
REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia - The Yugoslav army and Croatia have agreed on a new ceasefire to end 3 months of fighting and the rebel republic has put the seal on its independence. In AMSTERDAM, the European Community has delayed imposing sanctions against Yugoslavia, hoping EC monitors may still be able to halt a series of shattered ceasefires.

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Haiti’s parliament, watched by leaders of a military coup, formally installed the senior judge of the Supreme Court as the country’s provisional president.

UNITED NATIONS - Iraq has been working on producing a hydrogen or thermonuclear weapon more destructive than an atomic bomb, officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency said.

JOHANNESBURG - President F.W. de Klerk and the African National Congress, intensifying the struggle for the new South Africa, are accusing each other with growing anger of being unfit to govern.

FINANCIAL TIMES: Japan to give $2.5bn in aid

TOKYO - "Japan yesterday announced a $2.5bn package of financial assistance for the Soviet Union in the biggest departure so far from a long-standing ban on aid for Moscow. The sum involves $500m in government loans for food and medical supplies, $200m in other government loans and $1.8bn worth of export credit insurance. There will also be tax breaks for private companies making donations in cash or in kind to the Soviet Union. The package, one of the largest ever granted by Japan to any country, is designed to show Moscow Tokyo’s flexibility in its pursuit of a normalisation of relations between the 2 countries, including the settlement of Japan’s claim to 4 islands seized by Soviet soldiers in 1945."

Herald Tribune: Riyadh will send Moscow $1bn

WASHINGTON - "Saudi Arabia has agreed to send $1bn in emergency humanitarian aid to the Soviet Union this fall and is working with Egypt to send Islamic ‘preachers’ into Soviet Muslim republics to head off Islamic fundamentalism and ‘revolutionary themes’ coming out of Iran. The emergency aid package brings to $2.5bn the amount of Saudi loans and direct aid pledged to Moscow over the last year... In confirming the Saudi aid package, the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Washington, Prince Bandar ibn Sultan, said in an interview that King Fahd believed strongly that industrialized countries should try to meet Moscow’s immediate humanitarian needs."

THE INDEPENDENT: IMF reveals 6-point plan

BANGKOK - "The IMF disclosed last night that the Soviet Union will be entitled to attend meetings of its decision-making executive board under the terms of the ‘special association’ agreement hammered out in Moscow last weekend. The 6-point special association accord signed by the IMF managing director, Michel Camdessus, and the Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev, requires the Kremlin to fulfil the following conditions: - The fund will conduct regular inspections and provide policy recommendations for the economy of the USSR as it does with other full members... Technical assistance: The fund will assist the Soviet Union in the implementation of agreed economic and financial policies including exchange rate and balance of payments reforms, fiscal policy, monetary policy banking and statistics. - Training courses: Soviet officials will be invited to attend training courses being offered by the fund. - Fund documents: The IMF will make available to Moscow all documents relating to
the Soviet Union. - Attendance at fund meetings. - Union republics: The fund has undertaken to give 'favourable consideration' to requests from individual republics which will give them precisely the same privileges as the Soviet Union itself."

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

HERALD TRIBUNE: ASEAN moves toward single market

KUALA LUMPUR - "South-east Asian countries, in a landmark accord Tuesday, agreed to slash barriers to trade in manufactured products in the region during the next 15 years. At the end of a 2-day meeting, economic ministers from the 6 ASEAN countries said they had agreed to work toward creating a free-trade area within 15 years to counter the increasingly powerful trading blocs of Europe and North America... The proposed trade area would create a market of more than 320 million consumers."

FINANCIAL TIMES: GATT revives working group on environment

GENEVA - "The GATT is reviving a working group on trade and the environment that has never met since it was established 20 years ago under the chairmanship of a Japanese prince. The decision taken yesterday by the GATT council caps several months of debate over differences among GATT members about how to deal with possible conflicts between trade laws and international efforts to curb pollution and clean up the global environment. The 6 countries of the European Free Trade Association in particular have insisted that GATT pay greater attention to environmental matters."

OECD ECONOMIES

United States

HERALD TRIBUNE: Way clear for 'Baby Bells'

WASHINGTON - "Handing the 7 Bell regional phone companies a major victory, a US appeals court has given them permission to begin immediately providing information services like stock quotes, sports scores and news reports. The ruling overturns part of a lower court decision on July 25 in which Federal District Judge Harold H. Greene lifted a long-standing ban that prohibited the Bell companies from owning information services but also delayed lifting the ban until opponents appealed... Among the services that telephone executives have suggested are 'electronic Yellow Pages', which would allow people to look up store listings and even order goods on home computers; medical-information services that would relay patient information and X-ray images over phone lines."

LA TRIBUNE: France Télécom, US West lancent le Minitel aux Etats-Unis

GENEVE - "Depuis des mois, France Télécom espérait que l’expérience pilote de Minitel lancée en 1987 par US West à Omaha, dans le Nebraska, débouchait sur une coopération en bonne et due forme. C’est désormais chose faite: l’opérateur public français et l’exploitant du Middle West américain ont créé, hier, une filiale commune, Community Link Minitel Associates, détenue à 60% par US West et à 40% par France Télécom. Objectif: développer un réseau vidéotex d’US West, l’une des 7 compagnies de téléphone régionales américaines, qui couvre 14 Etats de l’Ouest américain et gère un réseau téléphonique de 12,5 millions de lignes."

Japan

HERALD TRIBUNE: Tokyo hits Nomura with a new penalty

TOKYO - "In the most severe punishment ever meted out to a securities company in Japan, the Finance Ministry on Tuesday ordered Nomura Securities Co. to suspend more than half of its domestic branches for a month and suspend several other key departments for having manipulated its customers into a frenzy of buying that inflated the price of a stock... Nomura’s scheme apparently produced millions of dollars in profits for one of Japan’s top gangsters, Susumu Ishii, while leaving its customers with large losses when the price of the stock it pushed, Tokyu Corp., later plunged... A total of 79 of Nomura’s 153 domestic branch offices will be closed for a month, while an additional 8 branches more heavily involved in pushing Tokyu stock will be suspended for 6 weeks, the Finance Ministry said."

Germany
FRANKFURT - "The latest jobs data from Germany’s Federal Labor Office show declining unemployment from the Black Forest to the North Sea, but officials admit that the figures are skewed by seasonal and statistical factors. In eastern Germany, official unemployment fell an unadjusted 34,500 in September to 1,028,751 – or a rate of 11.7%, compared with 12.1% in August. In western Germany, unemployment dropped 62,700 to 1,609,500 – a 6% rate, compared with August’s 6.2% rate. But other data released by the Nuremberg-based office show the statistics on eastern German joblessness exaggerate the apparent improvement."

Danemark

AFP: Le Groenland abandonne le socialisme pour l’économie de marché

NUUK - "Le parlement du Groenland a décidé d’abandonner la politique socialiste pratiquée depuis des décennies pour l’économie de marché. Les 5 partis locaux, réunis lundi à la rentrée parlementaire, ont estimé, selon le chef du gouvernement local, Lars Emil Johansen (social-démocrate), ‘nécessaire de rompre le monopole des transports et de la distribution des marchandises de l’étranger au Groenland, de faciliter la concurrence entre entreprises d’État et privées’. Ils ont par ailleurs décidé de réduire le prix de l’électricité, de l’eau et du chauffage pour les usines de traitement du poisson, principale source d’exportation de l’île, afin d’améliorer leur compétitivité sur le marché mondial."

END-OF-TEXT