

.... February 11 février 1993

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: La
journée s'annonce encore maussade; au
mieux 5 cet après-midi.

.... SG/PRB/D(93)28

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

YUGOSLAVIE - Les Etats-Unis ont proposé mercredi un plan en six points pour la Bosnie-Herzégovine dans lequel ils apportent leur soutien aux efforts déployés par MM. Cyrus Vance et David Owen et annoncent qu'ils sont prêts à participer à une force militaire multinationale.

VIETNAM - M. François Mitterrand a invité mercredi à Hanoi le nouveau président américain Bill Clinton à lever l'embargo contre le Vietnam, tout en demandant à ce pays de mener des réformes pour améliorer la situation des droits de l'homme.

ITALIE - Le ministre de la justice, M. Claudio Martelli, a démissionné de cette fonction et du Parti Socialiste, dont il était un des hommes les plus influents, à la suite de l'ouverture d'une enquête sur son compte dans le cadre de l'instruction sur une vaste affaire de corruption politique.

MEXIQUE - Vingt-quatre personnes ont été assassinées dans une embuscade mardi à 300 km au sud de Mexico dans une affaire de vendetta locale.

THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION

HERALD TRIBUNE: 100,000 Federal jobs to go

WASHINGTON - "President Bill Clinton ordered his cabinet officers Wednesday to slash 100,000 jobs from the federal work force over the next four years, cut back executive perks and dissolve such obscure government commissions as the Advisory Panel for the Dictionary of Occupational Titles. If all the reductions are implemented, Mr Clinton claimed it would save \$9 billion over four years.(...) The first executive order requires cabinet and agency heads to cut the 2.1 million-member civilian federal work force by 100,000 by the end of 1995, with 10% of the cuts coming from senior management positions.(...) Each year about 200,000 workers leave government service, either to retire or move into private sector jobs, and the plan would be not to fill many of these vacancies. The second executive order calls on departments to reduce their administrative costs by 3% per year on average, leading up to 5% in the fourth year of Mr Clinton's four-year term. The third order abolishes useless government boards and agencies, such as the Advisory Panel for Animal Learning and Behavior, which together cost about \$150 million a year."

NEW YORK TIMES: End of the Chicago boys

WASHINGTON - "In the realm of economics, the arrival of President Clinton means that the liberals from Cambridge have been annointed and the conservatives from Chicago have been banished. In making several sages with M.I.T. doctorates the new suzerains of economic affairs, the Clinton Administration has endorsed the Cambridge school's prevailing view that government has a powerful role to play in building a stronger economy. That ends the reign of the free-market Chicago school - under the influence of the University of Chicago - which infused the Reagan and Bush Administrations with the notion that whenever government sticks its nose into economic affairs it is bound to mess them up. 'The Clinton Government promises to do exactly the kind of economics that M.I.T. is all about', said Rudiger Dornbusch, an economics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 'That means a lot of belief in the market, but determined government intervention when there is a need for it'."

THE INDEPENDENT: GATT deal at risk

LONDON - "The importance of today's meeting between Sir Leon Brittan and Mickey Kantor, the new US trade representative, is difficult to overstate.

If the two men soothe the frictions over supposedly unfair trade practices the world should continue along its path toward lower tariffs and more open trade. But if they do not the danger of a rapid tumble towards protectionism is acute. The original deadline for presenting the package to Congress, 2 March, will now be missed. If President Bill Clinton asks Congress for a short extension, say two or three months, he will be giving a signal that he wants the round to be approved more or less intact. If, however, he says Congress can have a year or more to reconsider the package, he will be signalling that he is tending towards the enemies of Gatt."

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

FINANCIAL TIMES: Anglo-saxon ambush of the franc

PARIS - "The currency markets will launch a heavy but unsuccessful attack against the franc next month, during the French parliamentary election, according to Mr Raymond Barre, former prime minister of France. 'I am not among those who see plots everywhere. It's not at all my temperament. But I really think there is a will in a certain number of economic and financial circles not to promote - in fact to do everything to prevent - the creation of European monetary and economic union, and in consequence to blow up the EMS', said Mr Barre."

