

LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Temps
changeant avec éclaircies et pluies.
Rafales de vent. Il fera 11 .

....
AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

SGP/PRB/D(92)62

NEW YORK (NATIONS UNIES) - Le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies a décidé à la majorité de ses membres (10 voix sur 15) de mettre en place à partir du 15 avril un embargo militaire et aérien contre la Libye pour son refus de collaborer aux enquêtes internationales en cours après les attentats contre les avions de la PanAm et d'UTA (440 morts au total en 1988 et 1989). La Chine, l'Inde, le Maroc, le Zimbabwe et le Cap Vert se sont abstenus.

BONN - Le chancelier allemand Helmut Kohl a nommé un de ses plus fidèles adjoints, Volker Ruehe, 49 ans, ministre de la défense, en remplacement de Gerhard Stoltenberg, qui a démissionné en raison d'un scandale de livraison d'armes à la Turquie.

RUSSIA

HERALD TRIBUNE: Yeltsin wins pact on unity of Russia

MOSCOW - "President Boris N. Yeltsin, seeking to insulate Russia from the process of disintegration that destroyed the Soviet Union, signed a treaty of federation Tuesday with 18 of the 20 semiautonomous regions of his vast nation. Mr Yeltsin heralded the treaty as vital for Russia's future and ordered a fireworks display in Moscow to celebrate its signing. Leaders of the ethnic regions, many of which are wealthy in oil, diamonds and other resources, pledged to remain within Russia in exchange for more sovereignty and a greater share of their mineral wealth... As if to underscore the dangers inherent in dissolution, a small-scale civil war resumed Tuesday in the Chechen Republic, a Caucasian region that declared independence in November."

REUTER: IMF praises Russian reforms, signals loans ahead

WASHINGTON - "The IMF took a major step on Tuesday towards allowing Russia to borrow IMF funds to help its struggling economy make the transition to capitalism. Urging Moscow to push ahead rapidly to overhaul its economy, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said: 'The IMF commends the government of the Russian Federation for launching a bold and comprehensive economic reform programme'. The IMF's board also agreed to give Russia a three per cent stake in the fund when it joins the organisation, probably late next month. That would make Russia eligible to borrow about \$4 billion annually from the IMF to support its reforms."

CHANGES - TOKYO

AFP: La Banque du Japon intervient pour soutenir le yen

TOKYO - "... En relâchant de nouveau mercredi les rênes du crédit, la Banque du Japon est venue, en ce premier jour de l'année fiscale, appuyer le plan d'urgence du gouvernement nippon - le premier en cinq ans - adopté la veille pour soutenir l'activité défaillante... Le taux d'escompte officiel a été baissé de 0,75 point et ramené à 3,75%, son niveau de l'automne 1989. Jamais en onze ans, la banque centrale n'avait lâché autant de lest pour relancer la machine économique nipponne... Mais le plan du gouvernement est jugé trop modeste et la baisse du taux d'escompte trop tardive. Résultat: mercredi, la Bourse de Tokyo a plongé et le yen s'est affaibli. L'indice Nikkei du marché japonais a chuté de près de 4% (3,95%) enfonçant le seuil des 19.000 yen pour la première fois en plus de cinq ans et clôturant à 18.581,79 yen. Le yen, moins attrayant avec des taux de rendement plus faibles, a perdu du terrain forçant la Banque du Japon à le soutenir sur le marché. En clôture, le dollar valait 133,90 yen contre 133,05 yen la veille."

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

FINANCIAL TIMES: Towards a decision on farm reform

BRUSSELS - "... The Community roundly rejected yesterday's ruling by the GATT that the new EC oilseeds regime discriminated against US soya imports, in a response likely to worsen further the transatlantic conflict over farm trade. The European Commission and the current Portuguese presidency of the EC are to push for the conclusion of the 14-month negotiations of CAP reform at the next Council of the 12 farm ministers in Luxembourg on April 28. This followed individual negotiations with each of the ministers late into Monday night."

