

.... May 25 Mai 1992

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Ciel bien dégagé et soleil généreux. Il fera 13 et 26 . Vent très faible.

.... SG/PRB/D(92)96

REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

BELGRADE - Serb-led Yugoslav troops began evacuating their last bases in Bosnia-Herzegovina as moderate Serbs launched efforts to end an ethnic war which has displaced almost a million people.

MONTREAL - Canada revoked landing rights for Yugoslav Airlines, recalled its ambassador from Belgrade and demanded an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to cut off Serbia's trade links.

LISBON - US Secretary of State James Baker called for UN sanctions against Serbia to end bloodshed in Bosnia, but Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said other methods should be used first.

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine - President George Bush ordered the US Coast guard to begin returning Haitians picked up at sea back to their country because a refugee camp at Guantanamo naval base is "filled to capacity".

BANGKOK - Thailand's parliament meets on Monday to debate constitutional amendments to prevent military men like Suchinda Kraprayoon, who quit as prime minister after a brief and bloody rule, from heading the government.

PALERMO, Sicily - Millions of workers throughout Italy were expected to join a general strike on Monday to protest against the killing of top anti-Mafia fighter Giovanni Falcone.

BERLIN - Voters in Berlin's district council elections lodged a hefty protest vote against Germany's 2 biggest parties, giving more than one third of their support to the extreme right and left.

VIENNA - Conservative Thomas Klestil, a veteran diplomat, triumphed in Austria's presidential election, scoring the biggest margin of victory in the country's modern history.

LA TRIBUNE: Bernard Tapie: le dur retour à l'entreprise - "Le ministre de la Ville a démissionné samedi du gouvernement. Il a rendez-vous mercredi avec le juge Boizette pour répondre de l'affaire Toshiba."

MORE ABOUT GATT AND OECD

THE OBSERVER: GATT breaks through trade barrier grief

"Did you ever hear the story about the economic recovery that never happened? That was, roughly speaking, the background to the ministerial meeting of the OECD in Paris last week, and to a number of speeches and reports produced on this side of the Channel Tunnel... Now that EC ministers have agreed to reform the CAP, promising an end to the subsidising of seemingly limitless grain and other surpluses, we shall see whether the US and the others really mean business, or whether some other pretext for delaying a resolution will crop up (as it were). It would certainly have been unfortunate if failure to reform the CAP had in the end derailed the trade negotiations... Asked last week whether the GATT deadlock could now be regarded as a permanent feature of economic life, Jean-Claude Paye, Secretary-General of the OECD, likened the trade negotiations to Columbus's voyage to America, saying we were nearly there, it would be a tragedy to turn back now... The OECD ministerial meeting is part of the process leading up to the World Economic Summit in Munich. The OECD countries approach this meeting with the US still trying to convince itself that an economic recovery is in train, and wanting other countries to do more to promote world growth."

OPEC

HERALD TRIBUNE: Deal stands to underpin prices

VIENNA - "OPEC oil ministers agreed on Friday to freeze most members' crude output limits at current levels but to let Kuwait increase production as its damaged oilfields came back on line. Industry analysts said the accord hammered out during 2 days of talks would probably keep oil prices steady for the next few months. Prices ended slightly higher on Friday. Light sweet crude for July delivery gained 4 cents, to \$20.94, a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange."

CONFERENCE DE LISBONNE/EST-OUEST

AFP: Aide technique et projets pour la CEI

LISBONNE - "L'aide technique et les projets à moyen-long terme doivent désormais dominer dans l'aide occidentale aux républiques de l'ex-URSS même si l'assistance humanitaire demeure indispensable dans la phase actuelle, a décidé dimanche à Lisbonne la seconde conférence sur l'aide aux nouveaux Etats indépendants de la CEI. Le danger nucléaire fait également son entrée dans ce forum, qui regroupait 63 Etats et 12 institutions internationales... La CEE, le Japon et les Etats-Unis ont également paraphé dimanche un accord sur la création d'un Centre international de science et de technologie près de Moscou pour empêcher que les spécialistes des armes de destruction massive (nucléaire, chimique, bactériologique) ne se mettent au service d'Etats bellicistes, notamment au Moyen-Orient. Ce projet porte sur 70 millions de dollars, la CEE apportant 20 millions d'écus (environ 25 millions de dollars), les Etats-Unis 25 millions et le Japon 20 millions de dollars... La paternité du Centre international de science et de technologie (ISTC) revient à l'ancien ministre allemand des Affaires étrangères Hans-Dietrich Genscher, qui avait averti du risque que comportait l'émigration d'experts de l'ex-URSS vers des pays instables du Proche-Orient."

EUROPE/SOMMET DE LA ROCHELLE

LES ECHOS: Corps d'armée franco-allemand: une décision qui "va loin"

"'Un large pas en avant', commentait François Mitterrand, vendredi, à La Rochelle, en présentant le communiqué annonçant 'la mise sur pied d'un corps d'armée qui contribuera à doter l'Union européenne d'une capacité militaire propre et qui manifeste la volonté d'assumer, à terme, une politique de défense commune'. Les termes de la déclaration officielle sont sans ambiguïté sur l'intention finale. D'où l'appel très direct lancé aux membres de l'UEO (Union de l'Europe occidentale, regroupant 9 Etats sur les 12 de la CEE) pour une participation rapide au 'corps européen'... 'Nous avons donné l'élan mais nous ne demandons pas le monopole', a précisé le président français. Une déclaration historique à bien des égards: pour la première fois, la France revendique expressément une dimension multinationale dans l'ordre militaire."

UNITED KINGDOM

FINANCIAL TIMES: Economy 'on the turn' says CBI

"The UK economy is 'on the turn', the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday. Although official figures showed the recession continuing into the first quarter, the CBI's monthly industrial trends survey for this month and its latest economic forecast pointed to better times. The CBI found that many manufacturers had experienced a marked improvement in home and export orders in recent weeks, raising expectations of higher output over the next 4 months. However, the CBI's own economists expect only modest economic expansion of 0.9% this year after last year's 2.4% decline in output. The CBI forecasters, who have revised down their expectations of 1992 growth from 1.7% last November, expect the economy to gather momentum over the year and grow by 2.9% next year."

THE OECD IN THE PRESS

LLOYD'S LIST: Call for removal of 'distorting' direct subsidies

TOKYO - "Direct government subsidies to European shipbuilders are the chief factor distorting the world shipbuilding market and should be removed before any other issue is tackled, the head of Japan's delegation to the OECD talks said last week. Kuniji Toda, director-general of the Japanese Ministry of Transport's maritime technology and safety bureau, alleged European yards were now 'doing nothing but dumping'... Mr Toda said the OECD forum remained the best hope for a settlement of the vexed subsidy issue and he effectively ruled out any bilateral agreement between

Japan and the US. It would be 'very confusing' to set up several agreements with different countries and this would be difficult with future OECD talks in mind."

SUNDAY TIMES: BT charges among world's highest

"BT, which is making profits of £97 a second, was under new pressure this weekend to reduce bills after a survey showed its private-customer charges to be among the highest in the world. A study to find the cheapest telephone charges by the OECD ranks BT 18th in a league table of 24 national telephone services. Only residential customers in Spain, Turkey, Ireland, Portugal, New Zealand and Austria pay more."

END-OF-TEXT