LES ECHOS: la Buba va changer de tête

FRANCFORT - "Alors que la nomination de Hans Tietmeyer à la présidence de la Bundesbank n'est prévue que pour le 1er octobre, après le départ à la retraite de Helmut Schlesinger, les spéculations sur le nom de son successeur à la vice-présidence de la banque centrale allemande vont déjà bon train. Deux candidats sont donnés favoris: d'une part Reimut Jochimsen, 59 ans, président de la Banque centrale de Rhénanie-du-Nord-Westphalie, qui est, avec ses 18 million d'habitants, le Land le plus peuplé et le plus industrialisé d'Allemagne; d'autre part, Johann Wilhelm Gaddum, 62 ans, membre du directoire de la Bundesbank depuis 1986 et responsable de l'important département 'crédits'. Il appartient officiellement au président de la République, Richard von Weizsäcker, de nommer le vice-président de la Buba, mais de fait la décision est prise par le chancelier."

LES ECHOS: l'Europe à 40 sinon rien

PARIS - "Président de la Banque Européenne pour la Reconstruction et le Développement (BERD), Jacques Attali privilégie une conception globale de l'Europe. Par conviction et par vocation. En clair: pas question de laisser hors du cadre européen les pays de l'Est ni la Russie, champs d'action de la Banque européenne. 'L'Europe, c'est quarante pays', a-t-il affirmé, hier, lors de la conférence organisée à Paris par le 'Financial Times' et 'Les Echos'. 'Il faut avoir le courage politique de l'admettre, sinon les conséquences seraient catastrophiques'. 'L'Europe doit se penser comme un marché de 700 millions d'habitants', a souligné Jacques Attali."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Steel guidelines may be set

BRUSSELS - "The European Commission is considering a new role as EC steel market supervisor, setting non-binding guidelines on future production levels. The plan, aimed at tackling Europe's steel industry crisis, is under review in Brussels. But the Commission will stop short of dictating prices and production levels to individual companies, like the "crisis cartel" set up by Viscount Etienne Davignon, then industry commissioner, during the early 1980s, EC officials stressed yesterday. Under the proposals, Brussels would lay down recommendations on production and delivery levels within the EC for each quarter."

OECD ECONOMIES

USA

WALL STREET JOURNAL: NY state blocks foreign takeover

NEW YORK - "New York state is suing RJR Nabisco Inc. and Philip Morris's Kraft-General Foods unit from acquiring Nabisco Cereals, state Attorney General Robert Abrams said. The two US companies announced last month that Kraft completed the purchase of the Nabisco US and Canadian cold cereal businesses from Nabisco for \$450 million in cash. Mr Abrams charged in the federal lawsuit that the acquisition is a violation of the federal Clayton Act because it will decrease competition 'in an already non-competitive

industry'. The company said the lawsuit filed by New York state was completely without merit, and that the acquisition had been carefully and thoroughly investigated by the US Federal Trade Commission."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Ford reports \$7.4 billion loss

NEW YORK - "Ford Motor, the US carmaker yesterday reported a \$7.4bn loss for 1992, due largely to a \$6.9bn non-cash charge for a change in accounting principles but also a \$419m fourth-quarter charge for restructuring its European operations. The accounting change involves retirees' health benefits and affects all US companies. Ford's charge is one of the highest reported, but it will be dwarfed today by a \$20.8bn charge due to be announced by General Motors. Ford's US vehicle operations lost \$405m in 1992, excluding accounting charges, an improvement of \$1.8bn over 1991. However, outside the US losses rose from \$970m to \$1.1bn."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Apologies to General Motors

NEW YORK - "One of America's best known television presenters, Ms Jane Pauley, took to the screen on Tuesday night to deliver a grovelling apology on behalf of the NBC network to General Motors, America's biggest carmaker. NBC's admission of wrong-doing came just a day after GM launched a suit for defamation against the network, which it said had rigged a broadcast test of a GM truck to make it burst into flames during a collision. Apologising to both GM and viewers, Ms Pauley said the crash demonstration was inappropriate, the use of 'incendiary devices' was a 'bad idea from start to finish', and that the public should have been told about the devices. GM followed through by calling off its legal action."

GERMANY

FINANCIAL TIMES: All indicators are negative

BONN - "The German government yesterday produced its gloomiest annual economic report in a decade, forecasting a decline in gross domestic product of up to 1%. It was promptly attacked by the opposition for excessive optimism. Mr Günter Rexrodt, the newly appointed economics minister, said all the economic indicators for west Germany were negative at the turn of the year, including industrial orders, production levels, investment activity, capacity utilisation and, above all, unemployment. Mr Rexrodt said the priority for the German government must be to avoid slipping into an all-out recession, although Mr Otto Lambsdorff, his own party leader in the Free Democrats (FDP), says the economy is already in its sharpest post-war recession."

END-OF-TEXT