ADDIS-ABÉBA - La statue de Lénine en bronze, qui faisait face à Addis-Abéba au siège de la Commission de l'ONU pour l'Afrique, a été déboulonnée jeudi par une foule joyeuse qui avait auparavant déchiré les portraits géants de l'ancien chef d'État en fuite Mengistu Haïlé Mariam.

NEW YORK (Nations Unies) - Les discussions progressent entre l'ONU et l'Irak sur le déploiement d'agents de sécurité des Nations Unies au Kurdistan irakien mais aucun accord n'a encore été formellement signé, a précisé jeudi soir le secrétaire général de l'ONU, M. Javier Perez de Cuellar.

SEOUL - Le président sud-coréen Roh Tae-Woo a nommé l'ancien ministre de l'éducation Chung Won-shik à la tête du gouvernement, après la démission mercredi de Ro Jai-Rong, a rapporté vendredi l'agence officielle YONHAP.

VIENNE - L'uranium enrichi de provenance française et soviétique que possède l'Irak sont "récupérables" et l'Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique (AIEA) pourra prochainement en prendre possession, a déclaré jeudi un porte-parole de cette organisation à Vienne.

FINANCIAL TIMES: CIA 'allowed illegal export

WASHINGTON - "US ballistic missile technology and military equipement was shipped illegally to South Africa between 1984 and 1988 with the full knowledge of the Central Intelligence Agency, according to American officials. The US officials say they have 'good reason' to believe that some of the US ballistic missile technology was sent on from South Africa to Iraq. The officials say this technology found its way into Iraqi projects to build the Hakim medium-range missile and the uncompleted Condor 2 nuclear-capable missile."

FINANCIAL TIMES: CoCom nears pact on exports

PARIS - "Western allies were yesterday evening nearing agreement, a day early, on the final details of a wide reduction in strategic export controls on technology sales to the Soviet Union and the former East bloc. A meeting of sub-ministerial officials from the 17 countries of CoCom was yesterday afternoon putting the finishing touches to a two-thirds cut in the number of export goods subject to vetting by CoCom. The accord will replace the former CoCom list of 120 restricted goods with 10 simplified product categories... The so-called core list includes industrial products with potential military value like high speed computers, advanced telecommunications equipment and information protection devices, advanced materials and machine tools, sensing systems, navigation and avionics equipment, marine technology and propulsion systems."

REUTER: Canadian bill to ease export of weapons

OTTAWA - Canada, which called for tighter controls on arms sales after the Gulf War, introduced a bill on Thursday to allow companies to export automatic weapons. The legislation would allow companies to export only to governments and then only after their human rights records had been checked. 'We will be reviewing any exports on a case-by-case basis under very strict criteria to assure us there will not be any excessive build-up of weapons', Trade Minister Michael Wilson told reporters.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Bush trade power extended
WASHINGTON - "The US House agreed to extend President George Bush’s special authority to negotiate trade agreements, clearing the way for talks on a free-trade pact with Mexico. The outcome, once in doubt, was a major victory for the Bush administration, which had made the trade issue its top legislative priority... In question were the ‘fast-track’ procedures that allow the president to submit trade agreements to Congress for a simple yes or no vote without any amendments. The administration said the fast-track extension, for 2 years beginning June 1, is essential both to its planned negotiations with Mexico and to the stalled Uruguay Round, the 107-nation talks on liberalizing world trade."

REUTER: A bill to end Arab trade boycott of Israel?

WASHINGTON - "A bill calling on President George Bush to work for the elimination of the Arab trade boycott of Israel was introduced on Thursday by 15 US senators. ’We want the administration to take concrete steps that will demonstrate to the Arab nations our disdain for the boycott and will protect American companies from the boycott’s effects’, Senator Joseph Lieberman, a Democrat from Connecticut, said in a statement... The bill would require the US Trade Representative to discuss ways to end the boycott with members of the GATT. It also calls for the US ambassador to the OECD to hold negotiations with member nations on ending compliance with the boycott."

WORLD BANK PROSPECTS

REUTER: World Bank sees global economy picking up

WASHINGTON - "Despite the slow start, global prospects in the 1990s are encouraging’, the World Bank said Thursday in a report on ‘Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries’. The US recession is expected to end soon, in part thanks to lower interest rates, while Japan and Germany will continue to enjoy relatively healthy growth. The Bank expects economic growth among Britain, Canada, Germany, Japan and the US to accelerate to 2.7% next year from 1.5% in 1991... The developing world should enjoy ’moderately better’ economic times in the coming years after the lost decade of the 1980s, the Bank added. For the 1990s, the Bank expects economic growth in the developing world to pick up to an annual 2.9% per capita from 1.6% in the 1980s. The number of poor people will drop to 875 million from 1.1bn in 1985."

OECD ECONOMIES

United States

REUTER: Orders for durable goods rose in April

WASHINGTON - "Orders for US durable goods rose during April for the first time this year, the Commerce department said on Thursday, leading some analysts to predict the 10-month-old recession was nearly over... Demand for expensive goods from cars to electronics that are designed to last 3 years or more rose 2.9% last month after 3 straight monthly drops. Every major industry except transportation shared in the manufacturing pickup."

Japan

REUTER: Economy to grow for 54th month in May - EPA

TOKYO - "Japan’s economy will grow for the 54th successive month in May, despite declines in house-building and weaker exports, an official at the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said on Friday. Robust consumer spending is propelling growth, the official said at a briefing on the EPA’s monthly report to economic ministers."

United Kingdom

THE INDEPENDENT: BT to shed 10,000 more jobs

"British Telecom is to cut at least 10,000 jobs this year in a continued drive to reduce costs. The company said that in the year to 31 March 1991 it shed 18,000 jobs - almost one eighth of the workforce and almost 7,000 more than it had planned to cut at the beginning of the year. BT announced a 14% rise in pre-tax profits to 1.1bn pounds sterling in 1990/1991 from 2.3bn pounds sterling the previous year. Turnover rose by 6.8% to over 13bn pounds sterling despite the recession and increased competition."
Switzerland

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Slowdown must continue

ZURICH - "The Swiss National Bank expressed confidence that its anti-inflationary monetary policy will bear fruit, but stressed that the current economic slowdown needs to continue through this year... Central bank President Markus Lusser repeated his forecast that inflation will drop to rates near 4% by the end of the year, after continuing high rates at midyear. In 1992, he said, the rate would fall to between 3% and under 4%. At the same time, he said, the country’s gross domestic product will stagnate this year in real terms."

France

LE MONDE: La quatrième puissance mondiale

"... Mme Cresson attribue à la France le 4ème rang mondial. Les calculs faits à partir des statistiques de l’OCDE lui donnent plutôt la 5ème place, avec 284 milliards de dollars de valeur ajoutée par l’industrie en 1989, loin derrière les Etats-Unis (1 500 mrds de dollars), le Japon (1 147 mrds), l’Allemagne (473 mrds) et juste derrière l’Italie (291 mrds)."