

.... December 18 Décembre 1990

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Gris dès  
ce matin. Quelques flocons de neige cet  
après-midi. Il fera -1'.

.... SG/PRB/D(90)212

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Les lers résultats partiels de l'élection présiden-  
tielle de dimanche donnaient, lundi soir, une écrasante majorité au père  
Jean-Bertrand Aristide qui obtient plus de 70% des suffrages exprimés  
après dépouillement de 27.227 bulletins de vote.

BONN - L'ancien Premier ministre est-allemand Lothar de Maizière,  
soupçonné d'avoir collaboré avec la Stasi (ancienne police politique de  
RDA), a donné lundi à Bonn sa démission du gouvernement du Chancelier  
Helmut Kohl où il était ministre sans portefeuille.

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THE GULF CRISIS

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Bush strengthens threat of a military strike

WASHINGTON - "President George Bush gave his strongest threat yet that  
he will order a military strike against Iraq unless it withdraws from  
Kuwait by Jan. 15. He said Iraq's Saddam Hussein was 'just as wrong as he  
can be' if he doubts America's willingness to go to war. Mr. Bush said  
that a United Nations resolution authorizing force against Baghdad must be  
fulfilled 'right on schedule' unless all Iraqi troops are pulled out by  
the Jan. 15 deadline... Mr. Bush discussed the gulf crisis at a news  
conference and again after meeting with representatives of 28 countries  
that have sent forces to the Middle East to stand against Iraq."

HERALD TRIBUNE: US foresees deadline 'ploy'

BRUSSELS - "Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d warned NATO on Monday  
that he expected President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to announce a partial  
withdrawal just before the United Nations deadline for Iraqi to leave  
Iraq. He urged his colleagues to stand united against any such 'ploy'. Mr.  
Baker, addressing NATO Foreign ministers at the annual winter meeting of  
the Western alliance, said, 'we should anticipate that as we draw close to  
Resolution 678's Jan. 15 deadline, and as the choices are presented  
starkly, Saddam Hussein is likely to try to undercut the collective will  
of the international community to use force... In addition to calling on  
his colleagues for unity, Mr. Baker also put them on notice that he would  
soon be calling on them for more money."

FINANCIAL TIMES: NATO: Nothing short of total pull-out will do

BRUSSELS - "The 16 NATO countries yesterday issued a strongly worded  
warning to Iraq that nothing short of its complete withdrawal from Kuwait  
and the restoration of the Kuwaiti government by January 15 would satisfy  
the international community. These were 'unequivocal conditions' for a  
peaceful solution, a joint statement by NATO Foreign ministers said.  
'There can be no partial solutions'."

UNION SOVIETIQUE

LES ECHOS: "Audit" des institutions internationales

"S'adressant aux députés lors de la 4ème session du congrès du peuple,  
le président soviétique a indiqué que l'URSS avait 18 mois devant elle  
pour jeter les bases d'une véritable économie de marché. Avant d'aborder  
ce volet économique de son discours, Mikhaïl Gorbatchev s'était vu  
garantir les pouvoirs présidentiels forts, remportant ainsi une nouvelle  
victoire sur ses détracteurs... La veille, les dirigeants de la Banque  
Mondiale, du FMI, de l'OCDE et de la BERD, avaient entériné un rapport  
commun prônant des réformes accélérées accompagnées de mesures de  
transition, notamment sociales, pour éviter explosion sociale et  
déstabilisation politique... Ce texte de 120 pages représente une 1ère  
évaluation multilatérale de la situation économique de l'URSS... Le

rapport mentionne clairement que dans l'état actuel des choses, un renforcement du pouvoir central est prioritaire sur l'autonomie des républiques. Il appelle par ailleurs Moscou à se lancer dans des réformes économiques accélérées, réduisant au maximum la période de transition à l'économie de marché. Il exhorte les responsables soviétiques à mettre en oeuvre une politique fiscale et monétaire très stricte, et à lancer un véritable plan de privatisation du commerce, de la distribution et des petites entreprises."

