
REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

BAGHDAD - Iraq renounced its annexation of Kuwait and promised to return assets seized since its August 2 invasion, meeting 2 more key conditions set by the United Nations for a permanent Gulf War ceasefire.

WASHINGTON - The cost of the Gulf War will be less than $70bn, of which the United States will pay $15bn.

MOSCOW - Soviet coal miners intensified a strike which threatens to cripple the country's industry, but Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov said their demands were unjustified. The miners are pressing for better pay and conditions and the resignation of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

THE GULF

WASHINGTON - "Amid reports of continuing civil unrest, a senior US military officer predicted Saddam Hussein will put down the shiite-led uprisings that have flared in southern Iraq. Adm. Mike McConnell, director of intelligence for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that with a mechanized brigade and an armored brigade of Iraq’s republican Guard being deployed south, Saddam Hussein’s military ‘probably will be successful in putting this down because of the lack of organization and leadership’ on the part of the insurgents. But Adm. McConnell said that, in the long run, Saddam Hussein ‘may be sowing the seeds of his own destruction’ and that it would be difficult for the vanguished Iraqi dictator to maintain control over his country. The Iraq leader formally renounced his annexation of Kuwait yesterday, bowing to a demand of US and allied armies... Iraq also handed 35 allied prisoners of war to the Red Cross and, with 10 POWs released on Monday, said it held no more allied POWs."

JERUSALEM - "Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a policy reversal, said the Jewish state is willing to negotiate steps to reduce tensions in the Mideast, even before its Arab enemies formally recognize Israel. Mr. Shamir, in an interview in his office, endorsed a new US approach to Mideast diplomacy that seeks to establish so-called confidence-building measures in the region: agreements on such topics as trade and water rights that can serve as stepping stones toward full peace treaties... Mr. Shamir reaffirmed his commitment to his May 1989 peace initiative and said other Arab countries could be helpful in finding Palestinians with whom Israel can negotiate. The Shamir initiative, while explicitly opposing the creation of a Palestinian state, called for elections in the territories and for limited self-rule."

DHAHRAN - "A total of 28 Western journalists have disappeared under chaotic conditions in southern Iraq, and US officials said Tuesday that some of them were ‘believed to be in serious danger’. The journalists, from American, British, French, and Italian organizations, drove into Iraq from Kuwait seeking news on the reported rebellion against the government of President Saddam Hussein."

MOSCOW - "Mr John Major, the British prime minister, was last night flying from Moscow to the Gulf, with assurances from President Mikhail Gorbachev of continued Soviet support for joint action by the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council to promote a lasting peace in the
Middle East... His departure for followed 4 hours of talks with Mr Gorbachev in which both sides underlined their commitment to joint peace moves, based on plans worked out by the Middle East states themselves. At the same time, Mr Major pledged continuing support for Mr Gorbachev’s reform plans in the Soviet Union, while still expressing dismay at the use of military force in the Baltic republics and his fears over the economic problems ahead. He said the Soviet leader insisted he was still set on the path of economic reform, and promised that the Baltic republics could seek outright independence from the Soviet Union - provided they did so within the framework of the Soviet constitution."

COMMERCE INTERNATIONAL

AFP: Les USA contre le projet malaisien de groupe est-asiatique

NUSA DUA (BALI, Indonésie) - "Les Etats-Unis ont rejeté mardi à Nusa Dua une proposition récente de la Malaisie visant à constituer un Groupe Economique de l’Est Asiatique (GEEA) chargé de défendre les intérêts des pays de cette région dans les forums internationaux, tel le GATT, ou dans les négociations avec l’Europe ou les Etats-Unis. Intervenant au cours d’un séminaire international sur l’avenir économique des pays du Sud-Est asiatique organisé par la fondation américaine Asia Society, l’ambassadeur des Etats-Unis au Japon, M. Michael Armacost, a affirmé que le GEEA proposé par le Premier Ministre Mahatir Mohamad en décembre dernier risquait de mettre en péril un autre organe régional associant certains pays d’Asie et du Pacifique ainsi que les Etats-Unis et le Canada."

