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AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

MOSCOU - M. Mikhaïl Gorbatchev a proposé mardi une formule transitoire de "membre associé" à la fois à l'OTAN et au Pacte de Varsovie pour l'Allemagne unifiée, tant que les 2 blocs militaires existent. Cette proposition a été rejetée par le chancelier ouest-allemand Helmut Kohl, M. Lothar de Maiziére, chef du gouvernement est-allemand et le président Bush.

MOSCOU - La plus grande des républiques soviétiques, la Fédération de Russie (RSFSR), a proclamé mardi sa souveraineté d'Etat et son droit à faire sécession, tout en précisant qu'elle souhaitait rester au sein de l'URSS dans le cadre d'une Union "renouvelée".

SOFIA - Le Parti socialiste bulgare (PSB, ex-communiste), crédité au 1er tour des élections en Bulgarie de 98 des 200 sièges attribués au scrutin proportionnel, selon l’Institut ouest-allemand Infas, confirme son avance sur l’Union des forces démocratique (UFD - opposition) dans le scrutin majoritaire. Il disposerait ainsi de 166 sièges après le 1er tour sur un total de 400.

ROME - Le président du Conseil Giulio Andreotti a annoncé mardi devant les chefs de groupes du Sénat que le gouvernement italien venait de décider de "ne pas confirmer" la candidature de Venise pour l’organisation de l’exposition universelle de l’an 2 000.

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THE BALTIC REPUBLICS

HERALD TRIBUNE: Gorbachev calls for a New Soviet Federation

MOSCOW - "President Mikhail S. Gorbachev met Tuesday with the presidents of the 3 Baltic republics and laid out terms that he said could lead to negotiations on Baltic independence and the lifting of economic sanctions against Lithuania. The Soviet leader also called for the creation of a new Soviet federation that he said would treat all republics as 'sovereign states' with virtually as much control over their own affairs as they wanted... On Tuesday night, 2 of the most skeptical participants in the day’s talks on the unstable union, the presidents of Lithuania and Latvia, emerged from their meeting with Mr. Gorbachev glowing with good humor."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Baker concedes pressure on treaty

"The Bush administration yesterday formally conceded for the first time that the recently signed US-Soviet trade treaty would not be approved by Congress until the Lithuanian crisis eased. Until now the administration’s sole formal pre-condition for the trade deal has been the passage of a Soviet law codifying and liberalising emigration, and it has publicly fudged the Lithuanian issue. In testimony yesterday to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. James Baker, the US Secretary of State, acknowledged: ‘We do not believe that Congress will approve the commercial agreement until the deadlock over Lithuania is broken. That is a fact of political life’.

EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM

THE TIMES: Pound lifted on hopes of EMS entry

"The pound surged to its strongest level since February yesterday as euphoria over the possibility of sterling soon playing a full role in the European Monetary System returned to the foreign exchange market. On its trade-weighted index, the pound closed at 90.3, up 0.8 of a point from Monday’s finish and its highest level since February 22. Against the mark,
the anchor currency of the EMS, the rise was more dramatic, with the pound up 3.21 pfennigs at DM2.8840. It also added nearly 2 cents to end at $1.7055."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Hopes of early ERM entry

LONDON - "... In the House of Commons, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the Prime minister, stuck to her government’s long-standing formula on ERM membership, saying that Britain would join only when the conditions agreed at the Madrid summit had been met. Mr. John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in London yesterday that ‘a good deal of progress has been made on a number of these conditions, but they have not yet all been met’. Senior ministers, however, confirmed that the government was now looking at an accelerated timetable aimed at taking sterling into the system in the autumn."

GATT

AFP: Libéralisation des services financiers: contacts exploratoires

GENEVE - "Des contacts exploratoires se déroulent depuis lundi à Genève sur le thème de la libéralisation des services financiers, c’est-à-dire essentiellement les banques et assurances, en vue d’intégrer ce secteur à l’accord commercial multilatéral de l’Uruguay Round qui doit être conclu à la fin de l’année... Lors de ces débats, la CEE est apparue comme l’une des parties les plus intéressées par un libéralisation poussée des services financiers. Toutefois, pour des raisons différentes, les EU et la CEE souhaitent tous deux qu’un futur accord contienne une clause leur réservant un droit de non-application envers certains pays, les lors pour des raisons liées à la surveillance bancaire, la Communauté par souci d’obtenir la réciprocité."

