September 6 1991


AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

MOSCOU - Le Congrès extraordinaire des députés du peuple (assemblée élargie) a terminé ses travaux en adoptant une "Déclaration des Droits et des Libertés de l'Homme", qui place pour la 1ère fois dans l’histoire de l’URSS l’individu au-dessus de la collectivité.

BELGRADE - Des combats meurtriers se sont poursuivis en Slavonie (est de la Croatie), faisant au moins 16 morts du côté croate mercredi et jeudi, en particulier à Osijek, chef-lieu de la région, en dépit d’un accord conclu en présence d’un émissaire de la CEE entre les autorités croates locales et les représentants de l’armée fédérale, a rapporté la télévision croate. Dans la même région, la ville de Vukovar était toujours violemment bombardée par l’armée fédérale, selon la télévision croate, qui a annoncé qu’au moins 24 paysans croates auraient été assassinés mercredi par des forces paramilitaires serbes dans le nord-ouest de la Slavonie.

PEKIN - Le ministère chinois des Affaires étrangères a annoncé l’arrêt de toute forme d’aide aux Khmers rouges, mettant ainsi fin à plus de 20 ans de soutien direct.

***************

A NEW ERA IN THE SOVIET UNION

FINANCIAL TIMES: Gorbachev wins backing for Soviet reform plan

MOSCOW - "Constitutional approval was yesterday given to a new era in the Soviet Union as the Congress of People's Deputies ended its 3 years of life and ushered in transitional bodies of power. The new bodies will give the republics responsibility for maintaining - or destroying - what is left of the Union... The new bodies of power are a State Council, composed of the Soviet president and the leaders of the participating republics (presently 10 of the 15, excluding the 3 Baltic states, Georgia and Moldova). An inter-republican economic committee, still to be formed, will absorb the old union ministries and attempt to organise an economic agreement. There will be a reformed Supreme Soviet, in which the upper house, or Council of the Republics, will contain 20 deputies from each republic - with 52 from the dominant Russian republic and one deputy extra from each autonomous republic or area."

REUTER: Yeltsin, Gorbachev give assurances

MOSCOW - "All Soviet nuclear weapons could be moved to the largest and most powerful republic, the Russian Federation, its President Boris Yeltsin said on Friday. 'I think there will be a process of moving the weapons from the Ukraine and Kazakhstan to the Russian Federation', he said. 'Why? Because the main thing is our responsibility for control of nuclear weapons, and not only for nuclear weapons', Yeltsin said on the US television channel ABC in a programme shown live in Moscow. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev also appeared in the programme... Yeltsin said control over nuclear arms would be 'centralised, territorial and very strict'. Gorbachev added: 'No one should have any worries on this account'. Both leaders said there would be changes in the Soviet Union’s relationship with Cuba, one of the last bastions of communism, which has been maintained by substantial aid from its long-time ally. Yeltsin suggested there would be a withdrawal of Soviet armed forces... Gorbachev said: 'I must tell Americans that our relations with Cuba are changing qualitatively and becoming more like those with other countries, based on mutual profit'."

THE EUROPEAN: Rouble refugees threaten the West

"A Soviet people with no money in their pay packets and no food in their shops could swamp Europe with a tidal wave of refugees unless the West
moves quickly, says Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for
Reconstruction and Development. In an exclusive interview with THE
EUROPEAN, Mr Attali warned: 'If we don’t move unemployment will rocket in
the USSR. What we saw in Albania is only a small example of the kind of
migration that will sweep Europe’s borders’... Mr Attali said that the
West should adopt a similar attitude to the USSR as the US and Canada did
towards Mexico, treating it as a free trade zone. 'It is in our interests
to let the republics grow. They should be considered part of what I call a
Europe of 30, perhaps even 40, if you include the European Free Trade
Association (EFTA) countries. The EC must not be frightened of widening
itself'."

BANKING SCANDAL

FINANCIAL TIMES: US indicts 6 officials of BCCI

WASHINGTON/LONDON - "The US yesterday indicted 6 officials of the Bank
of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), along with a leader of the
Medellin cocaine cartel in Colombia and Capcom Financial Services Ltd of
London on charges of racketeering and laundering millions of dollars of
drug money through BCCI. Among those indicted was Mr Syed Ali Akbar,
former BCCI treasurer and former head of Capcom, who was arrested by
French customs earlier this week... Mr Swaleh Naqvi, the BCCI president
who was first charged in New York last July, was listed as another of the
12 defendants in yesterday’s indictments... The charges included the
alleged use by Mr Akbar and BCCI of Capcom in the UK to hide and transfer
$23m of funds controlled by Mr Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian
dictator, who went on trial in Miami on drug charges yesterday."

REUTER: Former officials of Peru’s central bank charged

LIMA - "Two former officials of Peru’s central bank were charged on
Thursday with taking bribes from the disgraced BCCI, a special prosecutor
said. Leonel Figueroa, president of the Central Reserve Bank of Peru in
1986-87, and Hector Neyra, the bank’s general manager, became the first
government officials or former officials charged in connection with the
worldwide scandal."

INDUSTRIE

LE FIGARO: Alliance Thomson-Aerospatiale-MBB

"Un axe franco-allemand des missiles se met en place. Comme prévu,
Thomson-CSF s’allie au tandem Aerospatiale et MBB (groupe Deutsche
Aerospace) qui sont partenaires depuis 20 ans dans le cadre du GIE
Euromissible. Le trio franco-allemand fabriquera en Europe le missile
sol-air courte portée VT 1. Jusqu’à présent, le VT 1 était développé et
fabriqué aux Etats-Unis par l’américain LTV pour le compte de Thomson-CSF.
Le missile VT 1 équipera le système Crotale NG (nouvelle génération) dont
Thomson est maître d’oeuvre et le système roland d’Euromissile."

OECD ECONOMIES

United States - Japan

REUTER: Former US president Jimmy Carter and former Japanese Prime
Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said on Thursday that global chaos could be
triggered if the growing mistrust between their 2 nations was not ended.
They said in a joint report that world peace depended on stability in
major nations such as the Soviet Union. But they added 'the global future
will, in the long run, equally or even more critically depend on whether 2
economic superpowers -- the United States and Japan -- can foster and
consolidate a constructive cooperative relationship’. The Carter-Nakasone
report was aimed at improving ties between their 2 nations... The report
said 'the US and Japan must take some initiatives that will give them
short-term pains'. This referred to proposals in the report for Japan to
open its market to foreign rice and to play a bigger world role. It also
referred to proposals that the US reduce its budget and trade deficits by
increasing savings, raising new taxes and cutting spending for both
military and social needs."

United States

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Weak retail sales

CHICAGO - "Many of the US’s big retailers reported weak sales for
August, raising fears that consumer spending won’t strengthen much as the
critical Christmas season approaches. Analysts said sales at stores open at least a year rose an average of only 1% or 2%, which reflected a disappointing back-to-school-season... Most analysts blamed continuing consumer caution in the face of weak employment trends, high installment debt and the sluggish housing market."

France

LE FIGARO: Sidérurgie: Usinor-Sacilor dans la tourmente

"Alors que le ministre du Travail, Martine Aubry, vient de lancer une mise en garde contre les licenciements massifs décidés à tour de rôle par les grands groupes industriels, le dossier social de la sidérurgie pourrait être bientôt rouvert. Selon l’hebdomadaire L’USINE NOUVELLE, Usinor-Sacilor envisagerait de supprimer 4 000 à 5 000 emplois en France l’an prochain."