ECONOMIC AID TO EASTERN EUROPE

REUTER: Romania to get $40 million loan from US

BUCHAREST - "The United States has agreed to resume economic aid to Romania and contribute $40 million to an international bridging loan, a senior Romanian minister said on Tuesday. Eugen Dijmarescu, Minister for Economic Guidance, was quoted by the state news agency ROMPRES as saying US officials promised to contribute to the loan arranged by the Bank for International Settlements."

AFP: 2000 mrds USD pour que l’Est ait un niveau de vie occidental

NEW YORK - "Hisser le niveau de vie des pays de l’Est à un degré comparable à celui de l’Europe occidentale ‘pourrait coûter jusqu’à 2000 mrds de dollars’, a affirmé mardi à New York M. Jacques Attali, président de la Banque Européenne pour la Reconstruction et le Développement (BERD). M. Attali, qui s’exprimait devant la Foreign Policy Association, avait peu auparavant affirmé sur la chaîne d’information américaine CNN qu’il faudrait aux pays de l’Est 15 ou 20 ans pour atteindre le niveau de vie occidental."

AUTO, TRANSPORT AERIEN

LE FIGARO: Les Japonais resserrent l’étau

"Le gouvernement japonais vient de demander aux constructeurs nippons de geler cette année leurs exportations de voitures vers l’Europe au niveau de l’an dernier, soit 1,25 million de véhicules. Un geste qui vise à atténuer les tensions commerciales entre le Vieux Continent et le Japon, engagés dans d’âpres négociations pour préparer l’ouverture du marché européen après 1993."

WALL STREET JOURNAL: VW wins approval for BAZ venture

"Volkswagen, Germany’s car manufacturer, yesterday won approval by the regional Slovak government as partner for a Slovak car-parts manufacturing factory, the state news agency CTK reported."

WALL ST. JOURNAL: UK ends ban on new airlines at Heathrow

LONDON - "The British government said it ended its ban on new airlines at Heathrow Airport, dropping one barrier to the efforts of United and American Airlines to gain access to North Atlantic routes. But British Transport Secretary Malcolm Rifkin said the US still has to negotiate a deal with Britain before the 2 airlines take over routes operated by Pan American World Airways and Trans World Airlines."

ECONOMIES OCDE
Turquie

AFP: Banque Mondiale: prêt de 100 millions de dollars à la Turquie

WASHINGTON - "La Banque Mondiale a annoncé lundi l’octroi à la Turquie d’un prêt de 100 millions de dollars, destiné à financer un projet de développement technologique. Ce projet vise notamment à permettre à la Turquie de mettre au point des normes internationales dans les secteurs scientifique et technique, a indiqué la Banque Mondiale dans un communiqué. Le prêt de la Banque Mondiale a une durée de 17 ans, dont 5 ans de grâce, et porte un taux d’intérêt variable -- actuellement 7,73% -- indexé sur les coûts de financement de la Banque."

United Kingdom

THE TIMES: Telecom to cut prices as duopoly ends

"Britain’s telephone system is to be opened up to wider competition in a move aimed at bringing cheaper phone calls for everyone and improved services. The telecommunications ‘duopoly’ that allows only British Telecom and Mercury to supply services is to be scrapped, Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said. Other firms will be able to run new telecommunications networks. The objective is to increase choice, promote enterprise and cut prices."

THE TIMES: Midland halves dividend

"Sir Kit McMahon has resigned as chairman and chief executive of Midland after the bank was forced to halve its dividend following a slump in profits. Midland is the first British clearing bank to cut its dividend for more than 50 years... Sir Kit’s resignation came as Midland announced that it suffered a 90% fall in profits before exceptional items to 63 million pounds sterling in 1990."