

.... février 12 February 1993

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Lente
dissipation des brouillards - ciel gé-
néralement gris. Températures: de 2 à 6.

.... SG/PRB/D(93)29

REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

NEW YORK - A Somali hijacker who wanted asylum and US intervention in Bosnia calmly surrendered after putting a gun to a pilot's head and forcing him to fly 104 people aboard a Lufthansa jet across the Atlantic.

SARAJEVO - Battles raged across Bosnia and four French UN soldiers were wounded despite a US decision to join in efforts to halt Europe's worst conflict since World War Two.

OSLO - Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen are among more than 100 people or organisations nominated for the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to end the bloodshed in former Yugoslavia, Nobel sources said.

ROME - A little-known former union leader emerged overnight as a likely successor to Italy's veteran Socialist Party leader Bettino Craxi, who resigned over a bribery scandal.

A L'EST

LA TRIBUNE: l'Europe centrale se redresse

PARIS - "Après deux années de profonde dépression, les pays d'Europe centrale (Pologne, Tchéco-Slovaquie, Hongrie, Slovénie) voient enfin le bout du tunnel : la production recommence à croître, l'inflation se ralentit, les soldes courants en devises repassent au vert. A l'inverse, l'Europe orientale (Roumanie et ex-URSS) s'enfonce dans la crise. C'est ce qui ressort du rapport économique annuel 1992 que publie la Berd. La société américaine PlanEcon, spécialisée dans l'observation des pays de l'Est, confirme le diagnostic dans son dernier rapport et ouvre des perspectives pour 1993. En s'appuyant sur ces deux sources et en excluant de la zone les républiques de l'ex-URSS, quatre 'thermomètres' sont intéressants."

HERALD TRIBUNE: Ex-Soviets lag economies in rest of east

LONDON - "Economic prospects in Central and Eastern Europe are looking up while the economic rot in the former Soviet Union is, if anything, accelerating. That was the message contained in the economic review of 1992 released Thursday by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. At a press conference, the bank's president, Jacques Attali, highlighted the huge success achieved last year with privatization programs in several countries, including the creation of 300,000 new private companies in Czechoslovakia and 210,000 in Poland.(..) In contrast, the bank found little encouraging to say about the former Soviet Union. At one point, Mario Sarcinelli, a bank vice-president, said of Russia: 'No-one is asking for a balanced budget but they cannot live with a runaway budget deficit'.(..) Whereas the former Soviet Union saw retail price inflation of 1,371% and a decline in economic output of 20% last year, in Central and Eastern Europe, inflation fell from nearly 90% in 1991 to 60% last year, while the rate of decline in the economy slowed from 11% in 1991 to 5% last year."

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Hungary's chief of finance exits

BUDAPEST - "Hungary's finance minister is leaving his post amid growing tension in the government over the country's budget and financial crisis and the failure to reach agreement with the International Monetary Fund on reviving frozen loans. Finance Minister Mihaly Kupa made the surprise announcement on Thursday during the course of a wider government reshuffling in which the ministers of culture, transportation, environment and agriculture also lost their jobs."

REUTER: Europeans will discuss how to halt tide of immigrants

BUDAPEST - "Ministers from 35 European countries will attend an international conference in Hungary next week to try to stem the flow of illegal immigrants through Eastern Europe to the West. The two-day meeting, to be attended by interior ministers or their deputies, is intended to follow up the work of a 1991 conference in Berlin on migration, according to Andras Galszecszy, advisor to Hungarian Interior Minister Peter Boross. Six international organisations, including the Council of Europe and the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) will participate in the conference, Canada and Argentina will attend as observers."

OECD ECONOMIES

UNITED KINGDOM

THE GUARDIAN: Queen will pay tax but gets huge allowance

LONDON - "The Queen will pay tax from April 7 for the first time since her accession in 1952 as the result of an historic agreement announced by the Prime Minister to Parliament yesterday. But under a deal which has taken a year to negotiate, she will receive the country's biggest tax allowance, and exemption from inheritance tax on any bequests to the Prince of Wales, and will continue to receive £50 million a year from the Government to maintain her four official residences, the royal yacht, the royal train and the Queen's Flight for official business."

