**OIL**

**THE INDEPENDENT:** Stagnant growth hits oil sales

"Stagnant economic growth in the West, mild weather in Europe and the US and high prices because of the Gulf crisis lessened the world’s thirst for oil last year. The result was a reversal in the upward trend in oil consumption, which had otherwise seen demand rise every year since 1983, according to the 1991 BP Statistical Review of World Energy. Demand for oil shrank 0.2% in 1990 to 64.68 million barrels (3.1bn tonnes). Oil consumption was hardest hit, but demand for energy in general was sluggish. Total consumption - oil, gas, coal, hydro-electric and nuclear - continued to rise, but the rate of increase -0.4%, to 8bn tonnes of oil equivalent (TOE) - was the smallest in 8 years."

**REUTER:** Oil producers and consumers meet next week

CARACAS - "A meeting between oil producers and consumers in Paris next week will be a forum for exchanging information but its importance should not be overstated, Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali said on Wednesday. Some 22 oil producing and consuming nations have agreed to attend the conference, sponsored by Venezuela and France, in Paris from July 3 to 8. The United States has opposed the meeting, which it fears could lead to attempts to interfere with market forces in the oil market... ‘It’s an informal conference’, Ghali added. ‘What is important is to have a dialogue between North and South.’"

F.T.: Concern over Nigeria’s use of oil windfall

LAGOS - "Nigeria may have already spent more than half the windfall it received from higher oil export earnings during the gulf crisis. The receipts, which donor agencies estimate at about $5bn, resulted in a 76% rise in official oil export earnings from $7.5bn in 1989 to $13.2bn last year. Economists working for donor agencies say that at least $3bn is not accounted for in central bank figures for the period between July 1990 and last month. The shortfall has led to concern that the government has embarked on a programme of extra-budgetary expenditure."

**OILGRAM NEWS:** IEA concerned over refining capacity

WASHINGTON - "The IEA is conducting a study of worldwide refining
capacity that will identify existing capability (both in terms of volume and sophistication) and anticipated new construction or expansion, said John Ferriter, IEA deputy executive director. IEA’s June 3 ministerial meeting identified refining capacity as a concern in energy security, because the mid-January stockdraw showed that products were in shorter supply than crude. If the study, due for completion ‘within the next year’, indicates that refining capacity may be tight because of environmental restrictions on construction, then member countries may want to stockpile products for use in an emergency, Ferriter told reporters here.

EC

HERALD TRIBUNE: Dutch to push on free trade in arms

BRUSSELS - "The Netherlands, which assumes the EC presidency July 1, said Wednesday it would seek to change EC free-trade rules to include some armaments, prohibiting member countries from discriminating against foreign manufacturers. The Dutch want the current rules, which exempt all weapons trade from Community free-trade laws, to be ‘substantially changed’ during the EC intergovernmental conference on political union, said Piet Dankert, deputy foreign minister for European affairs... The list of items subject to exemption should be made more selective, just like COCOM has become more selective, Mr Dankert said."

AFP: Fin du contrôle de personnes aux frontières?

LUXEMBOURG - "Les ministres des Douze responsables de l’immigration ont échoué mercredi à Luxembourg dans une nouvelle tentative de supprimer les contrôles frontaliers pour les voyageurs au 1er janvier 1993. La vieille querelle entre Londres et Madrid qui se disputent l’autorité sur Gibraltar a empêché la conclusion d’un accord qui était pratiquement prêt, a-t-on indiqué de sources diplomatiques. Les ministres ont décidé de poursuivre la discussion lundi à Luxembourg. D’ici là, les chefs d’Etat et de gouvernement des Douze qui se réunissent vendredi et samedi dans la capitale luxembourgeoise seront saisis de l’affaire, a-t-on appris de source allemande.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FINANCIAL TIMES: Swiss order for McDonnell fighters

"Switzerland yesterday ended a year of suspense over its choice of a fighter aircraft by confirming the purchase of 34 F/A-18 Hornet jets from McDonnel Douglas of the US. The deal is reckoned to be worth about $2bn with spares. The decision, which reverts to the Swiss government’s original decision made in 1988, is a blow to the French manufacturer Dassault Aviation which had been hoping the Swiss would lead a revival in its export business."

F.T.: Siemens wins DM2.6bn power order from Iran

FRANKFURT - "Siemens, the German electrical and electronics group, has won a DM2.6bn ($1.4bn) order for a natural-gas fired power station in Iran using a technology which it is also introducing into the Soviet Union. Payment will be in cash covered by letters of credit. The German company said the 2,080MW power station, to be built for the Tehran Regional Electric Company, would use a type of technology - the combined-cycle gas and steam process - which saved on fuel use, cut electricity production costs, and was environmentally friendly."

DAC FIGURES

JAPAN TIMES: US regains top aid ranking

"The United States overtook Japan as the world’s largest aid donor in 1990, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. Unless the yen turns higher against the dollar in the 1991-92 period, it will not be easy for Japan to fulfill its pledge to spend a total of $50bn in official development assistance during the 5 years from 1988 to 1992, ministry officials noted. According to the ministry, Japan disbursed $9.24bn in ODA in 1990, up 3.1% from the year before... According to preliminary figures from a committee affiliated with the OECD, Japan was the second-largest aid donor after the US, which disbursed more than $10bn, and was followed by France, which spent about $6.5bn."

ECONOMIES OCDE
LES ECHOS: Le chômage atteint un niveau sans précédent

"... Le chômage a augmenté le mois dernier de 2% en données corrigées des variations saisonnières (CVS) pour atteindre, de l’aveu même du ministre du Travail, un ‘niveau inégalé’ jusque-là. 2.688.900 demandeurs d’emploi ont été recensés en mai, soit 52.200 de plus en un seul mois. Le taux de chômage a progressé de 0.1 point pour s’établir à 9,5%."