

.... June 28 Juin 1990

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Ce matin, ciel encore assez nuageux. Il fait moins lourd. Températures: 16° et 22°.

.... SG/PRB/D(90)116

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

SAN PEDRO DE LOVAGO (Nicaragua) - L'état-major de la résistance nicaraguayenne (RN-Contras) a déposé les armes mercredi, mettant officiellement fin au conflit qui a sévi dans ce pays d'Amérique centrale durant 9 ans. Cette confrontation a fait plus de 50.000 victimes, sur une population de plus de 3 M d'habitants, et causé des dégâts matériels estimés à quelque 15 mrds de dollars.

MOSCOU - M. Vadim Medvedev, le responsable de l'idéologie au Bureau Politique, a déclaré mercredi que le 28ème Congrès du parti communiste soviétique devrait s'ouvrir à la date prévue, le lundi 2 juillet.

- Les plus hauts dirigeants lituaniens se sont entretenus mercredi soir au Kremlin avec le président Gorbatchev pour tenter de mettre fin à la crise provoquée par la sécession des états baltes, à la veille du débat du parlement de Vilnius sur un éventuel moratoire de la déclaration d'indépendance.

PRAGUE - Le président Vaclav Havel a nommé mercredi le nouveau gouvernement tchécoslovaque dirigé par Marian Calfa, Premier ministre sortant, qui comprend 16 membres dont 7 nouveaux-venus.

BERLIN-EST - La RDA a annoncé mercredi que l'ensemble des contrôles à la frontière inter-allemande et entre les 2 parties de Berlin seraient supprimés à compter de dimanche, date de l'entrée en vigueur de l'union économique, monétaire et sociale allemande.

OECD ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

YOMIURI SHIMBUN: Japan should further liberalize market

PARIS - "Japan should further liberalize its domestic market and stimulate competition to avoid renewed trade friction and to benefit Japanese consumers, the OECD said in a report to be made public today. The weakening of the yen since late 1988 has become a 'major concern' for Japanese authorities, the OECD said in its biannual Economic Outlook. The report said the depreciation of the currency, which lost nearly 30% of its value between its 1988 peak and last April, had generated upward pressure on domestic prices and raised the threat of a renewed widening of Japan's external surplus. According to OECD projections, Japan's current account surplus, which declined by \$22bn to \$57bn last year, should come down further to \$49bn, or 1.8% of the GNP, this year."

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FINANCIAL TIMES: US, Japanese leaders step up pressure to reach accord

WASHINGTON/TOKYO - "President George Bush yesterday talked with Mr. Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese Prime minister, in the hope of ending the stalemate in the Tokyo negotiations over the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII), which aims to reduce rigidities in both countries' economies. Shortly after yesterday's telephone conversation, Mr. Bush told reporters that he was still hopeful that differences could be resolved in the next few days to allow successful completion of the talks. Reports from Tokyo late yesterday said Japan had agreed to increase its public investment figure to Y430,000bn (\$3,267bn) over the next decade from its original proposal of Y415,000bn (\$2,695bn)."

REUTER: GATT chief urges compromise at anti-protection trade talks

HAMBURG - "The head of the world trade body GATT called on its member states on Wednesday to compromise before time runs out at talks on

combating growing protectionism. 'Every deal must have its give and take', Arthur Dunkel, director general of the GATT, told more than 2,000 businessmen attending a meeting in Hamburg... Dunkel said it would be dangerous to lower the goals of the talks to fit in with the short time left for agreement, and urged all sides to make concessions. His call found support among members of the International Chamber of Commerce, which meets every 3 years."

LATIN AMERICA/DEBT

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Bush proposes new measures

WASHINGTON - "President George Bush announced major new trade, investment and debt initiatives for Latin America. As proposed by the president, the new US policy envisions substantial debt relief on the nearly \$12bn in outstanding US government credits to the region. It also would set aside up to \$300m a year in grants from a new fund administered by the Inter-American Development Bank to foster private investment, and it foresees an eventual free-trade zone running the length and breadth of the Western hemisphere... 'Prosperity in the Western Hemisphere, Mr. Bush said, depends on trade, not aid'."

INVESTMENT IN EAST GERMANY

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Siemens plans to invest \$602m

BONN - "West German electronics giant Siemens AG plans to pour more than 1bn Deutsche marks (\$602m) into East Germany over the next several years as part of a bid to become a market leader on the other side of the fast-vanishing German border. In an announcement designed to highlight the scope of its efforts, the company said it will employ between 25,000 and 30,000 workers in these new projects and expects the business volume associated with the ventures to hit DM5bn a year. The announcement comes just days before East Germany adopts the Deutsche mark as its currency and illustrates the scramble by West German companies eager to snare a piece of the East German market."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Allianz wins E. German state insurer

FRANKFURT - "Allianz, West Germany's largest insurance group, has won its battle against a rival group of insurers to take control of East Germany's state insurance concern. It will start business across the border from Sunday, when the currency union between the two Germanys comes into effect... Allianz is paying DM271m for its 51% stake in Deutsche Versicherungs-AG, the successor to the former state monopoly. The remaining 49% to be held by the state holding company."

WORLD POPULATION

REUTER: Now 5.3bn seen reaching 8.5 by 2025

UNITED NATIONS - "The world's population is estimated at 5.3bn and will increase by 60% to 8.5bn by the year 2025, according to the latest United Nations data published on Wednesday. During 1990 alone, the total is projected to rise by 92m. In its biennial fine-tuning of demographic statistics, the UN population division said the world population was growing at around 1.7% a year but by the period 2020-2025 the annual average rate might decrease to 1%."

ECONOMIES OCDE

Italie

LA TRIBUNE: Les métallos manifestent pour l'échelle mobile

"Hier, des dizaines de milliers de métallos et d'ouvriers de la chimie ont envahi les centres de Milan et de Naples, pour protester contre la dénonciation par le patronat des accords sur l'échelle mobile des salaires. Au moins 150.000 métallos avaient répondu à l'appel des organisations syndicales... La grande industrie estime que les revendications d'un million et demi de métallos (270.000 lires en plus par mois) renchérirait de 40% en 3 ans le coût du travail (les syndicats avancent le chiffre de 27%)."

United States

HERALD TRIBUNE: Data eases recession fears

WASHINGTON - "The main US gauge for economic forecasting rose 0.8% in May, another indication that the economy will skirt a recession this year, the government reported Wednesday. The Commerce department report also contained an ominous note. The largest negative among the 11 forward-looking indicators was an index measuring consumer confidence. Seven of the components were positive: a longer average workweek, an increase in the price of raw materials, a larger amount of orders for consumer goods, higher stock prices, a decrease in the weekly unemployment claims, slower business delivery times and an increase in orders for new plants and equipment."

Canada

GLOBE AND MAIL: Retail sales nosedive

"April was the worst single month for Canadian retailers since the 1981-82 recession as high interest rates took their toll on sales of cars, appliances and furniture. Statistics Canada said yesterday that retail trade in April was down 1.4% from the year-ago level to \$15.87bn. It was the first year-over-year decline in retail trade since January, 1982, when the sector had watched its business fall 0.3%. After accounting for retail price inflation - now running at more than 4% annually - retail trade in April was actually down almost 6% in real terms."

END-OF-TEXT