ITALIE

LA TRIBUNE: Tornade judiciaire

"Bettino Craxi a annoncé hier sa démission du poste de secrétaire du Parti socialiste italien. Après avoir frappé l'économie, la 'révolution italienne' s'en prend aujourd'hui au monde politique. Sous le coup de six ouvertures d'informations judiciaires et en attente d'une levée de son immunité parlementaire, Bettino Craxi a finalement accepté, hier en fin d'après-midi, de jeter l'éponge. Venant après la démission, avant hier, de l'un de ses dauphins supposés, Claudio Martelli, ministre de la Justice, et dans un contexte où la moindre rumeur traumatise les marchés financiers, son départ marque la fin d'une époque, que nombre d'observateurs attendaient avec impatience."

UNITED STATES

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Clinton to seek renewed authority for trade talks

WASHINGTON - "US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor formally announced that the Clinton administration will ask Congress to renew its fast-track negotiating authority for the Uruguay Round of world trade talks. Mr Kantor, at a joint press conference with EC Trade Commissioner Leon Brittan, said the administration 'wants renewal of fast track to complete the Uruguay Round' of negotiations under the GATT. Such bargaining authority is considered critical in multilateral trade negotiations by the US because it limits congressional amendments to any agreement reached and thereby reduces the chance of protracted deliberations by Congress."

HERALD TRIBUNE: Clinton tells Europe: stop Airbus subsidies

WASHINGTON - "President Bill Clinton has thrown down a new gauntlet over trade with Europe by calling on the EC to 'quit subsidizing' its Airbus jetliners, and US industry sources said Thursday that Mr Clinton had meant what he said. 'I am not going to roll over and play dead', Mr Clinton bluntly declared, after signaling that unless the EC subsidies ended, Washington might offer more direct government support for US aircraft makers. A seven-month-old agreement already exists between the United States and the Community over aircraft subsidies, but a US industry source said Thursday that Washington's negotiators were pursuing even lower limits on the subsidies."

HERALD TRIBUNE: President sets sacrifice theme in call for tax rise

WASHINGTON - "In the face of what he called a national crisis, President Bill Clinton said Thursday that he would propose higher taxes for both corporations and wealthy individuals. The president told a group of US business leaders that in the interest of fairness, the economic plan that he planned to unveil next Wednesday would include more taxes on both."

'Today we face a crisis, which, while quieter, is every bit as profound as those we have faced in our past', Mr Clinton said in the address at the White House. 'We risk losing the standard of living that we have taken for granted for so many years as Americans.'

GERMANY

FINANCIAL TIMES: Steelworkers protest at further job losses

BONN - "Steelworkers in east and west Germany took to the streets in protest yesterday, as details of further job losses emerged from the country's leading steelmakers. Hoesch Stahl confirmed that one entire steel plant would have to be closed down, with a loss of between 2,000 and 3,000 jobs, in order to reduce its monthly capacity from 700,000 to between 550,000 and 570,000 tonnes."

FRANCE

LES ECHOS: Protocole d'accord sur les biocarburants

PARIS - "Un protocole d'accord signé entre l'Etat, les agriculteurs et les pétroliers français marque le démarrage de la production d'ester méthylique de colza pour incorporation dans le gazole. Mais sous l'influence du rapport Lévy, plutôt négatif pour les biocarburants, le décollage reste très prudent. Avec un net avantage pour la filière colza sur l'éthanol. Ce rapport met en évidence deux points majeurs : les carburants agricoles ne peuvent prétendre résoudre aujourd'hui un problème énergétique car ils ne sont pas compétitifs face au pétrole ; ils n'ont d'intérêt que s'ils apportent une solution au problème engendré par la réforme de la politique agricole commune (PAC) qui impose la mise en jachère de 15% des terres cultivables françaises soit 1,5 million d'hectares."

CHINE

AFP: Première zone de développement économique gérée par l'armée

PEKIN - "L'Armée populaire de libération chinoise (APL) va participer au combat pour l'économie de marché en gérant pour la première fois une zone de développement économique (ZDE) qui a ouvert ses portes vendredi, a annoncé CHINE NOUVELLE. D'une superficie de 19km carrés, la ZDE de Niutianyang, près de la zone économique spéciale (ZES) de Shantou, dans la province méridionale du Guangdong, a été placée sous la responsabilité du commandement militaire provincial, a indiqué l'agence officielle."

END-OF-TEXT