

.... June 18 Juin 1990

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Les
nuages sont encore nombreux ce matin,
mais rapidement le ciel deviendra
variable. Il fera 21°.

.... SG/PRB/D(90)108

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

BUCAREST - La Place de l'Université dans le centre de Bucarest a été occupée dimanche soir par 1 000 à 2 000 manifestants scandant des slogans anti-communistes et demandant la démission du président Ion Iliescu; ils se sont dispersés dans la nuit sans incident.

BERLIN-EST - La RDA a officiellement cessé dimanche d'être un Etat socialiste, son parlement ayant modifié à la majorité des 2/3 la constitution pour rayer toute référence au "socialisme" et garantir la propriété privée, supprimant ainsi les obstacles à l'entrée en vigueur le 1er juillet de l'union monétaire, économique et sociale avec la RFA. Selon les nouveaux principes de la constitution, la RDA est "un Etat de droit libre, démocratique, fédéral, social et écologique".

BERLIN-EST - Les ministres des Affaires étrangères de RFA et de RDA, Hans-Dietrich Genscher et Markus Meckel, ont exprimé dimanche leur désaccord sur la date des élections pan-allemandes qui marqueront l'unification politique des 2 Etats, M. Genscher proposant décembre 1990, alors que M. Meckel estimait que ce scrutin ne pourrait avoir lieu qu'en avril 1991 au plus tôt.

AHEAD OF THE HOUSTON SUMMIT

ASAHI EVENING NEWS: Farm subsidies on agenda

"Momentarily relieved that the Economic ministers of the rich nations cannot agree on eliminating agricultural subsidies, Tokyo is paying keen attention to the moves of the Western countries with the Houston summit meeting of industrial democracies a month ahead. The split at the OECD talks last May was to a considerable degree due to Washington's decision not to press Europe and Japan to open up its agricultural markets fully. The immediate attention of the Japanese government is now riveted on how hard other OECD nations will push it to open up to imports of foreign food products."

FINANCIAL TIMES: G7 to discuss aid for Moscow

WASHINGTON - "Assistance for the Soviet Union's economic reform programme has emerged as an important item on the agenda for the annual summit of leaders of the G7 to be held in Houston, Texas, next month. There is no agreement yet about how much can be done in view of the internal political and economic uncertainties in the Soviet Union. The 'sherpas', or personal representatives of the leaders (of the US, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada), met over the weekend to discuss the agenda and a draft communique, about which there is an unusual degree of uncertainty."

INTERVIEW DU PRESIDENT DE LA BANQUE MONDIALE

LES ECHOS: Aide limitée si armement privilégié

"A Paris, où il a rencontré le ministre de l'Economie Pierre Bérégovoy, et le président désigné de la nouvelle BERD, Jacques Attali, le président de la Banque Mondiale, Barber Conable, a appelé les pays du Tiers-Monde à accélérer leurs propres réformes pour éviter que les investissements ne se concentrent sur l'Europe de l'Est... Dans une interview aux ECHOS, il préconise la mise en oeuvre de nouveaux mécanismes d'allégement de la dette sur lesquels l'Elysée travaille activement avant le sommet franco-africain, les 20 et 21 juin à La Baule, et surtout avant le sommet des 7 principaux pays industriels à Houston. Mais il se prononce pour une limitation des programmes de la Banque quand les pays consacrent une trop large part de leurs ressources aux dépenses militaires."

WEST AND EAST GERMANY

FINANCIAL TIMES: E Berlin details credit needs

EAST BERLIN - "East German companies will require between DM5bn and DM6bn a month in new credits after monetary union with West Germany on July 1 merely to pay wages, according to Mr. Wolfgang Zeissig, head of financial planning in the East German Finance ministry. Mr. Zeissig said in an interview that an international consortium of more than 30 banks was on the point of signing a lending declaration with the Treuhandanstalt, the East German trust agency, which owns most of industry, to help overcome industry's short term liquidity crisis. The Finance ministry official said that up to 1/3 of all East German companies will be dependent on credit to pay most of the wages bill for at least 3 months after monetary union."

HERALD TRIBUNE: Short-term funds for E.G. industry

PARIS - "West Germany will provide funds on a 'short term' basis to East Germany's largest industrial groups to guarantee that they can meet their export commitments to the Soviet Union after monetary union, a senior Bundesbank official said Friday. Hans Tietmeyer, a member of the Bundesbank's policy-setting council and an architect of the monetary unification plan, said that during 'a transitional period over the next 2 or 3 months' subsidies would be provided to the 120 giant industrial groups in East Germany."

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL TIMES: East and West to co-operate

DUBLIN - "East European countries, including the Soviet Union, will participate in the European Environment Agency, the body being established by the EC in the face of the environmental concern sweeping the continent. This decision - which will result in the first formal Soviet participation in an EC institution - was one of the few tangible outcomes of a day-long conference between EC Environment ministers and their East European counterparts this weekend in Dublin. But the ministers unanimously hailed the Dublin conference, the first of its kind, for allowing Western Europe a direct account of the East European environmental disaster."

FINANCIAL TIMES: US favours fund to cut use of CFCs

"The Bush administration has changed policy and dropped its opposition to a new international fund to help developing nations reduce their use of chemicals which erode the ozone layer above the earth and allow through more damaging radiation from the sun. The US is likely to contribute between \$20m and \$25m to a fund of at least \$100m, though if China and India participate the fund could grow to more than \$200m. The US decision was made on the eve of this week's London conference which is expected to reach agreement on the creation of the fund to assist in the phasing out of such chemicals, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)."

OECD ECONOMIES

United Kingdom

THE GUARDIAN: Inflation jitters on 11.2% pay offer

"Government fears that the rise in inflation will fuel a summer wage-price spiral were heightened yesterday by news that 8,000 workers at British Nuclear Fuels have been offered increases of up to 11.2%, one of the biggest in this year's pay round. Union leaders cited last Friday's rise in the annual inflation rate of 9.7% as one of the prime factors behind the size of the award and said further settlements of more than 10% were likely."

United States

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Latest data growth remains slow

WASHINGTON - "... Friday's May economic data gave some cause for optimism. The Federal Reserve reported that a rebound in auto production pushed factory output up 0.6% in May, while the Labor department said consumer prices rose a modest 0.2%. In the wake of Wednesday's dismal retail-sales report, however, economists said the latest data only confirm

that the economy is stuck in a slow-growth rut."

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Trade gap narrowed in April

WASHINGTON - "The US merchandise trade deficit narrowed to \$6.94bn in April, primarily because a sharp drop in imports offset a smaller decline in exports, the Commerce department reported. April's deficit, which compared with a \$8.36bn gap in March, reflected a 6.2% plunge in imports to \$39.25bn. Exports fell 3.5% to \$32.31bn."

Belgium

THE TIMES: Franc linked to mark

"Belgium, which is keen to promote European unification and keep down its own inflation, has formally tied its franc to the mark, anchor currency of the EMS and expects other EMS countries to follow suit soon. The move, announced on Saturday by Wilfried Martens, the Prime minister, will add to fears that European monetary union could proceed at 2 different speeds, with a core group of EMS members permanently linking their currencies ahead of the others. While Mrs. Thatcher has rejected the 2-speed concept, the British government is keeping the markets guessing over the timing of sterling's entry to the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS. City euphoria over hopes that entry could come by autumn abated by the weekend, but underpinned favourable sentiment for the pound."

END-OF-TEXT