NORTH AMERICA: FREE TRADE

REUTER: Mexico seeks free trade agreement with Canada

MEXICO CITY - "Mexico would like to conclude a free trade agreement with Canada to complement the accord it hopes to reach with the US, president Carlos Salinas de Gortari said on Tuesday, on returning from a 3-day visit to the US. Trade Minister Jaime Serra Puche was travelling on Tuesday to Canada to brief his Canadian counterpart, John Crosbie, on plans to negotiate a US-Mexico pact announced during the visit, Salinas said... The inclusion in a North American free trade zone of Canada, which reached a free trade accord with the US in 1988, would create the largest market in the world, he said."

AMERIQUE LATINE

AFP: Vénézuela: prêts de 680 M US de la Banque Mondiale

WASHINGTON - "La Banque Mondiale a annoncé mardi l’octroi de 3 prêts au Vénézuéla, pour un total de 680 M de dollars, destinés à soutenir ‘une profonde réforme des entreprises publiques et du secteur financier’. Environ le quart de ces fonds (162,5 M USD) pourront être éventuellement utilisés à la réduction de la dette bancaire extérieure, selon une source émanant de l’institution."

INVESTMENT IN EAST GERMANY

FINANCIAL TIMES: Failure to invest in East criticised

BONN - "West German industry’s apparent reluctance to invest on a large scale in East Germany was yesterday sharply criticised by Mr. Helmut Haussmann, the West German Economics minister. Addressing the 1,200 delegates at the annual meeting of the Federation of German Industry (BDI) Mr. Haussmann said: ‘I observe with anxiety the declining readiness to take courageous, job-creating investment decisions in East Germany’. On the positive side he said that merely the repurchase of small companies forcibly nationalised in 1972 in East Germany was creating a new group of self-employed, 100,000-strong, which would form the basis of a job--creating East German Mittelstand... The Economics minister also welcomed the decision to hand over to East German companies ownership of their own land which will increase their creditworthiness."

AFP: Quelque 1.970 joint ventures ont été conclus en RDA

BERLIN-EST - "Quelque 1.979 accords de partenariat entre des entreprises
de RDA et étrangères sont actuellement recensés, dont 825 ont été conclus au cours du seul mois de mai, a indiqué mardi le ministère est-allemand de l’Economie. L’essentiel des joint-ventures ont été réalisés avec des petites et moyennes entreprises, seules 48 d’entre elles concernant des grandes entreprises, a souligné le ministère dans un communiqué publié à Berlin-Est par l’agence est-allemande ADN."

OECD ECONOMIES

Spain

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Economy slows its growth

MADRID - "Encouraging economic figures released this week could give the Spanish government some breathing room in its efforts to cool Spain’s booming economy - but not enough to relax its stringent monetary policies. Analysts suggest that signs both inflation and the rate of job creation are slowing indicate the government’s tight monetary measures are beginning to pay off. Some analysts suggested that Spain’s Socialist government is likely to use the inflation data to bolster its bargaining position in an ongoing, rancorous debate with labor unions over wage hikes... Spain’s consumer price index was unchanged in May from April, but when compared with the same month last year it showed continued improvement. May’s increase from May 1989 was 6.8%, down from 7% for April and March and 7.3% for February... In addition, the Labor ministry has reported that the unemployment rate in May slipped to 15.5% from 15.9% the previous month."

France

HERALD TRIBUNE: France plans to expand TGV system

PARIS - "France announced plans Tuesday to spend 190bn francs ($33.3bn) to expand its record-setting high-speed train network by 3,500 kilometers. Transportation officials declared at a news conference that the expanded network, which would require construction of 400 new engines for the train à grande vitesse, would make rail a viable alternative to road and air travel... The investment plan would begin in 1995 and would run for 15 or 20 years."