

.... October 7 Octobre 1991

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Variable.  
Vent faible de sud-est prédominant. Il  
fera 18 .

.... SG/PRB/D(91)168

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

JAARZUILEN (Pays-Bas) - Les Douze ont menacé dimanche de prendre des sanctions immédiates et à plus long terme contre les républiques yougoslaves qui ne respecteront pas un cessez-le-feu avant lundi minuit, a annoncé le chef de la diplomatie néerlandaise Hans van den Broek.

BELGRADE - Un journaliste canadien, Peter Brysky, a été tué à Karlovac (50 km au sud de Zagreb) et 2 journalistes japonais, Mishio Ohara et Miya Satoshi, ont été blessés, au cours de combats entre forces croates et unités de l'armée yougoslave, a indiqué la radio croate.

LISBONNE - Le Parti social démocrate (PSD-droite libérale) du Premier ministre Anibal Cavaco Silva a remporté les élections législatives au Portugal et conserve la majorité absolue à l'Assemblée de la République (parlement).

BRUXELLES - Le roi Boudouin a refusé la démission présentée vendredi par le Premier ministre belge Wilfried Martens, du fait de différends entre ministres flamands et wallons sur des dossiers économiques.

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GOVERNMENTS, ELECTIONS, RESIGNATIONS

Portugal

REUTER: Landslide win for Anibal

LISBON - "Portugal's ruling Social Democratic Party (PSD) celebrated a landslide election victory on Monday, but Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva gave warning of tough times ahead. 'We have before us great challenges. The international situation is very complex', he told a news conference at the party's headquarters... Lisbon's cobbled streets were a sea of orange flags and blaring horns as PSD supporters celebrated their victory. With nearly all the votes counted, the PSD had 50.59% and official predictions showed it winning 132 of the 230 seats in parliament. The Socialist Party (PS) of Jorge Sampaio, the closest challenger, trailed with a mere 29.04%. One of the biggest winners was apathy. About 32% of the 8.5 million electorate failed to vote on the brilliantly sunny day, more than in any previous general election... During the election campaign Cavaco Silva repeatedly stressed the need for continuing strong government. He threatened to resign if the PSD lost its majority in parliament and ruled out forming a coalition to stay in power... Since Portugal joined the European Community in 1986, Cavaco Silva has overseen an economic boom which has attracted a flood of foreign investment and billions of dollars of aid. But Portugal's average annual economic growth of 4.5% since then is forecast to slow to 3% this year. Inflation is over 11% and the toughest phase of European integration still awaits the inefficient textile, banking and agriculture sectors."

Belgium

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Martens resignation refused

BRUSSELS - "... On Sunday, Belgium's King Baudouin refused to accept Friday's resignation by Prime Minister Wilfried Martens. Instead, the king asked the Marten government to limp on for a few more weeks and propose constitutional changes aimed at calming tensions between Dutch-speaking Flanders and the French speakers of southern Belgium. After those proposals are made, the parliament is to be dissolved and an election called for November or early December. (Mr. Martens, who has led 9 coalitions since 1979, until recently insisted that he wanted a January vote). Once election results are in, political leaders may require months of dickering to form a new coalition, as they did in 1988, after the last election... Though linguistic tensions are a constant here, the latest

squabble marks a sudden escalation after a decade of relative harmony in which Mr. Martens has proved himself the master of compromise. His government began to wobble last month when 2 Flemish parties - eager to please pacifist voters in Flanders - tried to block companies in French-speaking Wallonia from selling small arms to Saudi Arabia. Francophone ministers, fearing a loss of jobs in Wallonia, threatened to grant export licenses on their own - an ultimatum that some Flemish politicians saw as tantamount to declaring independence."

Sweden

REUTER: New team buries "Swedish model"

STOCKHOLM - "Sweden's new centre-right government began nailing shut the coffin of the so-called Swedish model economy on Friday, proposing sweeping free market reforms to bury 6 decades of welfare-state socialism. 'A clear and unequivocal change of course in economic policy is... needed', Prime Minister Carl Bildt said in a statement. The proposals include virtually abolishing limits on foreign acquisition of Swedish corporations and property, slashing taxes and government spending, privatising state industries and reforming the welfare system to grant more individual choice."

Japan

FINANCIAL TIMES: Kaifu to stand down

TOKYO - "Mr Toshiaki Kaifu, Japanese prime minister, yesterday said he would not seek re-election when his term of office expires at the end of the month. He has thereby submitted to a hopeless battle of wills with senior leaders of his Liberal Democratic party. Mr Kaifu had been favourite in the election race. The move creates great uncertainty about who will become Japan's next prime minister. LDP chiefs are likely to be absorbed by the contest over the coming weeks. Arguments over party leadership will, at least temporarily, make it more difficult for Japan to reach decisions on international issues such as Soviet aid and the GATT trade talks... In spite of his political weakness, Mr Kaifu has been rated in opinion polls as the most popular prime minister ever. Even this week, his standing was close to its all-time high. Polls, however, played little part in the counsels of the LDP."

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FINANCIAL TIMES: Cartel not broken but cracked

LONDON - The high price of international telephone calls has become one of the most controversial issues in the world telecommunications industry over the past year. An investigation by the FINANCIAL TIMES started the controversy by disclosing that public phone companies around the world were overcharging their customers between \$10bn and \$20bn a year. International call prices, which are typically 2 to 4 times more than costs, are kept high by a series of caretel-like practices... The cartel has come under attack from many quarters. Although not yet broken it is cracked. The US government, particularly the Federal Communications Commission, has been leading the campaign... The European Commission has also been investigating whether the cartel is breaching anti-trust provisions of the Treaty of Rome... In parallel, the OECD, which groups 24 industrialised nations, has been lobbying for changes. A recent internal document said that accounting rates played the same role as customs tariffs in constraining the flow of goods."

FINANCIAL TIMES: German phone monopoly

BONN - "Germany's public-sector monopoly of phone services will last only 'another 4 or 5 years' at most, a senior member of the board of Deutsche Telekom, Germany's publicly-owned telephone system, has said. Mr Gerd Tenzer, one of Telekom's leading strategists, said in Bonn that technological and political pressure, the latter coming especially from the European Commission, meant the monopoly would soon be a thing of the past."

REVOLUTION IN THE USSR

FINANCIAL TIMES: All travel curbs to be lifted

MOSCOW - "The Soviet Union is to open all formerly closed areas of the country and remove travel restrictions on foreigners, Mr Vladimir

Petrovsky, first deputy foreign minister, announced yesterday. The move will bring the USSR into line with the requirements of a programme agreed by 38 nations at yesterday's close of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The conference has been meeting in Moscow for the first time."

LA TRIBUNE: L'URSS membre associé du FMI

WASHINGTON - "Le directeur exécutif du FMI Michel Camdessus, et le président de l'Union soviétique Mikhaïl Gorbatchev ont conclu samedi un accord faisant bénéficier l'URSS du statut de 'membre-associé' du FMI. Ce statut 'd'association spéciale' est une lère étape en vue d'une adhésion pleine et entière de l'Union soviétique aux institutions de Bretton Woods (FMI, Banque Mondiale). Ainsi que l'a indiqué Michel Camdessus, ce statut 'autorise le FMI à développer une assistance technique de grande envergure' auprès de l'Union soviétique. Il ne l'autorise pas, en revanche, à accorder les crédits attachés à une adhésion entière au fonds."

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END-OF-TEXT