DU NORD**

based on media surveys in the North Asia region

**JAPAN**

- The LDP and opposition parties agreed Thursday to resume the upper house budget committee on the 19th, and to approve the 93 budget draft on the 31st.
- Friday the 19th, PM Miyazawa urged North Korea to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the NPT. He also opposed immediate counter measures such as economic sanctions against Pyongyang.
- The 20th, the Tokyo District Prosecutor's Office, investigating former LDP kingpin Shin Kanemaru, began questioning executives of 20 of the nation's top construction companies on suspicion of their involvement.
- Lundi le 22, le PM Miyazawa a confirmé l'appui du Japon au Président Yeltsin et son soutien aux politiques de réforme de la Russie.

**HONG KONG**

- Political fears have ceased to rock local stock prices, while a prevailing wind of encouraging corporate results has sent the Hang Seng Index bounding beyond the 6,200-point mark at 6,212.19. Brokers said the rise was triggered by a series of positive elements including the executive council's reservation in tabling the controversial reform policy and statement by the communist party chief that Beijing was keen to maintain the prosperity of Hong Kong after 1997.
- Le nouveau chef exécutif de l'autorité provisoire de l'aéroport, Dr Hank Townsend, a averti que le conflit politique entre la Chine et la Grande Bretagne met en péril la complétion, d'ici 1997,

de la première phase du nouvel aéroport. Il a souligné la difficulté de planifier dans un contexte où les autorités chinoises et britanniques ne discutent même pas du financement de l'aéroport de Chek Lap Kok.

- Former Chief Secretary Sir David Akers-Jones and co-operative resources centre convenor Allen Lee both said they would accept the offer of a post as a Beijing-appointed Hong Kong affairs adviser. An outspoken critic of Patten's political packages, Akers-Jones will be the first expatriate and high ranking ex-civil servant to become an adviser. A delegation of advisers will go to Beijing on 1 April.

**CHINA/CHINE**

- Shanghai's Liberation Daily has published an opinion piece calling for Hong Kong Governor Patten to resign. Official papers all across China echoed comments of Premier Li Peng and State Council Hong Kong Affairs Office Director, Lu Ping, that Patten had "shut the door for talks on Hong Kong".
- During a March 18 press conference, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, Mr Li Lanqing, denied rumours that the renminbi was about to be drastically devalued. Li also commented that the current Sino-British dispute over Hong Kong would "inevitably affect Sino-UK economic relations and trade".
- Lors d'une conférence de presse, le 20 mars, le Gouverneur du Tibet, Gyantsen Norbu, a soutenu que les journalistes étrangers peuvent se rendre au Tibet, pourvu

qu'ils fassent un reportage "objectif".

- Le Ministère de la justice et la Commission de réglementation du marché des valeurs ont habilité 35 cabinets d'avocats chinois à entreprendre le travail juridique relatif à l'émission de valeurs. Des cabinets étrangers désirant travailler à l'émission de valeurs chinoises à l'étranger devraient eux aussi en obtenir l'autorisation du Ministère et de la Commission.

- The China Nuclear Corporation has announced that foreign investment and joint venture partners are being sought for cooperation in the building of new nuclear power plants.

### TAIWAN/TAÏWAN

- A 6-person Taiwan delegation arrives in Beijing 25 March for preparatory negotiations on the cross-straits talks scheduled for April in Singapore, which will be the highest level talks so far between China and Taiwan. Cheyne Chiu (former presidential advisor who is now Secretary General of the Straits Exchange Foundation) prompted speculation last week about a new mainland policy when he said Taiwan should consider adjusting its "Three No's Policy: no contact, no negotiation and no compromise". He later said this was merely his personal view.

- Taiwan's budget surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1993, is expected to shrink to Cdn \$5 million, just 0.2% of last year's surplus of Cdn \$2.5 billion.

- Taiwan's per capita GNP is expected to reach US \$20,000 by the Year 2000, up from US \$10,215 in 1992. Taiwan is also expected to have the highest economic growth rate among the four little dragons in 1993-94.

### KOREA/CORÉE

- Following the end of the US-South Korea "Team Spirit" joint-military exercise, North Korea has lifted its "semi-state of war". The move has helped defuse some of the tension in the peninsula, despite Pyongyang's continuing determination to pull out of the NPT and refusal to allow

inspections of two undeclared nuclear sites.

- President Kim announced a 100-day economic revitalization plan that includes a reduction of regulated interest rates, an increase of assistance to help the manufacturing industry expand its investments, early implementation of public projects and flexible currency management.

- Le Président Kim a annoncé que le salaire et le nombre de fonctionnaires sera gelé au niveau présent pour 1 an. Il a aussi demandé aux entreprises un gel des prix des produits et des coûts de service pour 1 an.

- President Kim has ordered his Democratic Liberal Party to conduct a thorough in-house investigation into the lawmakers, now the target of public resentment for suspected real estate speculation and tax evasion.

- Suite à l'établissement de relations diplomatiques entre les deux pays, en août 1992, la Corée du Sud est devenue le septième plus important exportateur vers la Chine.

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### ONGOING AND UPCOMING/ A VENIR 1993

- 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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