NEW YORK (Nations Unies) - L’ambassadeur iranien auprès de l’ONU, M. Kamal Kharrazi, a annoncé que 771.850 Irakiens avaient trouvé refuge en Iran jusqu’à lundi, et a estimé que leur nombre sera supérieur au million à la fin de la semaine.


FRANCFORT-SUR-L’ODER (Allemagne) - Des incidents ont à nouveau éclaté à la frontière germano-polonaise à Francfort sur l’Oder entre la police et de jeunes néo-nazis, qui voulaient empêcher les touristes polonais d’entrer sans visa en Allemagne comme ils en ont le droit depuis dimanche minuit.

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AFTERMATH OF THE GULF WAR

LUXEMBOURG - "European Community leaders on Monday endorsed a British proposal to seek a United Nations enclave in northern Iraq as a sanctuary for fleeing Kurds and also pledged a $185 million relief plan for Iraqi refugees. The EC leaders, holding a special meeting here, also said Iraq could not rejoin the international community while President Saddam Hussein remained in power... Germany and Denmark suggested the possibility of using troops under the aegis of a UN peacekeeping force, while Britain proposed relying on civilian observers to shelter the Kurds, a group of about 20 million non-Arabs living in parts of Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Syria and the Soviet Union... British officials also argued that UN sanctions against Iraq should be maintained until Mr. Hussein is removed from power or agrees to end all hostile action against the rebels. ‘Saddam Hussein’s record is so abhorrent that I can envisage no relaxation of sanctions as long as he remains in power’, Mr. Major said."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Kuwait gives more people the vote

KUWAIT CITY - "Kuwait expects to double the size of its electorate in time for elections in 1992 by extending the franchise to women and to naturalised citizens previously denied the vote. Dr Abdul Rahman al Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, giving the clearest indication yet of the government’s view of the country’s medium-term domestic political outlook... said elections would be held in September next year at the earliest... However, Dr al Awadi said the formation of political parties, at present banned in Kuwait, would not be permitted before the elections."

HERALD TRIBUNE: Israel frees 1,000 Arab prisoners

JERUSALEM - "Israel on Monday announced the release of more than 1,000 Arab prisoners and tax changes to stimulate economic development in the Gaza Strip, apparently in a goodwill gesture as Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d arrived to pursue a new Arab-Israeli peace process. At the same time, the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir signaled that it would continue to advance a tough line on such key issues as negotiations with Palestinians in the occupied territories and Israeli adherence to United Nations resolutions calling for withdrawal from the occupied territories."

HERALD TRIBUNE: ‘Staggering amount’ of oil still pouring into Gulf

QURMAH ISLAND, Saudi Arabia - "Some 126,000 gallons of oil are still pouring into the Gulf each day from several sources in Kuwait, part of the
lingering aftermath of the ecological warfare Iraq waged during the war. The spill along a 400 kilometer strip of the northern Saudi coast is estimated to be at least 1.5 million barrels. According to Saudi officials and foreign advisers, it might end up being 4 million barrels to 7 million barrels, the world’s largest. By comparison, the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska totaled about 260,000 barrels."

**EASTERN EUROPE**

**REUTERS:** Hungary asks Poland, Czechoslovakia to start trade zone talks

**BUDAPEST -** "Hungary has proposed formal talks with Czechoslovakia and Poland designed to create a free trade zone in central Europe as early as next year, a senior Hungarian trade official told REUTERS on Monday. Expert-level negotiations could conclude by late summer, setting the scene for such a trade-boosting zone by the beginning of 1992, Istvan Major, deputy secretary of state at the ministry of international economic relations, said. Major portrayed the negotiations as the first firm step toward trilateral cooperation as envisaged by the 3 nations’ leaders at a summit in Visegrad, Hungary, in February."

**FINANCIAL TIMES:** Hungary aims to speed the pace of reform

**LONDON -** "The Hungarian government will set up legal instruments over the next few weeks to speed up privatisation, define property rights, and prepare the currency for full convertibility by 1993, according to Mr Mihaly Kupa, the finance minister. Mr Kupa, who was appointed last December, made clear in an interview at the weekend that he is keen to press ahead with the reform package at a much faster pace. He wants to attract greater foreign investment into the country, encourage a broader-based market system, and integrate Hungary quickly into the European economy. Following the reorganisation of the government last December, it appears that Mr Kupa’s plans for implementing a strict monetary policy, aimed at curbing inflation which is running at 35%, and reducing the state’s role in the privatisation process, now prevail."

**FINANCIAL TIMES:** Prospect of more unrest and strikes

**MOSCOW -** "The political strike weapon took on greater edge yesterday in the Soviet Union, as Georgia’s president warned of a general strike in his republic from today and more miners backed political demands. Mr Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the Georgian president, said in a message to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet president, that the republic would join ‘the demands of workers on strike in the USSR’... The Georgians’ main demand is for the removal of Soviet interior ministry troops from South Ossetia, where violence between Georgians and Ossetians is reported to be increasing."

**REUTERS:** Romania open to direct foreign investment under liberal new law

**BUCHAREST -** "Romania has opened the gates to direct foreign investment with a liberal new law allowing full foreign ownership, capital protection, repatriation of profits and tax breaks to boost the transition to a market economy. The most significant restriction is that only a maximum 15% of profits made in the Romanian currency, the leu, may be transferred abroad in hard currency. Foreign investors will also not be allowed to own land or buy residential buildings unrelated to the business investment... Foreign investors will now be free to set up new companies in Romania -- wholly owned or with part-Romanian ownership -- or buy stocks and shares in existing Romanian enterprises."

**ECONOMIES OCDE**

**Japon**

**LIBERATION:** Les conservateurs japonais en crise

**TOKYO -** "Le secrétaire général du parti libéral-démocrate (PLD, conservateur), le parti au pouvoir au Japon, a annoncé lundi après-midi sa démission. Ichiro Ozawa, qui était considéré comme l’homme fort du gouvernement du Premier ministre Toshiki Kaifu, a été aussitôt remplacé par Keizo Oguchi. Ozawa a assumé la responsabilité de l’échec retentissant subi par son parti dans l’élection au poste de gouverneur de Tokyo, qui a eu lieu dimanche... La chute de Ozawa pourrait préluder, estime-t-on à Tokyo, à la mise à l’écart du Premier ministre Kaifu après la visite de Gorbachev à Tokyo (16-19 avril)."

**Italie**
"Assainissement des finances publiques, lutte contre la criminalité et réforme institutionnelle constituent les points cardinaux du programme que prépare Giulio Andreotti pour former son 7ème gouvernement. Les 2 premiers points font malheureusement partie du rituel qui accompagne toute formation de gouvernement. Jamais la Mafia n’a autant gangrené le système, fait autant de victimes (90 en Calabre depuis le début de l’année), agi aussi impunément, encouragée par des magistrats qui cassent pour vice de forme condamnation après condamnation. Jamais le déficit public n’avait été autant ressenti dans les milieux d’affaires comme un frein à l’expansion. Il s’agira, dans l’immédiat, pour Giulio Andreotti de trouver 12.000 mrds supplémentaires (54,5 mrds de francs), sans lever de nouveaux impôts... Pour parvenir à réduire de manière significative un déficit atteignant encore 10,5% du PIB, Guido Carli, le ministre (sortant) du Trésor a promis, hier, à Bruxelles, que l’Italie présenterait au prochain Conseil un nouveau plan d’assainissement permettant de réaliser les convergences économiques exigées pour le rendez-vous de 1994."