LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Matinée
grise et pluvieuse. Températures très
clémentes: 7° et 13°.

SG/PRB/D(91)44

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

TEHERAN - Les villes saintes de Nadjaf et de Kerbala, au sud de l’Irak,
sont tombées sous l’insurrection chiite contre le régime de Saddam
Hussein, a affirmé mardi à Téhéran un porte-parole de l’Assemblée suprême
de la révolution islamique d’Irak (ASRII). L’ayatollah Mohammad Bagher
Hakim, qui dirige l’ASRII à Téhéran où il est basé depuis la révolution
islamique de 1979, avait annoncé lundi la chute de 4 villes du sud
irakien, dont la principale, Bassorah, ainsi que Amara, Nassiriya et
Samawa.

BAGDAD - Les autorités irakiennes ont libéré lundi matin à Bagdad 10
prisonniers de guerre alliés, 6 Américains, 3 Britanniques et 1 Italien.

WASHINGTON - "Tous les prisonniers de guerre de la coalition seront
libérés mardi", a affirmé lundi l’ambassadeur d’Irak à l’ONU, M. Abdul
Amir al-Anbari, à la chaîne de télévision américaine CNN.

QUITO - L’épidémie de choléra qui sévit depuis début février au Pérou a
touché l’Equateur, où 20 malades ont été recensés dans la zone frontalière
avec le Pérou, a informé le ministre équatorien de la Santé, Plutarco
Naranjo.

BELFAST - Un chauffeur de taxi catholique a été abattu de 2 coups de feu
lundi soir dans un quartier loyaliste de Belfast. Ce qui porte à 5 le
nombre des catholiques tués en 2 jours par des loyalistes (protestants).

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AFTERMATH OF A GULF WAR

HERALD TRIBUNE: Amid reports of insurgency, Iraq pardons army deserters

AMMAN - "As Iranian press reports spoke of a spreading Islamic
insurgency in southern Iraq and the murder of high officials, including
Saddam Hussein’s son, Iraqi authorities on Monday sought to regroup and
marshal their war-scarred forces with a special amnesty for deserters and
soldiers absent from their units... The amnesty decree did not acknowledge
the reported strife in southern Iraq or suggest that the reason for the
regrouping was to move against insurgency."

REUTER: Iraq tells U.N. chief it will nullify annexation of Kuwait

UNITED NATIONS - "Iraq intends to nullify all legislation relating to
its annexation of Kuwait last August, as demanded by the U.N. Security
Council, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said on Monday. He said
he was informed of this during a meeting earlier with Iraqi U.N.
representative Abdul Amir Al-Anbari."

REUTER: Baker presses for coalition unity for Middle East peace

WASHINGTON - "US Secretary of State James Baker on Monday urged fellow
members of the anti-Iraq coalition to stay together to work for
Arab-Israeli peace. In meetings with Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de
Michelis and Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, Baker said the
strength of the coalition could help break the logjam in Middle East peace
efforts... Baker leaves for Saudi Arabia on Thursday for a tour that will
also take him on Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Syria and the Soviet Union in an
effort to construct a new Middle East peace process. Both Clark and de
Michelis are also on their way to the region."

AFP: Prêt à Israël, don aux Territoires occupés

BRUXELLES - "Les Douze ont décidé lundi d’accorder un prêt de 160
millions d’écus (un écu = 1,3 dollar) en faveur d’Israël et 60 millions
d'écus de dons aux territoires occupés, a annoncé le ministre luxembourgeois des Affaires étrangères, Jacques Poos... Les Douze ont également estimé qu'il était 'grand temps' qu'Israël accepte la nomination d'un représentant de la Commission européenne dans les Territoires occupés, a déclaré de son côté le chef de la diplomatie britannique Douglas Hurd."

REUTER: White House supports added aid to Israel - report

NEW YORK - "The Bush administration has reversed course and now supports up to $800 million in extra aid to Israel to help meet added expenses brought on by the Gulf War, the WASHINGTON POST said in Tuesday’s editions."

REUTER: King of Jordan wants renewed talks with Israel: report

NEW YORK - "Jordan’s King Hussein is interested in reviving peace initiatives with Israel and negotiating a solution to the Palestinian problem, a senior Israeli official was quoted as saying in the NEW YORK TIMES. The unidentified official, quoted in the newspaper’s Tuesday editions, said the king was interested in a revival of the so-called London Agreement, which he signed in 1987 with then-Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres... The London Agreement, which set guidelines for an international peace conference attended by a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, was worked out in the British capital but later blocked in the Israeli Cabinet by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir."

