

.... October 26 Octobre 1993

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Ciel
nuageux ce matin, éclaircies cet après-
midi. Vent d'est modéré. Il fera 11 .

.... SG/PRB/D(93)161

REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

JERUSALEM - Israel freed a first batch of Palestinian prisoners, sparking controversy ahead of a fresh round of talks on the implementation of its peace accord with the PLO.

BELFAST - Protestant gunmen shot dead 2 Catholics to avenge a bungled IRA bomb attack that killed 10 people in Belfast and plunged Northern Ireland into another sectarian nightmare.

SAN FRANCISCO - A civil rights group went to court in an attempt to stop the use of the gas chamber in executions in California, arguing it is cruel and unusual punishment.

PARIS - French scientists who discovered how the AIDS virus penetrates body cells have made a major breakthrough opening the way to a possible vaccine, Luc Montagnier, the discoverer of the deadly virus said.

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

FRANCE - Le président français François Mitterrand a accusé lors d'une intervention télévisée, les Américains de pratiquer "une sorte de diktat" dans les négociations du GATT.....

CANADA ELECTION

REUTER: Jubilant Liberals cheer Canada's new premier

SHAWINIGAN, Quebec - "... Chretien and his Liberal party won a landslide victory over the ruling Conservatives, winning 177 seats in unofficial results. The Tories were reduced to only 2 seats, with Prime Minister Kim Campbell losing in her district."

AFP: Jean Chrétien, nouveau Premier ministre du Canada

MONTREAL - "Trente ans après avoir été élu député pour la première fois, le Québécois Jean Chrétien, 59 ans, héritier politique de Pierre Elliott Trudeau, a réalisé lundi le rêve d'une vie en devenant Premier ministre du Canada. Le chef libéral a remporté une victoire spectaculaire en obtenant la majorité absolue des sièges à la Chambre des Communes d'Ottawa, mais a surtout relevé un défi de taille en se faisant élire dans une circonscription du Québec, où sa personnalité ne fait pas l'unanimité. Vieux routier de la politique, Jean Chrétien devient le troisième Québécois, après Pierre Elliott Trudeau et Brian Mulroney, à occuper le poste de Premier ministre du Canada en 25 ans."

EUROPE

FINANCIAL TIMES: EC economy may grow by 2% in 1994

LUXEMBOURG - "The EC has passed the low point of the recession, the EC's economic affairs commissioner said yesterday. Mr Henning Christophersen said that if forecasts of German recovery next year proved accurate, the EC economy would grow faster than the Commission had forecast. 'We have seen the bottom and we are on the way up', he told journalists at a meeting of EC finance ministers in Luxembourg. His comments provided an upbeat start to a busy week for the Community, ending on Friday with a summit of EC leaders in Brussels. But ministers agreed they should maintain efforts to promote growth and employment. According to EC forecasts, even if the German economy lives up to economists' expectations next year, the EC economy will not expand enough to put very many of the Community's 18m jobless people back to work."

THE INDEPENDENT: Delors' job scheme falls on deaf ears

LUXEMBOURG - "A disappointed Jacques Delors yesterday failed to convince EC colleagues that the Community should inject more money into a growth package put together last year to stimulate the European economy and create jobs, although the latest figures announced yesterday suggest Europe is moving out of recession. Mr Delors' argument that the £5.6bn fund created by heads of government at the Edinburgh summit last December is not enough to make a significant impact on Europe's 18 million unemployed, fell on deaf ears. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, told the Commission President the public purse could not be expected to finance Europe's recovery. 'I agreed with some of Jacques Delors' analysis and he agreed with some of mine', Mr Clarke said as he left the meeting."

LIBERATION: Le Président français propose un emprunt européen

"Face à la détresse suscitée en Europe par le chômage et à la récession économique, les Douze ont à 2 reprises tenté de doper la croissance par des initiatives concertées de relance, à Edimbourg en décembre 1992, puis à Copenhague en juin 1993. C'est à nouveau cette manette-là que le président Mitterrand entend active. Il a repris l'idée de Michel Rocard d'un emprunt pour développer 'des infrastructures et des grands travaux' au niveau européen. Mais il a renchéri, en affirmant: 'Je me suis renseigné ce matin auprès de la Commission: on peut doubler la mise'. Ce qui ferait 100 mrd d'écus, ou 670 mrd de francs. A quelques jours du conseil européen de Bruxelles, l'effet d'annonce a surtout valeur de souhait."

