July 22 Juillet 1991


AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

JERUSALEM - Arrivé dimanche en Israël, dernière étape de sa nouvelle tournée au Proche-Orient, le secrétaire d'État américain James Baker s’est entretenu en tête-à-tête avec le Premier ministre israélien Vitzhak Shamir. M. Baker n’a fait à sa sortie aucune déclaration à la presse.

NICOSIE - L’Irak a décrété une amnistie générale en faveur de tous les opposants politiques et des militaires déserteurs, selon l’agence irakienne INA, reçue à Nicosie. L’amnistie en faveur des détenus et des condamnés politiques figure parmi les conditions posées par les dirigeants kurdes dans leurs négociations avec Bagdad sur l’autonomie du Kurdistan.

PERTH (Australie) - Une nappe de pétrole s’étendant sur 30 km2 menace à quelque 40 km du rivage les côtes occidentales de l’Australie, à la suite de l’incendie qui s’est déclaré dans la nuit de samedi à dimanche à bord du pétrolier grec Kirki transportant 80 000 tonnes de brut, ont annoncé les autorités lundi.

GLASCOW (Grande-Bretagne) - Au moins 4 personnes ont été tuées et une trentaine d’autres blessées dimanche soir dans une collision frontale entre 2 trains régionaux à Newton, au sud-est de Glasgow (Ecosse), a-t-on appris auprès de British Rail. Selon la police, l’accident s’est produit peu après 22H00 locales dans la gare de Newton, à environ 10 km au sud-est de Glasgow.

BUCAREST - Le Premier ministre roumain, M. Petre Roman, a défendu dimanche soir dans une intervention télévisée le projet de loi sur la privatisation, et rejeté les accusations de l’opposition en “regrettant” que certains groupes parlementaires aient quitté les débats.

THE INDEPENDENT: BCCI faked loans

LONDON - "Many of the huge loans to wealthy Gulf Arabs shown in the books of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, were entirely false, with some names being taken at random from telephone directories. The discovery that loans to Saudi billionaires and to the Dubai royal family were entirely fictitious prompted the Bank of England’s decision to close the bank on 5 July... By showing huge false loans in the books, senior BCCI officials were able to divert equivalent funds offshore to the Cayman Islands. These funds were secretly used to buy into banks and other companies in transactions they wanted to keep secret from regulators."

THE GUARDIAN: South African police paid Inkatha

JOHANNESBURG - "South Africa’s minister of law and order, Adriaan Vlok, last night told television viewers that he was considering resigning from the government... The startling admission came after the disclosure in THE GUARDIAN and the SOUTH AFRICAN WEEKLY mail that police had made 2 secret payments to the Inkatha Freedom Party in late 1989 and early 1990... On the same television programme the president of Inkatha, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, was challenged by an Afrikaans journalist, Max Du Preez, to say whether he would resign if it could be proved that Inkatha was funded by the intelligence services or the police."

THE TIMES: UN ‘to authorise Iraqi sale of oil’

NEW YORK - "The United Nations sanctions committee is moving towards approving the first sale of Iraqi oil since last September. Diplomats say the committee is likely to authorise a one-off sale of as much as $1.5bn worth of Iraqi crude. The proceeds will enable Iraq to buy essential supplies, and to meet some of its obligations under the UN ceasefire resolution."
LE MONDE: Fidel Castro isolé

SAN-JOSE - "En quelques phrases fort peu diplomatiques, le président portugais, M. Mario Soares, a exprimé ce que la majorité des dirigeants latino-américains, réunis les 18 et 19 juillet à Guadalajara (Mexique), n’ont pas osé dire au chef de la révolution cubaine. M. Fidel Castro est ‘un dinosaure, un animal préhistorique en voie de disparition’, a déclaré le dirigeant socialiste dans un discours prononcé vendredi à l’université de Guadalajara. ‘Tous les efforts réalisés au cours de ce sommet pour convaincre Castro n’ont pas donné de résultat, a-t-il déploré. j’attendais un signal, au cours de son discours, en faveur d’une évolution, mais il n’y en a pas eu’. M. Soares a fait part de ses inquiétudes pour l’avenir de Cuba d’autant plus, a-t-il ajouté, que le Groupe des Sept, lors de sa réunion de Londres au début de la semaine, aurait ‘lié, entre autres conditions, son appui à la réinsertion de l’Union soviétique dans l’économie mondiale à la fin de l’aide en faveur de Cuba’."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Czechs and Slovaks to vote on unity

PRAGUE - "The federal assembly of Czechoslovakia has approved a referendum law allowing the Czech and Slovak republics to decide the future shape and status of their relations. The law coincides with fresh demands by Slovak nationalists and is seen as an attempt by the federal authorities to silence them. They are demanding that Slovakia be granted independence from the federation, and appear encouraged by Slovenia’s declaration of independence from the Yugoslav federation. Recent public opinion polls show that about a third, or 1.5m, Slovaks favour outright independence."

HERALD TRIBUNE: IBM’s earnings plunge

NEW YORK - "International Business Machines Corp. said Friday that its second-quarter earnings slumped 92%, but the fact that it managed to report even a small profit drove the company’s stock price up sharply. IBM also said it would accelerate a job-reduction program, increasing to at least 17,000 the number of employees it aims to eliminate this year through voluntary means. The goal previously was 14,000... Analysts said IBM’s earnings came as no surprise and, in fact, were not as bad as some forecasters had expected... The news boosted IBM shares sharply on the New York Stock Exchange. They rose $2.25 on the day to close at $100.50."

OECD ECONOMIES

Germany

HERALD TRIBUNE: Growth forecast to at least 3%

FRANKFURT - "Economics Minister Jürgen Möllemann said Friday that the economy of Western Germany will grow by 3% or more this year, a stronger performance than most officials or private economists had expected. Economists cautioned, however, that the higher-than-expected growth probably took place in the first half, and that growth is now slowing down markedly. Some even predict that the economy may be virtually stagnant during part of the second half, causing Germany to lose its role as the locomotive that has so far kept a number of European trade partners from falling into recession."

United Kingdom

FINANCIAL TIMES: ICI to shed 20,000 jobs

LONDON - "Imperial Chemical Industries' reorganisation programme is likely to lead to a loss of about 20,000 jobs. It could involve the sale or demerger of ICI’s industrial division, which owns most of its heavy chemical interests. Between 10% and 15% of ICI’s workforce worldwide could go because of the sale of some businesses and the closure of others, according to someone who is familiar with the restructuring plan. ICI refused to comment on this figure. It employs 132,000 people, 53,000 of them in the UK."

Italy

THE TIMES: List of tax evaders published

ROME - "... The Italian finance ministry has published the names of
240,000 ascertained tax evaders for 1983-5: a novel, if brutal, way of striking terror into the hearts of the comparatively large proportion of Italians who do not pay their taxes. ‘the best is yet to come’, announced Rino Formica, the finance minister, on Saturday, as computer discs with the names were distributed to the press. ‘From now on we will publish this information continuously’, he said and promised more names this week.”