

.... February 14 Février 1992

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Ciel variable. Il pleuvra dans le courant de l'après-midi. Il fera 10 .

.... SG/PRB/D(92)30

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

BUCAREST - Le Front de Salut National (FSN, mouvement au pouvoir depuis décembre 1989 en Roumanie) a obtenu "à peu près 45% des voix sur l'ensemble du pays" au 1er tour des élections municipales, dimanche dernier, a affirmé jeudi son dirigeant M. Petre Roman qui a situé le score obtenu par la Convention Démocratique (CD), coalition des principaux partis qualifiés de "droite" par M. Roman, "aux alentours de 25%" au niveau national.

GENEVE (Nations Unies) - Le président de l'OLP Yasser Arafat a considéré jeudi que l'affaire de l'enregistrement d'une conversation téléphonique entre lui-même et son délégué à Paris Ibrahim Souss diffusé par la chaîne de télévision américaine CNN concerne la France. M. Arafat a estimé en outre lors d'une conférence de presse qu'il s'agissait d'une violation d'une conversation privée et que le document est "fabriqué".

PARIS - Le délégué général de Palestine en France, M. Ibrahim Souss, a affirmé jeudi que le chef de l'OLP Yasser Arafat n'avait "jamais utilisé de mots orduriers" pour qualifier les Juifs lors d'entretiens téléphoniques et accusé les services secrets israéliens d'être à l'origine d'un "montage sophistiqué" diffusé par CNN.

REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations has begun recruiting troops from among 31 countries for the hazardous task of bringing peace to Yugoslavia in the largest U.N. operation in decades. The proposed deployment of U.N. peace-keeping forces in Yugoslavia is likely to anger hardline Serbs in the main Serbian enclave in Croatia, who said it could provoke further bloodshed.

WORLD TRADE

REUTER: Trade talks agreement is urgent, World Bank says

CARTAGENA (Colombia) - The World Bank's managing director said on Thursday it was urgent to reach agreement in the Uruguay Round of global trade talks because failure could stifle world economic growth. Attila Karaosmanoglu's remarks on the Uruguay round of talks, held under the auspices of the GATT, were prepared for delivery to the UNCTAD here."

CIS

REUTER: US allies close to deal to get Russia into IMF

WASHINGTON - "The United States and its rich allies are close to striking a deal on how best to smooth the entry of Russia and other former Soviet republics into the IMF, sources said on Thursday. They said the G7 industrialised nations looked likely to agree to give the states of the former Soviet Union a combined stake of some 4.25% in the IMF and a new seat on the Fund's board... The deal, which one source said could be conveyed to IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus as early as next week, should help pave the way for Russia and the other new states to become fund members before the middle of the year."

LES ECHOS: Seule la peur du chaos lie encore les Etats de l'ex-URSS

"Le sommet qui s'ouvre aujourd'hui à Minsk offrira plus d'occasions d'empoignades que de sujets d'accord. la politique économique de Boris Yeltsine ne fait pas l'unanimité parmi les 11 Etats de la CEI. Pas plus que la marche arrière que le président russe s'appête à annoncer pour calmer les mécontents... Les principaux points de friction portent sur les questions militaires et l'économie."

ENVIRONMENT

F.T.: Financing a green future in a planet without borders

"... In Geneva, today, representatives from 24 countries will discuss the future of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) - a pilot project that could eventually form the foundation for effective global action. The GEF was established in November 1990 for a 3-year experimental period. It is jointly managed by the World Bank and the United Nations Development and Environment Programmes and, in principle, can commit up to SDR1bn (\$1.3bn) in grants and technical assistance to help developing countries tackle environmental problems. It focuses on 4 areas: global warming; pollution of international waters; destruction of biological diversity through degradation of natural habitats; and depletion of the ozone layer."

REUTER: EC could cut carbon dioxide emissions by 50%, study says

AMSTERDAM - The European Community could cut its carbon dioxide emissions by up to 60% at a cost of around 150 bn guilders (\$83bn) a year, a study published on Thursday said. The reduction could be achieved through energy-saving measures, storing carbon dioxide in empty gas fields and using biological methods such as reforestation, according to a study by the Dutch research institute TNO for the European Commission."

