
SG/PRB/D(91)153

BELGRADE - L’offensive lancée samedi par l’armée fédérale yougoslave s’est poursuivie sur tous les fronts en Croatie, faisant au moins 23 morts au cours des dernières 24 heures. L’aviation yougoslave a procédé à plusieurs attaques contre des villes, des aéroports, et survolé pour la première fois Zagreb, la capitale de la Croatie.

BRUXELLES - La Belgique a proposé que la communauté internationale cesse de reconnaître la Yougoslavie si l’armée fédérale ne se retire pas de Croatie, lors de la 46ème Assemblée générale des Nations unies qui s’ouvrira mardi.

KABOUL - Le président afghan Najibullah a proposé un cessez-le-feu unilatéral en Afghanistan à la suite de la décision des Etats-Unis et de l’URSS de cesser leurs livraisons d’armes aux parties en conflit à compter du 1er janvier prochain.

STOCKHOLM - Le gouvernement social-démocrate suédois, au pouvoir depuis 1982, va démissionner après le revers qu’il a subi aux élections générales, qui ont vu le renforcement des partis de centre-droit, a annoncé le Premier ministre sortant, Ingvar Carlsson.

MANILLE - La présidente des Philippines Corazon Aquino a annoncé son intention de recourir à un référendum pour contrer un rejet par le Sénat philippin de l’accord prévoyant le maintien des bases militaires américaines dans ce pays.

OECD IN THE NEWS

REUTER: G7, WP3 to discuss Soviet aid

FRANKFURT - "Senior Western financial officials meet in Dresden on Sunday to discuss ways of supporting Soviet reform as speculation grows that rich nations may be arranging an emergency credit... On Monday, Bundesbank deputy chairman Hans Tietmeyer chairs a meeting of the so-called Working Party 3, a group of experts from the OECD, which will review developments in the world economy... Bankers in Frankfurt, whose organisations are most heavily exposed to total Soviet debts of more than $60bn, say they are not worried about Moscow’s general economic health. ‘The Soviet Union is one of the richest countries in the world’, said one banker, who noted that Moscow had not missed one pfennig in debt payments so far. But the Soviet Union has to find $12bn in debt repayments this year alone and could have to find several billion dollars in the near future. Hilmar Kopper, the chief executive of German’s largest bank and financial services group Deutsche Bank, has suggested Western nations provide a bridging loan of up to $5bn which could be funnelled through the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements (BIS)."

REUTER: OECD forecasts eastern unemployment

PARIS - "Unemployment in Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, could reach 22 million in 1992, Heribert Maier, deputy director general of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), said on Friday. He made the prediction in a speech at a conference on labour markets in Eastern Europe organised by ILO and the 24-nation OECD... The OECD said unemployment in the whole region was likely to rise to well over 10% in 1992, at a time when systems of social protection were still ill-adapted. Both the OECD and ILO urged the governments of Eastern Europe to bring in measures to protect workers from the harsh impact of the move to a market economy... Unemployment rates in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania totalled 2.41 million in June. Unemployment rates in East Europe vary from 1% in Romania to 9.8% in Poland, which is the most..."
advanced in its move to a market economy."

THE INDEPENDENT: OECD warns Swiss on inflation

GENEVA - "What has happened to Switzerland? Once a country of full employment, negligible inflation, a rock-solid currency and more or less steady economic growth, Switzerland is in recession, inflation rampant, unemployment climbing and the currency has been through turbulent times...

As the OECD pointed out in its annual review of the Swiss economy last week, squeezing inflation out of the system is likely to be protracted and costly in terms of lost output and employment. To its mortification, Switzerland has become a 'high-inflation' country in the OECD rankings. Consumer prices were 6% higher in August than a year earlier, down from a peak of 6.6% in July, which puts Switzerland above Britain and well above Germany, its main trading partner."

YOUGOSLAVIE

LIBERATION: Changement de frontières?

PARIS - "L'armée yougoslave n’essaie même plus de sauver les apparences: dans l’ensemble du territoire croate et même dans la capitale, elle s’est jetée dans la bataille avec tout son poids: les 130 000 hommes et le millier de chars stationnés sur le territoire de cette République renforcés par des contingents venus de Macédoine. Un nouveau pas dans l’escaissage qui transforme la crise yougoslave avec toujours plus d’évidence en une ‘guerre civile’, ou plus exactement dans un anachronique remake des guerres balkaniques du début du siècle, naissant des débris de l’Empire ottoman défunt pour retailer des territoires, se procurer des accès à la mer ou créer des ensembles homogènes de population... Les diplomatises allemande et italienne ne s’y sont pas trompées qui ont lancé en commun un sérieux avertissement à la Serbie: ‘Jamais l’Europe n’acceptera un changement de frontière imposé par la force.’"

THE GUARDIAN: Britain acts to deter intervention

ZURICH - "Britain is urging its partners in the Western European Union (WEU) to consider contingency plans for the deployment of peace-keeping forces in Yugoslavia to separate the warring factions. Britain itself is strongly opposed to military intervention, and the move is primarily designed to discourage the more gung-ho countries of western Europe - France and Italy in particular - who are advocating the dispatch of forces. The British tactic is to deter the allies by highlighting the difficulties and warning that intervention might lead to a Northern Ireland situation, with the peacekeepers drawn into long-term anti-insurgency operations."

WORLD ECONOMY AND TRADE

HERALD TRIBUNE: UNCTAD sees more growth in 92

GENEVA - "The world economy will grow a weak 0.7% this year but will post better results in 1992 with the Gulf war behind it, the United Nations said in a report for release on Monday. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said in its annual report, that world economic output would rise to 2.3% next year, and trade growth would double, to a 6% rate. ‘The end of the Gulf war has inspired new business confidence’, the study said. ‘The prospects that the United States will escape from the grip of recession are seemingly good, and so are the chances that economic growth will pick up - even if only modestly - in most developed countries’. But the report was critical of the industrialized nations on trade. The main industrialized nations been overtaken as the leading models of free trade by developing countries as disparate as Poland, Mexico and Chile, the study said."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Uruguay Round deadline will not be met

PARIS - "Chief negotiators from the leading industrialised countries say they are now more confident of a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round of trade liberalising talks. But the weekend review by the so-called Quadrilateral Group, made up of the US, the EC, Japan and Canada, produced no breakthrough in the negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). And the US delegation made clear that it does not now expect the Uruguay Round to be completed by the year-end deadline set by the Group of Seven industrialised countries in July."

UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON - "The US Federal Reserve Friday sought to bolster a flagging economic recovery by cutting the discount rate by half a point to 5%, the lowest level since 1973. The move, which had been expected in financial markets, was accompanied by a quarter point cut to 5 1/4% in the federal funds rate - the rate at which banks borrow from each other and the benchmark for other short-term interest rates. Big commercial banks, led by Morgan Guaranty, the New York bank, cut prime lending rates by half a point to 8%, the lowest since 1987."

END-OF-TEXT