FINANCIAL TIMES: EC's limit on duty-free gifts doubled

LUXEMBOURG - "EC finance ministers yesterday doubled the value of duty-free gifts which travellers within the Community will be able to bring home from the beginning of next year. The ministers agreed to increase the outdated Ecu45 (£35) limit on duty-free purchases of watches, camera equipment and other gifts, to Ecu90. They also increased the tax-free allowances for gifts bought outside the Community from Ecu45 to Ecu175. Yesterday's deal leaves the allowances for duty-free wine, spirits and tobacco unchanged, but it will provide a consolation for EC duty-free shops as they wind up their EC activities. Duty-free shopping on journeys within the Community will end on June 30, 1999."

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW: OECD at meeting

"The National Small Business Centre has lined up 5 of the OECD's most senior officials to address the OECD World Conference on small and medium-sized enterprises in Sydney in December. Among the OECD representatives will be the organisation's director of science and technology, Mr Nobuo Tanaka; the head of the industry division, Mr Hans Gassman; and the head of the Cooperative Action Programme, Mr Chris Brooks... Mr Kym Bonnefin, executive director of the National Small Business Centre, which is convening the conference for the Federal Government, said yesterday he expected the conference would help shape international economic strategy on SMEs and employment. 'Having thought about SMEs and job creation, this conference brings it to a head and (the OECD representatives) will take that back to the OECD ministerial council meeting in May ...' Mr Bonnefin said."

OECD ECONOMIES

Japan

FINANCIAL TIMES: GATT fears ease over procurement hurdle

"Significant new offers to open up national procurement markets were tabled in Geneva yesterday, reducing concerns that disputes over the issue will jeopardise progress towards successful completion of the Uruguay Round. Japan tabled proposals to open up domestic construction contracts, both national and regional, to international competition. This has been a sticking point between Japan and the US in protracted bilateral negotiations in Tokyo in recent weeks. The US has also bowed to EC pressure to include sub-federal procurement business in the package being negotiated. A new US offer gave assurances that contracts from 'entities from all 50 states' would be subject to foreign competition."

AFP: Arrestation du vice-président du groupe de BTP Kajima

TOKYO - "Le dernier scandale impliquant le versement de pots de vin par des firmes de construction à des hommes politiques japonais a rebondi mardi avec l'arrestation du vice-président de Kajima, M. Shinji Kiyoyama, soupçonné d'avoir 'arrosé' l'ancien gouverneur de la province de Ibaraki en échange de contrats."

Germany

FINANCIAL TIMES: Dissent at the heart of German forecasting

"For the first time in more than 6 years Germany's independent economic research institutes yesterday had to agree to disagree in their economic forecasts. The Berlin-based Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (DIW) produced its own figures in an addendum to the report of the majority, suggesting that, far from a recovery in the German economy next year, it will continue to stagnate... The 5 expect an overall economic recovery, with a 1.5% growth rate in the all German figures - with 1% in the west, and 7% in the east. The DIW opts for a fall of 0.5% in the west, (compared with a fall of 2% this year), and a rise of only 5% in the east (compared with a 5.5% rise in 1993). For Germany as a whole, the DIW forecasts mean zero growth for 1994."

Italy

THE INDEPENDENT: Ciampi urges world action to block Mafia money

ROME - "Italy's Prime Minister, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, yesterday called for international action on tax havens, offshore financial centres and bank secrecy laws to stop the Mafia laundering dirty money. In a world with free movement of capital and people, the international community cannot combat the Mafia and its vast financial operations unless there is full co-operation, he said in an interview with THE INDEPENDENT. 'We have to work on certain situations which I would describe as anomalous - tax anomalies and bank secrecy that no longer have any sense. I am referring to countries like Luxembourg, Switzerland, Austria, offshore financial centres. These are the things that have to be tackled.'"

France

LA TRIBUNE: Air France: Mardi noir et nouveau patron

"Le gouvernement a nommé Christian Blanc, ancien PDG de la RATP, à la présidence d'Air France. Jean-Cyril Spinetta, président d'Air Inter, a démissionné et sera remplacé par Michel Bernard, directeur général de l'Aviation civile. Mais les grévistes d'Air France, d'Air Inter et d'Aéroports de Paris transformeront néanmoins cette journée en mardi noir du transport aérien français. Air France a annulé tous ses vols, Air Inter espère en réaliser la moitié. Dans les centrales syndicales, on ne sait guère comment exploiter la reculade du gouvernement concernant le plan de redressement d'Air France."

The Netherlands

THE NETHERLANDER: Jobless rate at 4-yr high

"Registered unemployment in the Netherlands rose to a 4-year high of 381,000 in the 1993 third quarter, up 93,000 on the year-earlier period, central bureau of statistics CBS figures released Tuesday show. The increase marks a continuation of the uptrend which set in midway through last year. Since then unemployment has advanced by nearly 8,000 per month. Although the growth rate has remained fairly constant over the period, 'an end to the increase is not yet in sight', the CBS said, adding that male and female unemployment numbers were rising at near-equal rates. The uptrend affected all age groups, CBS said."

END-OF-TEXT