REUTER: Denmark to ban CFC gases by end of 1994 - minister

COPENHAGEN - "Denmark will ban the use of ozone-destroying CFC gases from the end of 1994, 5 years earlier than planned, the Environment Ministry said on Thursday... Denmark is also looking at substitutes for HCFCs, the less harmful gases often used to replace CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), and hopes for a global accord on phasing them out at a meeting of Montreal Protocol signatories in Copenhagen in November."

REUTER: Mexican president says free trade will improve environment

MEXICO CITY - "A North American free-trade agreement will improve economic and environmental conditions in Latin America, Mexican president Carlos Salinas de Gortari said on Thursday. 'Mexico finds itself before a unique opportunity which allows development and ecology to go hand in hand', Salinas told 40 international ecologists invited by the government to discuss protection of Mexico's natural resources. 'Negotiations to extend free trade and investment will make the preservation and recovery of our environment a growing reality', he added."

REUTER: Japan considers speeding up ozone-saving plan

TOKYO - "Japan is working on a plan to speed up implementation of a ban on producing chemicals that destroy the earth's protective ozone layer, an official said on Friday. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry will work out detailed plans by mid-year, ahead of an international meeting on ozone-destroying emissions scheduled for November in Denmark, the ministry official said... Japan currently intends to abolish production by 2000-2005."

OECD ECONOMIES

PORTUGAL: RAPPORT OCDE

"Le 'miracle portugais' a du plomb dans l'aile. La folle expansion enregistrée entre 1986 et 1990 par le Portugal, dans la foulée de son adhésion à la Communauté européenne, 'arrive à maturité'. La croissance du PIB, qui dépassait 4% ces dernières années, ne devrait pas excéder 2,7% en 1991 et 2,6% en 1992, indiquent les experts du Château de la Muette dans leur dernier rapport annuel consacré à ce pays."

F.T.: OECD sees gains for Portugal in ERM entry

"Early Portuguese membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System would help bring down inflation and curb the country's growing economic imbalances, the OECD suggests today. The OECD pinpoints the failure to meet inflation targets as a principal weak point in its generally good economic performance since joining the EC in 1986."

United States

HERALD TRIBUNE: January store sales perk up

NEW YORK - "An unexpected spurt in January retail sales, reported Thursday, made markets think the US economy was picking up. Don't bet on it, warned analysts - although they said the data could mean the worst was over. The Commerce Department reported a rise of 0.6% last month in retail sales. It also revised upward the declines of the previous 2 months by half a percentage point to show sales virtually flat instead of actually declining for Christmas. January may also be revised as more stores report, but probably not enough to show a drop. The Labor Department reported a decline of 13,000 in the number of new unemployment claims, to 437,000, during the week ending Feb. 1."

Japan

F.T.: Japan's trade surplus records fourfold rise

TOKYO - "Japan's trade surplus for January recorded a fourfold year-on-year increase to \$3.84bn, heightening government fears that world trade tension will rise in tandem with the surging surplus. Customs-cleared figures released yesterday by the Ministry of Finance showed rises in the politically sensitive surpluses with the US and European Community, and an overall 9.7% rise to \$23.94bn in exports coupled with a 3.8% fall in imports to \$20.10bn."

Germany

WALL STREET J.: GNP in West fell in 4th period, Institute says

FRANKFURT - "Western Germany's gross national product shrank by a real and seasonally adjusted 0.5% in the fourth quarter of 1991 from the previous 3-month period, a leading German research institute estimated. 'The most recent order-inflow to industry indicates that the western German economy at present finds itself in a difficult phase', the independent DIW Institute for economic research warned in its weekly report due out on Friday."

United Kingdom

F.T.: Steep rise in jobless is blow to Conservatives

LONDON - A sharp rise in UK unemployment last month delivered a sharp blow yesterday to the ruling Conservative party's confidence about the economy. Together with news of record house repossessions and a big fall in manufacturing investment last year, the jobless figures increased the pressure on Mr Norman Lamont, the chancellor of the exchequer, to respond to the severity of the 18-month recession with an early cut in interest rates and action to help the economy in next month's budget."

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END-OF-TEXT