

.... November 16 Novembre 1990

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Le ciel
va se couvrir rapidement par l'ouest
avec des pluies. Il fera 15'.

.... SG/PRB/D(90)191

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

WASHINGTON - Le président irakien Saddam Hussein s'est déclaré prêt à des négociations séparées avec l'Arabie Saoudite et les Etats-Unis pour régler la crise du Golfe, mais a rejeté toute condition préalable, telle l'évacuation du Koweït, dans une interview accordée à la chaîne de télévision américaine ABC.

RABAT - L'URSS soutient l'initiative du Roi Hassan II du Maroc d'un sommet arabe exceptionnel sur la crise du Golfe, a déclaré à Rabat le vice-ministre soviétique des Affaires étrangères, M. Vladimir Petrovski.

VIENNE - Le traité sur le désarmement conventionnel en Europe (CFE) rédigé à Vienne à l'issue de négociations de 20 mois entre les pays de l'OTAN et du Pacte de Varsovie a été adopté sans réserves dans les 22 capitales.

BUACAREST - La commémoration de la révolte ouvrière anti-communiste et anti-Ceausescu de novembre 1987 s'est transformée à Bucarest et dans plusieurs villes de province en manifestations anti-gouvernementales, 11 mois après la chute de Nicolae Ceausescu.

CAP CANAVERAL - La navette américaine Atlantis a décollé jeudi de Cap Canaveral en mission secrète pour mettre en orbite, selon les experts, un satellite espion pour survoler le Golfe.

PARIS - Le Premier Ministre Michel Rocard a annoncé vendredi à 0H 50 qu'il engageait la responsabilité du gouvernement en application de l'article 49-3 de la Constitution sur le projet de Contribution sociale généralisée (CSG). RPR-UDF déposera une motion de censure.

IN THE EAST

THE EUROPEAN: New trade bloc for Eastern Europe

VIENNA - "Plans for the rapid formation of a new East European economic community to replace the Comecon have been disclosed by the Prague economic journal HOSPODARAKE NOVINY. It would be called the Organisation for International Economic Co-operation (OIEC)... Nine Comecon members have expressed interest in joining. Non-European Comecon members Mongolia, Cuba and Vietnam will not belong to the new body... The new OIEC will include some of the old Comecon structures to ease continued trade exchanges while also introducing elements of the new market-oriented structures... The OIEC members will continue to conduct trade by barter systems... The Prague journal does not say exactly when OIEC will be in place, but it would seem to be in 2 or 3 months' time."

AFP: Nouvelle réunion du COCOM à Paris

PARIS - "Les experts et hauts fonctionnaires des 17 pays membres du COCOM - pays de l'OTAN sauf Islande, ainsi que Japon et Australie - se sont réunis jeudi après-midi à Paris pour examiner la profonde réforme décidée en juin dernier concernant le commerce de haute technologie à la lumière des bouleversements en Europe de l'Est."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Gorbachev under pressure

MOSCOW - "President Mikhail Gorbachev should dissolve his government and replace it with a coalition of national unity, a group of prominent Soviet intellectuals urged yesterday. On the eve of a crucial debate on the crisis in the Soviet Union, prominent supporters of perestroika warned the Soviet leader that a 'tragedy' was imminent unless he acted quickly to stem growing economic and political chaos in the country."

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Leningrad rationing food Dec. 1

MOSCOW - "Leningrad's City Council voted to begin wide-scale rationing of state-subsidized food for the first time since the Nazi blockade in World War II. The rationing will begin Dec. 1. It reflects the perilous economic conditions facing Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who had planned to talk to the Soviet legislature Friday about the economy and independence-minded republics."

REUTER: World Bank President is first visit to Moscow

MOSCOW - "World Bank President Barber Conable arrived in Moscow on Thursday for talks on the Soviet economy and the country's possible membership of the aid agency. Conable, making the first such visit in the 45-year history of the organisation, said he intended to explore ways in which the World Bank could help the USSR move towards a market economy."

