

.... October 12 Octobre 1990

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Assez  
dégagé, progressivement très nuageux  
avec des ondées. Vent de sud. 22'.

.... SG/PRB/D(90)167

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

NEW YORK (Nations Unies) - L'URSS souhaiterait une prochaine réunion du comité d'Etat-Major de l'ONU au niveau des chefs d'Etat-Major afin de discuter de la crise du Golfe, a indiqué le vice-ministre soviétique des Affaires étrangères, M. Vladimir Petrovsky.

BEYROUTH - L'armée syrienne a renforcé ses positions sur les lignes de front à l'est et au sud de Beyrouth, face au fief du général Michel Aoun.

TUNIS - Le Conseil central de l'OLP a appelé à une action "forte et rapide pour assurer une protection internationale" du peuple palestinien dans les territoires occupés par Israël.

\*\*\*\*\*

OECD - JEAN-CLAUDE PAYE

THE EUROPEAN: OECD calls for aid agency

"The Secretary-General of the OECD, Jean-Claude Paye, has called for a new body to help co-ordinate the West's assistance to Eastern Europe. He said recently that the European Commission, which now co-ordinates the effort on behalf of the 24 leading industrialised nations, is perhaps not the right institution... Mr. Paye suggested the OECD could sequence reforms, leaving their implementation to a new agency which could be run on the lines of the European Productivity Agency set up under the Marshall Plan after World War II. He said that technical assistance was a priority for Eastern Europe."

LA TRIBUNE: Le coût de l'incertitude

"Je ne suis pas pessimiste: je constate simplement que la situation actuelle se caractérise par un degré élevé d'incertitude. Or, l'incertitude est quelque chose qui coûte cher. Les gens prennent des primes d'assurance contre l'incertitude... La tonalité des propos de Jean-Claude Paye, Secrétaire Général de l'OCDE, est nettement moins volontariste que celle des discours tenus récemment à Washington par les dirigeants du FMI et de la Banque Mondiale... En ce qui concerne le pétrole, 'le risque de pénurie crée la pénurie', note Jean-Claude Paye. A la crise du Golfe s'ajoute le malaise des marchés financiers, amplifié par le constat de moins bonne santé financière aux Etats-Unis et au Japon... L'OCDE se préoccupe également de l'assistance technique aux pays d'Europe de l'Est."

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FINANCIAL TIMES: How to salvage Uruguay Round

ST.JOHN'S, Newfoundland - "Trade ministers from the US, Canada, Japan and the EC began a 2-day meeting here last night amid worries that it may now be difficult to complete the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on time in December... The meeting of the so-called Quad will be the last such discussion among the world's major trading powers before the round ends. However, participants did not expect it to resolve the wide differences between the US and EC over the central issue of farm reform."

FINANCIAL TIMES:US sticks to hard line on subsidies

GENEVA - "The US revised plan for world farm reform will call for cuts of 90% in export subsidies and 75% in internal supports and tariff barriers. The proposal, which US negotiators plan to submit on Monday, represents some softening in the Americans' negotiating position. However, it still leaves an enormous gap with the EC's offer to reduce farm assistance by 30% overall - an offer which EC ministers have yet to endorse."

YOMIURI SHIMBUN: Japan: Tariff cuts on more items

TORONTO - "Japan will eliminate or lower to near-zero levels its tariff rates for about 350 items in the 4 trade sectors under the Uruguay Round, Japanese government officials said here Thursday. The 4 sectors are paper products, aluminium, steel and petrochemical products, according to officials accompanying International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto."

FINANCIAL TIMES: US critical over Kansai bids

TOKYO - "Bidding for construction of the passenger terminal building at the controversial Y1,000bn (\$7.68bn) Kansai International Airport opened yesterday, as Washington intensified criticism of the handling of foreign bids for a people-mover system at the airport. The airport, under construction on a man-made island in Osaka Bay, has become the site of continuing conflict between Washington and Tokyo over the access of foreign companies to large Japanese projects and alleged bid-rigging by Japanese companies."

TAIWAN

HERALD TRIBUNE: Beset by many ills, grim outlook

TAIPEI - "Taiwan on Thursday scaled back its 1990 growth forecast for the second time, underlining the multiple ills afflicting its once-buoyant economy. The Bureau of Statistics said it was dropping its estimate for 1990 growth to 5.15%, from an estimate of 5.24% made in August and well below its forecast of 7% before the Gulf crisis. The new forecast would represent the lowest growth rate since 1982 and far behind last year's rate of 7.33%."

OECD ECONOMIES

Sweden

HERALD TRIBUNE: Hint at a link with ERM to aid krona

STOCKHOLM - "The Swedish government held out Thursday the possibility of monetary cooperation with the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the EC to defend its currency. 'The government... is keeping a close watch on Sweden's possibility of getting closer to European monetary cooperation', the Finance Ministry said in an economic report. It did not elaborate, but economists saw in the statement evidence that the government is taking seriously growing doubts about its ability to defend the krona."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Appeal for restraint on pay claims

STOCKHOLM - "Mr. Allan Larsson, the Swedish Finance minister, yesterday called for national wage restraint, against a background of government predictions that the country will enter a period of stagflation next year. The government expects gross national product (GNP) growth to amount to 0.8% in 1990."

Turkey

FINANCIAL TIMES: Heading for crisis on wage increases

ANKARA - "Turkish employers meet in Ankara today in a bid to head off industrial action threatened by 800,000 private sector workers. With monthly inflation now over 8% and rising, industrialists seem set on a collision course with the unions demanding wage increases of up to 500%... Union leaders describe it as the worst crisis since the labour unrest which followed the military coup in 1980... In the latest OECD report, spiralling wage demands and the budget deficit were cited as the principal culprits."

France

LA TRIBUNE: L'investissement galope à l'étranger

"Depuis 3 ans, les Français investissent à l'étranger à un rythme très soutenu: 76 mrds de francs en 1988, 115 mrds en 1989, 75 mrds sur les 6 premiers mois de 1990. Cinq ou six fois plus qu'au début des années 80, lorsque le rythme moyen ne dépassait pas 20 mrds par an."

Allemagne

LE FIGARO: Paiements courants: Baisse de l'excédent

"La balance des paiements de l'Allemagne réunifiée a enregistré un excédent de 390 millions de deutschemarks en août dernier, selon les chiffres provisoires publiés hier par la Bundesbank. En juillet, ce surplus s'était chiffré à 628 millions."

Espagne

LE FIGARO: Progression de l'inflation

"L'indice des prix à la consommation a progressé de 1,1% en septembre dernier par rapport au mois précédent, portant l'inflation dans ce pays à 5,5% pour les 9 premiers mois de cette année, a-t-on indiqué jeudi à Madrid de source officielle.".....

END-OF-TEXT