REUTER: Pope, opening meeting, urges global solution for Middle East

VATICAN CITY - "Pope John Paul warned on Monday that without a global solution to all Middle East problems, particularly the need for a Palestinian homeland, the region would remain a constant source of violent conflict... In his address to Catholic leaders from the Middle East, the West and Vatican officials, the Pope also rejected the notion that the Gulf conflict was a 'Holy War'. He called for regional disarmament and urged the world community to help rebuild destroyed countries and lives."

OECD REPORT

FINANCIAL TIMES: Norway ‘achieves low inflation’

STOCKHOLM - "Norway has at last achieved low inflation and a current account surplus after several years of difficult adjustment following the sharp drop in oil prices in the mid-1980s, according to the OECD. In its annual survey of the Norwegian economy, the OECD warns the Oslo government to stick to its long-term strategy of reducing the economy’s dependence on oil and expanding mainland industries. Norway’s oil dependence is currently increasing, it says... The OECD notes that the Norwegian authorities have eased their fiscal policy in face of rising unemployment, averaging 5.3% last year. As a result, the central-government budget (net of oil-related expenditure and receipts) moved from a broad balance in 1987-88 to a deficit last year, amounting to 7.5% of Norway’s mainland gross domestic product."

EAST - WEST

REUTER: EC ministers clear way for Soviet aid but want Baltic talks

BRUSSELS - "European Community foreign ministers cleared the way on Monday for 500 million Ecs (€650 million) in food credits for the Soviet Union but demanded serious talks between Moscow and the Baltic republics seeking independence. Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, who chaired the meeting, said the 12 EC states were glad to see that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia had been able to vote overwhelmingly in favour of independence, without pressure from Moscow. Poos said the results of the polls must not be ignored. '(The EC states) want serious and constructive dialogue to begin between the central Soviet government and the elected authorities of the Baltics’. The ministers also approved 100 million Ecs (€130 million) in food and medicine aid for Romania and Bulgaria."

AFP: Création d’un conseil germano-polonais de l’environnement

BONN - "Le ministre allemand de l’environnement Klaus Toepfer et son homologue polonais Maciej Novicki ont décidé lundi à Bonn de créer un conseil germano-polonais de l’environnement, à la veille d’une visite en Allemagne du Premier ministre polonais Krzysztof Bielecki. Dans une
conférence de presse commune à Bonn, les 2 ministres ont souligné que cette 1ère coopération entre leurs pays ouvrait "une nouvelle ère" après la détente est-ouest... L'Allemagne doit notamment participer à la construction d'une centrale thermique "propre" en Silésie et d'une station d'épuration sur la côte baltique, ajoute-t-on de même source. Par ailleurs, la commission doit se réunir en mars pour examiner le problème des exportations de déchets d'Allemagne en Pologne. Selon M. Toepfer, plus de 7000 tonnes de poussière de zinc en provenance de république fédérale entreposées à Stettin vont être récupérés par l'Allemagne."

GERMANY

HERALD TRIBUNE: Soviet Union ratifies treaty on German unity

BONN - "The Soviet parliament ratified the treaty approving German unification Monday, closing a historical chapter that began 16 months ago with the opening of the Berlin Wall. Although East Germany ceased to exist in October, Moscow’s step was more than a formality because of the problematic presence of 350,000 or so Soviet troops in eastern Germany. The treaty, which was previously approved by the other victorious World War II powers and Germany, gives Germany full sovereignty for the first time since the defeat of the Nazi government and is part of a package of agreements committing Moscow to remove its troops from German soil by 1994."

REUTER: Eastern Germans still heading westwards despite unity

BONN - "At least 111,000 settlers from the former East Germany have migrated to the western part of the country since last July, the government said on Monday. The monthly rate of resettlement from east to west fell from about 25,000 last July to around 7,000 in December, according to statistics of the central registry in Berlin... The government said 14,099 foreigners immigrated to Germany during February, about 2,000 fewer than in January. Most of them came from Turkey, Yugoslavia, Romania and Iran."