LE FIGARO: Les quotas laitiers maintenus

BRUXELLES - "Les ministres de l'Agriculture de la CEE ont décidé, hier, de proroger d'un an le régime des quotas laitiers qui venaient à expiration aujourd'hui. Mais la porte reste ouverte à une réduction de 3%, en trois tranches égales de 1% pour les campagnes 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 si, d'ici là, les Douzes se mettent d'accord sur le projet de réforme de Politique agricole commune proposé par la Commission."

THE STEEL INDUSTRY

FINANCIAL TIMES: EC accuses US of blocking steel accord

GENEVA - "Negotiations on a new multilateral code governing world steel trade broke up in acrimony yesterday as the European Community accused the US of blocking an accord. The proposed Multilateral Steel Agreement (MSA) was intended to replace voluntary restraints on steel exports to the US market, which expired last night. Mr Rufus Yerxa, deputy US trade representative, said yesterday the US could not accept an agreement 'that lacks meaningful disciplines over subsidy practices and unduly restricts our ability to use domestic trade laws to counter those practices... The MSA would have phased out tariffs on steel, eliminated non-tariff barriers and outlawed direct state subsidies for steel production. The sticking point for the US has been the wish of the EC and other steel exporters to permit without restriction aid for research and development, environmental upgrading, redundant steelworkers and factory closures."

HERALD TRIBUNE: American firms ready to compete

NEW YORK - "The steel industry, long a symbol of decay in industrial America, has undergone a transformation in the last decade that has drastically sharpened its competitive position. The US government, which has provided a decade of protection from imported steel, has decided not to extend quotas on imported steel that expired Tuesday. American steelmakers have so improved their productivity that the industry now offer rivals - and in some ways outperforms - its competitors in Germany and Japan. Thanks partly to the reduced value of the dollar, foreign steel shipments into the US have fallen in recent years to below the limit the government set. And the industry is at its most efficient ever based on the man-hours needed to produce a ton of steel. Exports, which in the last 20 years have rarely accounted for more than 2 percent of steel shipped from American mills, soared last year to 6.3 million tons, or about 8 percent."

OECD ECONOMIES

United States

HERALD TRIBUNE: Outlook for economy improves

NEW YORK - "Key forecasting gauges of consumer confidence and leading economic indicators released Tuesday showed the US economy likely to expand slowly, while a major revision of last year's employment figures indicated it had been in a deeper hole than originally believed. The Conference Board's confidence index jumped seven points in March, to 54, the largest increase since the Gulf War ended a year ago and temporarily revived consumer optimism. The index has fallen almost every month since then. The board said that ... consumers were 'markedly less pessimistic' about jobs and business conditions... The Commerce Department's index of leading indicators for February rose 0.8 percent after a revised gain of 1 percent in January."

Australia

FINANCIAL TIMES: Keating puts up \$114m to fight racism

SYDNEY - "The Australian government is to spend A\$150m (US\$114m) over

five years to try to improve conditions for the country's Aboriginal minority, and combat discrimination by white Australians. The spending forms the first part of the government's response to the report of a Royal Commission into the deaths of 99 Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in police custody. The Commission found that the dead prisoners, most of whom committed suicide, were victims of 'entrenched and institutionalised racism and discrimination'."

Canada

AFP: Report partiel du projet hydro-électrique de Grande-Baleine

MONTREAL - "Le gigantesque projet hydro-électrique de Grande-Baleine (nord du Québec) devra être révisé à la suite de l'annulation du contrat de 17 milliards de dollars US signé avec l'Etat de New-York, a indiqué mardi le ministre québécois de l'énergie et des ressources, Mme Lise Bacon. La résiliation du plus gros contrat de vente d'électricité qu'Hydro-Québec devait commencer à honorer en 1995 va obliger la société à retarder la construction du complexe de Grande-Baleine, un projet de 13,1 milliards de dollars américains qui comprend trois centrales hydro-électriques... Depuis plusieurs mois, le Grand conseil des Cris fait campagne aux Etats-Unis contre les exportations d'électricité d'Hydro-Québec qui, selon lui, serviraient d'argument économique pour réaliser le projet de Grande-Baleine, inondant ainsi un territoire de plus de 4.000 kilomètres carrés."

•

END-OF-TEXT