AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

JERUSALEM - Les États-Unis ont proposé à Israël et aux Palestiniens d’élaborer un "modèle d’autonomie" pour les territoires occupés lors des négociations bilatérales qui doivent se dérouler à partir du 4 décembre à Washington, a révélé à l’AFP un haut fonctionnaire israélien en dévoilant, sous anonymat, les propositions contenues dans la lettre d’invitation envoyée par le secrétaire d’État James Baker au ministère israélien des Affaires étrangères.

PARIS - Lord Carrington, président de la Conférence pour la paix en Yougoslavie, a demandé à la Commission d’arbitrage de cette conférence de donner son avis sur l’existence juridique de la République socialiste fédérative de Yougoslavie (RSFY) dans la situation actuelle.

MOSCOU - Le parlement azerbaïdjanais a décidé d’abolir le statut d’autonomie du Nagorny Karabakh, région autonome à majorité arménienne en Azerbaïdjan, et de changer le nom du chef-lieu Stepanakert en Khankendi.

STRASBOURG - La Pologne est devenue officiellement, mardi à Strasbourg, le 26ème État membre à part entière du conseil de l’Europe, la plus ancienne organisation politique d’Europe.

WORLD CURRENCIES

F.T.: D-Mark pressure keeps sterling and $ weak

LONDON/PARIS/STOKHOLM - "Sterling remained under pressure yesterday as the D-Mark gained in strength and the dollar weakened, causing further tension in the European Monetary System. In spite of modest intervention by the Bank of England to support the pound, sterling fell by three-quarters of a pfennig to close at DM2.8400, within 2 pfennigs of its effective floor in the EMS’s exchange rate mechanism (ERM). The D-Mark’s strength caused pressure on several other of the weaker currencies in the system, notably the Danish krona and the French franc, and forced actions to defend their currencies by the monetary authorities in Portugal and Sweden... Publication of the US data wiped out the effect earlier in the day of comments by Mr Jürgen Möllemann, Germany’s economics minister, and Mr Pierre Bérégovoy, the French finance minister."

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

THE TIMES: Brussels orders airline fare cuts

"The European Commission will today order British Airways and several other leading European airlines to cut fares on up to 90 routes because of what Brussels sees as excessive fare increases... Under new EC legislation both governments at either end of a route have to approve new fares. The rule, known as double disapproval, had been seen by legislators as a way of forcing down fares by enabling an airline to undercut rivals. The effect, however, proved to be the reverse and increases also went ahead."

F.T.: Commission to clear bank’s stake in steelmaker?

BRUSSELS/LONDON - "The EC is today almost certain to approve the controversial FFr2.5bn ($460m) purchase by Crédit Lyonnais of a 10% stake in Usinor Sacilor, the French state-owned steelmaker. Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, will ask his fellow commissioners to clear the state-controlled bank’s investment on the grounds that it is not a form of disguised state aid. The sanctioning of the deal will upset private-sector steel makers led by British Steel and the main German ones, such as Thyssen."
BRUSSELS - "EC annual consumer price inflation slowed to 4.4% in October, its lowest average in 34 months, the EC said. The EC statistics office Eurostat said the declining year-to-year rate - which was down from 4.6% in September - was largely due to the ironing out of a surge in oil prices at the start of the Persian Gulf crisis... Eurostat said prices rose on average 0.5% last month, with a hefty spurt in Greece to 2.2%, along with marked increases in Italy, Portugal and Spain. Elsewhere increases were moderate."

AFP: La CEE admise comme membre de la FAO

ROME - "La CEE a été admise mardi comme membre de la FAO (Organisation des Nations unies pour l'Allimentation et l'Agriculture), une première dans le système des agences spécialisées de l'ONU, a-t-on appris à Rome auprès de l'organisation. Lors de l'assemblée plénière de la conférence biannuelle de la FAO, les délégués ont voté à bulletins secrets l'admission de la CEE par 98 voix pour, 6 voix contre, et 3 abstentions. Selon une source proche des délégués, les votes hostiles sont venus de quelques pays latinoaméricains et asiatiques. La Communauté est la 1ère organisation d’intégration économique régionale à adhérer à une agence spécialisée de l’ONU. 'Cette élection crée un précédent pour l’ensemble des Nations unies', a déclaré, aussitôt après le vote, le président de la FAO, M. Edouard Saouma."

