

.... September 11 Septembre 1990

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Il fera
beau avec quelques passages nuageux.
Vents faibles d'est. Cet après-midi de
22 à 23°.

.... SG/PRB/D(90)143

REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

ABIDJAN - Liberian President Samuel Doe is reported to have been killed after a gun battle with rebels, but there appeared to be little hope of an immediate end to the eight-month-long civil war.

KARACHI - Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto denied any wrongdoing after the country's caretaker rulers filed charges of abuse of power against her in a Karachi court.

BRUSSELS - The European Community signalled its interest in restoring normal relations with Iran after the row over Tehran's death threat against British writer Salman Rushdie.

THE GULF CRISIS

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Baker asks NATO allies for more help

BRUSSELS - "US Secretary of State James Baker, seeking to tighten the military and political stranglehold on Iraq, requested that the US's European allies commit more ground-based troops and more cargo planes and ships to the Persian Gulf region. At a meeting of Foreign ministers of the NATO, alliance members pledged logistic support for moving US and Arab troops and military hardware to the gulf region. But the call for a stepped-up presence on the ground drew a mixed reaction... Yesterday, West Germany, Greece and Denmark - countries with big merchant-marine fleets - said they would help the US by lending large transport vessels... Mr. Baker softened his demand for European ground-based troops by saying that he would be happy with a token commitment. 'We would welcome additional ground-based forces - even if they were only symbolic', he said."

THE GUARDIAN: Baghdad offers free oil to Third World

NICOSIA - "Free oil was offered to Third World countries yesterday by President Saddam Hussein. This novel and startling bid to win friends came immediately after an indication of Iraqi progress on another front - an announcement that it is to restore diplomatic relations with Iran... The Iraqi leader called the offer a gesture of solidarity with Third World countries suffering because of higher oil prices even as Western countries were making 'filthy profits' out of the Gulf crisis."

THE GUARDIAN: UN split on supplying food to Iraq

NEW YORK - "The Security Council's sanctions committee met last night to explore ways of determining whether there are food shortages in Iraq and whether they are grave enough to justify loosening the mandatory trade embargo proclaimed by the Security Council on August 6. The embargo allows for the delivery of food and medicine to Iraq under 'humanitarian circumstances'."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Arab League to move back to Cairo

CAIRO - "Arab Foreign ministers last night voted to move the Arab League headquarters back to Cairo from Tunis after an 11-year absence. The decision seems certain to further deepen the split in the Arab world between the moderate majority led by Egypt and Saudi Arabia and the supporters of Iraq."

AFP: Les gouverneurs des banques centrales du G-10 sereins

BALE - "Les gouverneurs des banques centrales du Groupe des Dix pays industrialisés (G10) réunis lundi à Bâle se sont montrés rassurants face à

la crise du Golfe, affirmant que l'augmentation des prix du pétrole avait un 'effet modéré' sur les taux d'inflation... 'Le renchérissement des prix du pétrole a eu une plus grande incidence sur le comportement de monnaies de pays qui sont plus fragiles tels que l'Espagne et l'Italie', a souligné pour sa part une source monétaire italienne."

USSR

HERALD TRIBUNE: Gorbachev weighs economic options

MOSCOW - "Kremlin advisers struggled Monday to persuade President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to agree to a fundamentally new structure for the country as a means of overhauling the disintegrating economy. The plan, backed by Boris N. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Republic, and a top-level task force, would transfer enormous authority from the Supreme Soviet, the national parliament, to the legislatures of the 15 republics, according to a draft obtained by The Associated Press... The plan calls for the central government to accept 2 claims by the republics: control of their own natural resources and the superiority of their laws over national ones."

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

THE INDEPENDENT: Lending to private sector grows

"Commercial banks are showing a growing willingness to resume lending in developing countries in conjunction with the World Bank, according to the bank's affiliate for private-sector lending. The International Finance Corporation said in its annual report released today that it approved a record \$622m in syndicated loans with international commercial banks in the year to 30 June... Sir William Ryrie, IFC executive vice president, said the change in banks' attitudes was particularly evident in Latin America, where IFC syndicated loans of \$157m for projects in 6 countries... IFC approved a record \$2.2bn for 122 private-sector projects in developing countries in the year, 'demonstrating the growing opportunities for private investment in developing countries'."

WORLD TRADE

REUTER: Trade officials try to resolve farm, textile disputes

VANCOUVER - "Senior ministers from 12 nations that trade across the Pacific Ocean opened talks on Monday hoping to lay the groundwork for a sweeping reform of the world's trading system. A Canadian trade official said meetings here and in Geneva in October would try to clear away lesser issues for the 107 countries working to reform trading rules under the GATT... The nations meeting here account for 60% of world. They are: Canada, the US, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand."

OECD ECONOMIES

Greece

REUTER: Industrial strikes sweep the country

ATHENS - "Millions of Greek workers, protesting against a government-imposed austerity programme, kicked off a week of strikes on Monday which was expected to hit every sector of the economy. All state and private banks will remain closed until Sunday and Athenians formed long queues at bus stops waiting for public transport... The General Confederation of Greek Workers, the largest labour grouping with almost 2m members, has called a 24-hour general strike on Thursday... Conservative Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis has been cutting back 8 years of Socialist welfare programmes initiated between 1981 and 1989, and trying to raise revenues to cover chronic state deficits. At present 60% of the government's tax revenue goes to servicing the \$55bn state debt. Inflation for 1990 is expected to reach 23%."

United Kingdom

THE TIMES: Fall in retail sales

"Sales in high street shops fell sharply in August, according to the latest government statistics. The figures also showed manufacturers holding back price increases. The good news for the government in its battle against inflation comes ahead of Friday's Retail Prices Index

announcement, which is, however, expected to show inflation above 10% for the first time since March 1982... The volume of retail sales fell 1.6% last month."

Yougoslavie

LES ECHOS: Belgrade se prépare à un double choc pétrolier

BELGRADE - "En décembre dernier, alors que Belgrade s'apprêtait à appliquer un plan d'austérité visant à stabiliser l'économie du pays, l'inflation atteignait 64,4% en Yougoslavie. En août, elle était retombée à 1,9%. Ce résultat satisfaisant risque d'être remis en cause par les derniers développements dans le Golfe, mais aussi par la décision de Moscou de réduire sans délai ses livraisons de brut soviétique à tous les pays socialistes ou ex-socialistes. L'Irak est le 2ème fournisseur de pétrole de la Yougoslavie après l'Union Soviétique."

END-OF-TEXT