THE TIMES: Britain sets up a £20m fund for Moscow

"In an important policy shift, Britain yesterday dropped its refusal to aid the Soviet Union and announced a £20 million fund to help transfer British skills and expertise... Although small in relation to Moscow's problems, the British fund sets a precedent... Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, announced the move in a speech to a group of schools in Oxford... The Soviet fund will be spent over 2 years, but he described the £20 million as 'an initial sum' implying that there will be more later."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Japan to consider Soviet aid

TOKYO - "Japan is considering giving ¥2bn (\$15.4m) to help victims of the Chernobyl disaster, in a move that may signal an easing of its policy of denying aid to the Soviet Union."

OCDE - COMITE DE POLITIQUE ECONOMIQUE

LA TRIBUNE: Marchés financiers: fragilité inquiétante

PARIS - "Présidé par Michael Boskin, chef des conseillers économiques du Président Bush, le Comité de Politique Economique de l'OCDE, réuni hier et aujourd'hui à Paris, examine les perspectives économiques dans les 24 pays membres. La nouvelle 'mouture', par rapport aux dernières prévisions de juin, revoit en baisse les chiffres de croissance - 2% en moyenne en 1991, une certaine reprise intervenant en 1992 - et en hausse modérée ceux de l'inflation - 4% en 1991 et 4,5% au second semestre 1992... Si la situation conjoncturelle paraît inquiétante pour les experts, c'est moins en raison de la crise du Golfe en elle-même que parce que cette crise s'inscrit dans un contexte économique déjà déprimé et, plus encore, parce qu'elle intervient sur fond de fragilité accrue du système financier international."

OTHER ECONOMIC FORECAST

FINANCIAL TIMES: Slowdown for leading countries

"The economic slowdown among Britain's leading trading partners will be much sharper next year than in 1990 as high interest rates restrain domestic demand and inflation erodes spending power, the Bank of England said. In its quarterly bulletin, the Bank forecast that economic growth in the other 6 members of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries will slow to an average 1.9% in 1991 from 2.8% this year before recovering to 2.5% in 1992."

ENVIRONNEMENT

AFP: Conférence pan-européenne sur la forêt

PARIS - "Le ministre français de l'Agriculture, Louis Mermaz, a insisté jeudi sur le caractère novateur de la conférence pan-européenne consacrée à la protection de la forêt qui rassemblera les 18/19 décembre l'ensemble des pays du continent européen. Imaginée par son prédécesseur, M. Nallet, avec l'appui de la Finlande, elle a pour objectif de mettre sur pied les bases politiques d'une coopération accrue entre les pays européens dans le domaine de la forêt."

REUTER: Bush signs major rewrite of US clean air law

WASHINGTON - "President George Bush on Thursday signed into law a

sweeping new Clean Air Act aimed at making America's air safer to breathe. It is the first major revision of the law since 1977... It is centred on a switch to alternative, cleaner-burning fuels than petrol by requiring the sale of millions of cars capable of running on methanol or compressed natural gas."

OECD ECONOMIES

United States

WALL STREET J.: Business leaders warn of recession

WASHINGTON - "A group of US business leaders told President Bush that the country is either on the edge or in the beginning stages of a recession. At least one banker also said there is nothing the government can do about it... Mr. Bush's meeting Thursday was aimed at seeking new stimulants for economic growth, a White House official said, but he declined to identify who the executives were. Also attending the meetings were Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Budget Director Richard Darman."

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Consumer confidence plunges

AAN ARBOR, Mich. - "Consumer confidence fell more sharply between July and October than in any 3-month period in at least 44 years, according to researchers at the University of Michigan. The university's well-known Index of Consumer Sentiment has fallen 24.3 points since July, to land at 63.9 in October. The index's scale is based on a February 1966 survey, which equals 100."

United Kingdom

THE TIMES: Jobless rate: 6%, biggest jump since 1986

"The biggest monthly rise in unemployment for 4 1/2 years pushed the jobless rate back up to 6% last month.... The employment department said seasonally adjusted unemployment rose 32,000 in October to 1,702,700."

END-OF-TEXT