
AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

VARSOVIE - Le primat de Pologne, Mgr Jozef Glemp, a déclaré que "l'Eglise en Pologne ne voulait pas d'un Etat religieux et n'était pas opposée à la séparation de l'Eglise et de l'Etat".

SEOUL - Au lendemain des violentes manifestations à Séoul et dans le reste du pays où près de 200.000 personnes ont manifesté leur hostilité au régime du président Roh Tae Woo, l'épreuve de force a continué entre les opposants et le gouvernement.

QUEBEC - Le gouvernement québécois de M. Robert Bourassa a déposé à Québec un projet de loi prévoyant la tenue d’un référendum sur la souveraineté de la province, au plus tard le 26 octobre 1992.

LA TRIBUNE: Mitterrand propulse Cresson pour 1993

"François Mitterrand a tranché. Il a demandé à Michel Rocard de céder la place de Premier ministre à Edith Cresson. Le chef de l’Etat a expliqué mercredi soir aux Français les raisons de ce changement. Il s’agit pour lui de mobiliser le pays et les énergies dans la perspective du grand marché unique européen de 1993. Ce qui implique de muscler notre économie et nos industries en préservant nos équilibres financiers... Edith Cresson devrait proposer à François Mitterrand la liste des membres du nouveau gouvernement jeudi soir."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Pöhl’s resignation from Bundesbank

"Mr Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, will announce his resignation at a lunchtime press conference in Frankfurt today, German chancellor Helmut Kohl confirmed yesterday. Mr Kohl also attempted to damp the impact of the resignation by denying that there had been major policy differences between them and stressed the continuity of Germany’s price stability policy."

"...Mr Pöhl imminent resignation failed to upset the markets, where the dollar eased on fading hopes of an early US economic recovery. It traded around one pfennig lower at DM1.6850 in late London trading. Germans shares, which fell sharply when rumours of Mr Pöhl’s departure began early this week, were barely affected." (THE INDEPENDENT)

FINANCIAL TIMES: Yugoslavia’s constitutional crisis

"Yugoslavia was plunged into a constitutional crisis yesterday after the collective presidency’s failure to elect Mr Stipe Mesic, a Croat, as president left the country without an effective head of state. The rejection of his nomination is also likely to spur Croatian ambitions to secede from the federation. In what should have been a routine affair, Mr Mesic, 57, was set to assume the one-year position which rotates among representatives from the 6 republics and 2 provinces... Mr Borisav Jovic, the outgoing president who is a Serb, together with representatives from the Serbian provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina, voted against Mr Mesic."

AHEAD OF THE OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING

"Industrial nations will have to make difficult decisions on coordinating economic policies ahead of a ministerial meeting of the OECD in Paris on June 4 and 5. Major topics at the forum of the 24 industrial countries will include macroeconomic policies for sustainable growth, the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and their relations with
other nations, officials said. Macroeconomic policy discussions are expected to focus on monetary policies as the US, France and others seeking to improve economic growth disagree with Germany and other states that are placing a priority on suppressing inflation... Coordination activities will start with a meeting today and Friday in Paris of a new OECD executive committee consisting of vice ministers from the 24 member countries.

AP-DJ: OECD chief doubts use of forced rate cuts

BONN - "The General Secretary of the OECD, Jean-Claude Paye, on Tuesday said he doubted the usefulness of a coordinated interest rate cut to stimulate the world economy. At a press briefing, Paye said a cut in interest rates would be 'a self-defeating policy if it is done at the cost of reducing the credibility' of anti-inflation policies. The OECD head, who was wrapping up 2 days of talks with German officials, appeared to endorse the German position that a tight monetary policy should be maintained in Germany and other countries where inflation remains a serious threat."

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE: For coordinated transport policy

PARIS - "European transport ministers meeting in Turkey next week are seeking to begin plans for a coordinated transport policy linking western and eastern Europe. The impact of reform in Europe's former communist bloc on transport plans and policies will be high on the agenda of the meeting of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, in Antalya on May 22-23. Improvement of the transport systems in these countries will be expensive and means that Europe needs 'transport policy objectives for the continent as a whole', an ECMT statement said... During the 2 days in the Turkish Mediterranean port, the conference secretariat is hoping to break the deadlock over the ECMT multilateral quota for international road transport licenses."

EXPORT CREDIT

FINANCIAL TIMES: Agencies 'must work more with banks'

"Export credit agencies must show greater flexibility and co-operate more closely with commercial banks if they are to help restore adequate flows of trade and project finance to developing countries, a leading banking 'think-tank' warns today... Ahead of a meeting at the OECD to discuss reforms to the rules on export credits, Mr Horst Schulmann, IIF managing director (Institute of International Finance based in Washington), has called for a joint working party between commercial banks and governments to be set up. The purpose of the joint working party would be to explore ways in which the private sector can play an appropriate role."

GATT

THE GUARDIAN: Chief in plea over talks deadlock

"Arthur Dunkel, the director-general of GATT, appealed to the EC and the US yesterday to end their 'dialogue of the deaf' over trade relations... In an unusually hard-hitting and explicit speech, Mr Dunkel said Washington and Brussels were equally to blame for the breakdown in the 4-year-long Uruguay Round and added that the lack of progress was jeopardising hopes of extending free trade into new areas such as services."

PAYS ANDINS

AFP: Vers une zone de libre-échange

CARACAS - "Les présidents de la Colombie, de l'Equateur, du Pérou, de la Bolivie et du Venezuela ont ratifié mercredi à Caracas un accord en vue de créer une zone andine de libre-échange le 1er janvier 1992, premier pas vers la constitution d’un marché commun régional de 90 millions d’habitants. Les présidents des 5 pays ont ratifié un accord de création d’une zone de libre-échange, qui sera suivie d’une union douanière prévue en 1995."

OECD ECONOMIES

Australia
FINANCIAL TIMES: Rate of inflation at 9-year low

SYDNEY - "Australia’s Consumer Price Index fell by 0.2% in the 3 months to March, pushing the annualised rate of inflation down from 6.9% to 4.9%, the lowest for 9 years. The quarterly fall - the first since 1963 - was almost entirely due to a bigger than expected reduction in fuel costs, and lower mortgage charges following an easing in interest rates early in the year."

United Kingdom

THE TIMES: Selling more cars abroad

"Britain’s motor industry cut its trade deficit with the rest of the world by 78% in the first quarter this year, according to new figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Exports have started to slow from the spectacular progress made at the end of last year, but the society said growth in exports was still at 17%, helping to cut the trade deficit by 323 million pounds sterling to 1.16 bn pounds sterling in the first quarter of this year against the same period last year."