NEW YORK (Nations Unies) - Le Conseil de sécurité de l’ONU s’est réuni jeudi pour un débat à huis clos sur la guerre du Golfe qui aurait déjà fait plus de 10.000 victimes, selon le représentant de l’Irak aux nations Unies. Une trentaine d’orateurs, dont les représentants de l’Irak et du Koweït, participeront à ce débat qui devrait durer plusieurs jours. Un compte-rendu exhaustif et officiel ne sera publié qu’à l’issue des discussions par les services de l’ONU.

MOSCOU - Le ministre koweïtien des Affaires étrangères a obtenu jeudi à Moscou l’assurance que l’URSS continuera à exiger le retrait des troupes irakiennes de son pays. La direction soviétique a trouvé "une certaine flexibilité chez les dirigeants irakiens" au cours de la mission de M. Evgeni Primakov à Bagdad.

MOSCOW - Moscou a décidé de rappeler son ambassadeur à Reykjavik pour protester contre l’annonce par l’Islande de son intention d’établir des relations diplomatiques avec la Lituanie.

LIMA - Le Premier ministre péruvien Juan Carlos Hurtado Miller a présenté jeudi sa démission au président Alberto Fujimori qui l’a acceptée.

MONNAIES

LA TRIBUNE: Buba: la chute du dollar corrige les déséquilibres (64)

"Dans une interview à LA TRIBUNE, le numéro deux de la Buba s’est déclaré satisfait de la baisse du dollar, qui contribue au rééquilibrage des flux commerciaux et financiers mondiaux. L’unification, elle, permet de réduire les écarts de taux en Europe... Le mark fort contribue à la contraction des excédents commerciaux allemands, ce qui apaise dans un second temps les tensions provoquées par l’unification sur le marché allemand des capitaux. Le 'siphonnage' financier de l’ex-RDA permet en outre, selon lui, de réduire l’écart de taux d’intérêt entre le deutsche mark et les autres devises."

OECD R. CORNELL IN TOKYO ABOUT REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ASASHI EVENING NEWS: Won’t develop into closed blocs

"A visiting official of the OECD said Tuesday economic integration in Europe and North America would not develop into closed economic blocs as feared by many. Robert A. Cornell, deputy OECD secretary-general, said such regional integration would not be harmful to world economy. ‘That is not a development to be feared; that is a development to be welcomed’, he said, ‘because in the end it means not only greater expansion within the region but also greater expansion of world economy itself’... Cornell said the emergence of a fortress Europe is doubtful because Germany, the EC’s most powerful member, is not protectionist, while members with protectionist tendencies are losing relative weight in the group... In a lecture in Tokyo, Cornell stressed the need for careful coordination of policies as countries become more interdependent and policy areas become more interlinked."

COMMERCE - L’AUTRE GUERRE

LES ECHOS: Les USA attaquent Airbus devant le GATT

"Repoussant toutes les concessions faites récemment par les Européens sur les aides publiques remboursables, les Etats-Unis ont choisi d’attaquer Airbus sur le terrain des subventions allemandes et se sont finalement décidés à porter l’affaire devant le GATT."
HERALD TRIBUNE: Airbus: US appeal to GATT

WASHINGTON - "The US trade representative, Carla A. Hills, asked Thursday for an international panel to judge the acceptability of German government subsidies that help the European Airbus consortium compete against planes made in the US. The request focuses on subsidies estimated at $237 million last year. They were granted to compensate a German company for the drop in the value of the US dollar against the Deutsche mark. The EC expressed its 'deep regret' Thursday at the US move, REUTER reported from Brussels. The decision would only increase trade tension, the EC Commission said."

FINANCIAL TIMES: EC stance on farm: setback for GATT

GENEVA - "Prospects of salvaging international talks liberalising trade have been set back by the EC's refusal to give commitments on world farm trade reform for which the US has been pressing in the past 10 days. Adding to the problem, there have been strains in the relationship between Mr Frans Andriessen, EC trade commissioner, and Mrs Carla Hills, US trade representative... The European Commission informed the US trade representative's office on Wednesday that it was not prepared to accept wording committing it in advance to negotiating separate and specific assurances to reduce farm support in each of 3 sectors - internal assistance, border protection and export subsidies."

USSR

THE EUROPEAN: Soviets get cut-price butter

BRUSSELS - "Europe is poised to deliver 200,000 tonnes of butter to Moscow in a deal which could cost EC taxpayers 20 million - equivalent to $1.5 for every man, woman and child in the Community. The deal is part of a package of measures being put together in Brussels for the Soviet Union. Next week the European Parliament is expected to approve the delayed $975 million food aid package sanctioned by EC government leaders in December."

WAGES AND ECONOMY

THE ECONOMIST: A better bargain on wages

"The pay of American workers shrank in real terms in the 1980s, by 8%, while real wages rose by 13% in Japan and Germany and by 30% in Britain. On their own, these figures have no economy-wide significance. What matters is how wages move relative to productivity... A recent study - 'The 'puzzle' of wage moderation in the 1980s - OECD working paper no.87' - examines wage movements relative to productivity... The real-wages ratio fell during the 1980s in virtually all OECD countries, even taking account of stronger pay pressure towards the end of the decade; indeed in Japan and several continental European economies the ratio began falling in the mid-1970s... While the OECD's general conclusion is that wages were no more responsive to unemployment in the 1980s than in the 1970s, there are 2 countries where the OECD’s wage equations consistently overpredicted pay rises during the past decade: France and Australia."

OECD ECONOMIES

United Kingdom

THE GUARDIAN: Jobless rise: hope of interest cuts

"Hopes of further cuts in interest rates at Westminster and in the City were boosted yesterday after the severity of Britain's recession was highlighted by plunging factory output, a collapse in investment, and the biggest rise in the official jobless total for 5 years. Figures from the department of Employment showed that the number of people out of work increased by 109,366 to 1,959,747 in January, continuing the trend of the past 10 months. Ministers are resigned to the fact that unemployment will hit the psychologically important 2 million level next month and continue rising for months before the recession bottoms out."

Germany

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Budget plan sees lower deficits

BONN - "Finance minister Theo Waigel said Germany's federal budget deficit will rise sharply this year, but should drop just as quickly in
1992. In a budget proposal, which will be formally presented to the Bonn cabinet Wednesday, Mr Waigel said the federal budget deficit will widen to 69.58bn marks ($47.5bn) this year from 48.8bn marks ($33.32bn) in 1990.

LES ECHOS: Excédent commercial: forte baisse en 1990

"L’unification avec l’ancienne RDA a fortement ébranlé les finances de l’Allemagne de l’Ouest... Le ministre des Finances Theo Waigel envisage de relever la TVA d’un point à 15% contre 14% actuellement... De nouvelles recettes qui s’annoncent d’autant plus indispensables que l’unification a mis à mal la balance commerciale de l’Allemagne. Après avoir atteint un niveau historique de 134,5 mrds de deutsche Mark en 1989 pour la seule Allemagne de l’Ouest, l’excédent s’est réduit à 92,1 mrds."

Finland

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Economy running out of steam

STOCKHOLM - "The Finnish economy, which enjoyed brisk growth in the mid-to late 1980s, is heading toward a contraction, soaring unemployment and flat exports, according to the government’s yearly economic outlook. After a 5.2% advance in gross domestic product in 1989, growth slowed on a preliminary reading to 0.5% in 1990, a year in which the Finnish economy experienced a cyclical downturn that was quick and steep, the Finance ministry said."