REUTER: Soviet government seeks long-term cooperation with IMF

MOSCOW - "Moscow wants long-term cooperation with the IMF in return for access to the Soviet market for Western goods, Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin said on Monday. 'We must have long-term programmes with the IMF, covering many years, for deep restructuring of the economy, formation of market structures and technical rehabilitation', he told REUTER in an interview. 'It is a 2-way process. In exchange for investment, we will give the West what it does not have, a big market, a huge potential market', he said... Abalkin said the study drawn up by the IMF and World Bank, along with the OECD and the fledgling EBRD, coincided with government assessments. 'Their assessment of the situation is based essentially on material provided by Soviet experts and specialists. We cooperated on a wide range of issues', he said. Diplomats in Washington have said the Western study urges accelerated reform, price liberalisation, wage restraint, privatisation and tax changes. They say it also assumes the central government retains control over key areas of the economy, a question that is expected to dominate this month's soviet Congress."

TRANSPORTS EUROPEENS

LES ECHOS: Les routes s'ouvrent à la concurrence

BRUXELLES - "Les ministres européens des Transports ont pris, hier à Bruxelles, une série de décisions destinées à préparer le grand marché de 1993, dans le domaine du transport routier. Ils ont tout d'abord décidé d'augmenter de 40% en 1991, puis d'autant en 1992, les contingents communautaires pour le transport de marchandises par route... Le Conseil a également adopté une directive fixant, à partir du 1er janvier 1993, à 18,35m la longueur maximale des trains routiers, c'est-à-dire des camions et de leurs remorques... Enfin une dernière directive encourage le transport combiné rail-route ou canal-route, en prévoyant qu'à partir du 1er janvier 1993 les trajets routiers initiaux et terminaux pourront être effectués par le même transporteur qui sera exonéré de toute réglementation de tarif sur ces 2 parcours."

"En matière de transport aérien, le Conseil a convenu de pénaliser la surréservation (overbooking). Dès le début de l'année prochaine, tout passager en possession d'une réservation et refusé à l'embarquement, sur les vols réguliers, devra être indemnisé par la compagnie. Cette indemnisation devra atteindre 150 écus (1 écu = 7 F) pour les parcours de moins de 3.500 km et 300 écus pour les distances supérieures."

OECD ECONOMIES

United States

HERALD TRIBUNE: Bankruptcies hit a record

NEW YORK - "... Since August, more than 1,300 companies have filed each week for bankruptcy, a pace rarely matched in the past, according to Dun & Bradstreet Corp., which tracks such data nationwide. More ominously, the 50,000 companies that declared bankruptcy from January through November listed \$64.1bn in debts they cannot pay. That sum is equal to 1.1% of the US GNP. Not since the Depression has the level even approached 1%."

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Former Tennessee governor named Education Secretary

WASHINGTON - "President George Bush named former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander as US education secretary amid indications that the administration was backing away from a decision that prohibits most colleges from setting aside scholarships for minority students. Both the White House and Mr. Alexander, whose selection won enthusiastic praise from education groups, suggested that such scholarships had been useful ladders of advancement and achievement for minority students. Mr. Alexander, 50 years old, is a self-styled 'populist, activist Republican' who earned national attention for his education initiatives in Tennessee."

Australia

REUTER: Reserve bank cuts interest rates to 12%

SYDNEY - "Australia's Reserve Bank cut official interest rates by one percentage point on Tuesday to around 12%. It was the sixth cut in rates this year. An easing of monetary policy had been widely forecast in financial markets following a series of economic statistics revealing the weakness of the Australian economy. Third quarter GDP figures showed negative economic growth for the second quarter running, putting Australia into technical recession. Official figures showed unemployment rose to 8.2% in November, its highest level since May 1987."

END-OF-TEXT