OPEC

THE INDEPENDENT: All hands to the pumps

VIENNA - "OPEC president Celestino Armas warned yesterday the oil producers’ group might be unable to meet global demand for crude unless rich Western countries helped members boost their power to pump. He told OPEC’s ministerial conference that uncertainty about Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude exports, economic recession in some industrialised countries and falling Soviet output had complicated the organisation’s attempts to gauge the future."

HERALD TRIBUNE: Saudis lifting output

VIENNA - "Saudi Arabia gave the first formal indication Tuesday that it might surpass the Soviet Union as the world’s largest oil producer within the next 2 years. While stressing that it would act cautiously and slowly, Saudi officials confirmed to other members of the OPEC beginning a meeting here that Saudi Arabia would boost the country’s total oil-production capacity significantly above current levels of 8.5 million barrels a day. OPEC ministers tentatively agreed late Tuesday to leave the cartel’s production ceiling of 23.65 million barrels of oil a day unchanged for the first 3 months of next year, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS reported from Vienna. Speaking at a closed meeting of OPEC oil ministers, Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil minister, said that his country’s oil-production goal would be gradually raised to 10 million barrels a day."

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

WALL STREET J.: Lending to Polish, Soviet projects

LONDON - "The EBRD will lend $60 million to a Polish cellular telephone project and $19 million to improve telephones and oil production in the Soviet republics. The loans, approved at a board of directors meeting Tuesday, come as bank staff members say the institution is moving past its organizational growing pains and is ready to put more of its capital behind specific projects in the former East bloc. The Soviet loans are the first the bank has approved to the troubled superpower. The EBRD is inviting commercial banks to participate in all the loans."

US - CHINA

REUTER: US weighs China trade sanctions

WASHINGTON - "US Trade Representative Carla Hills said on Tuesday that talks with China to protect American intellectual properties had failed and punitive tariffs may be levied on Chinese imports. Hills said she would begin to compile a list of Chinese goods for possible tariffs, which could range up to 100% of the goods value. Her announcement came shortly before the US House of Representatives voted 409-21 for a bill setting conditions, including progress on trade issues, on extension next year of
OECD ECONOMIES

United States

HERALD TRIBUNE: Bush: Americans losing confidence

WASHINGTON - "Americans are reassessing the Bush presidency and setting the stage for a competitive election next year because of a striking loss of confidence in President George Bush's economic leadership, according to the latest nationwide NEW YORK TIMES/CBS NEWS POLL. Only 1 American in 4 now approves of Mr Bush's handling of the economy, a level of discontent unmatched since the days of double-digit inflation under President Jimmy Carter."

HERALD TRIBUNE: Confidence in US economy plunges

NEW YORK - "The confidence of American consumers in the nation's economic prospects plunged again this month to levels even below those registered in the last recession, the Conference Board reported Tuesday, forcing the White House to sit up and take notice. The index of the monthly study conducted by the Conference Board, a business study group, dropped almost 10 points in November to 50.6, 3 points under the low set during the 1982 slump and below the recent bottom of 55.1 set during the Gulf war."

WALL STREET J.: IBM will cut payroll at least 20,000

NEW YORK - "International Business Machines Corp. announced that it will cut at least 20,000 jobs next year and will take a $3bn charge in the fourth quarter to cover a 'fundamental redefinition' of its business. IBM's stock price surged $2.75, or 2.9%, on the news... The 'redefinition' that IBM announced on Tuesday will, as expected, make IBM's lines of business more independent and give the corporate headquarters a more limited role, as a sort of holding company. IBM indicated that only a few of the business units would be restructured soon, with the rest being put in place as 1992 progresses. The company added that their independence would grow gradually over time."

Japan

FINANCIAL TIMES: Industrial output down 2%

TOKYO - "Japanese industrial production took an unexpected sharp decline in October, falling by 2% compared to a year ago in the first year-on-year decline in industrial output in 4 years. The figures released yesterday by the (MITI) have added further evidence that the economy is cooling far more rapidly than had been suggested by earlier government forecasts."