**SUMMARY**

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**AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF**

BELGRADE - Le Premier ministre yougoslave Milan Panic, nommé mi-juillet, risque d’être démis de ses fonctions dans les prochains jours, les socialistes (ex-communistes, majoritaires au parlement) et l’extrême-droite ont décidé lundi de présenter une motion de censure contre lui. M. Panic est accusé de n’avoir pas défendu les intérêts serbes à la Conférence de Londres.

ROME - Le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM), agence de l’ONU chargée de la distribution des aides alimentaires, va doubler son aide à la Somalie en envoyant dans les 3 prochains mois 72 000 tonnes de denrées en plus des 68 000 tonnes en cours de distribution, a annoncé à Rome le directeur exécutif, Mme Catherine Bertini.

JERUSALEM - Israël a commencé à libérer quelque 600 prisonniers palestiniens, dans le cadre des mesures annoncées par le gouvernement pour favoriser le processus de paix au Proche-Orient.

TRIPOLI - Le dirigeant libyen, le colonel Mouammar Kadhafi, s’est prononcé en faveur de négociations directes avec les États-Unis pour résoudre la crise de Lockerbie, sans passer par l’ONU dont il a critiqué le rôle de médiateur, dans un discours à l’occasion du 23ème anniversaire de sa prise du pouvoir.

**MAASTRICHT TREATY**

WALL ST. JOURNAL: Delors threatens to quit if France votes No

"Jacques Delors threatened to quit in a dramatic gesture aimed at persuading French voters to ratify the Maastricht treaty on European union. France won’t just lose Jacques Delors if it rejects the treaty in a referendum scheduled Sept. 20, the influential and popular president of the European Community Commission said. By plunging Europe into chaos, a ‘no’ vote would forsake any French ambition to shape the new Europe emerging from the Cold War, Mr. Delors said in an impassioned interview on the Paris radio station Europe 1. ‘Don’t come back and ask me to glue the broken porcelain together again. Because I wouldn’t know how to do it’, Mr. Delors said, calling on French citizens to throw away their ‘little doubts and little fears’ about European integration... A French ‘no’ vote has become an increasingly likely possibility in recent weeks, as opinion polls show French citizens about equally divided in ‘yes’ and ‘no’ camps. According to the latest poll made public on Monday, only 53% of those who’ve made up their mind intend to vote in favor of the Maastricht treaty, while 47% plan to vote ‘no’. Previous polls, however, have shown a small majority against Maastricht."

**LATIN AMERICA**

WALL ST. JOURNAL: Brazil: Official quits, after Collor speech

"The pace of Brazilian government defections quickened and markets slumped Monday in a stinging response to President Fernando Collor de Mello’s announcement Sunday night that he would not resign amid charges of corruption. The government’s senate leader, Marco Maciel, quit Monday, while leaders of the powerful Liberal Front Party, Mr. Collor’s main suport in Congress, said they would not defend him against impeachment... The Brazilian Bar Association has said it will request Mr. Collor’s impeachment today... In a speech delivered Sunday night on Brazilian television, Mr. Collor said that ‘those who think they will break the president’s neck, will break themselves’, and predicted he would survive an impeachment vote in Congress. The speech was Mr. Collor’s first address to the nation since he was accused a week ago by a congressional
investigative panel of receiving millions of dollars in 'undue economic benefits' from an influence-peddling scheme allegedly set up by his campaign treasurer, Paulo Cesar Farias, after Mr. Collor’s 1990 accession to the presidency."

**LA TRIBUNE:** Le Mexique, un nouveau "dragon" pour l’Amérique


**CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES**

**HERALD TRIBUNE:** Warsaw-worker showdown

WARSAW - "Poland’s new government has embarked on a bold and potentially risky effort to break strikes in the industrial heartland. For the first time since the fall of communism in 1989, striking workers have received dismissal notices. The showdown, at a coal mine and a car parts factory, could herald either a new era in Poland or the political demise of Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka. Neither Poland’s Communist governments nor Mrs. Suchocka’s 3 democratically elected predecessors ever dared dismiss strikers. The move, on the 12th anniversary of the founding of the Solidarity movement, is viewed here as a high-stakes gamble. If she succeeds, the prime minister will have won herself much greater freedom to impose tough decisions on the shrinking but still significant state sector... ‘Strikes alone will bring in nothing, because there is nowhere to take from unless we start printing more money’, said President Lech Walesa, who led the strikes in August 1980 that gave birth to the Solidarity movement. ‘Printing money will ruin all our achievements so far, which no one wants to happen’, Mr. Walesa told the Polish press agency. ‘Let us replace justified protests with constructive program proposals and with effective work. Then we all will have more’. On Monday, managers of a car-parts factory in the southern town of Tychy began dismissing 2,300 striking workers."

**FINANCIAL TIMES:** Hungary expects recession to worsen

BUDAPEST - "Hungary’s recession is proving far deeper and more prolonged than expected, according to a new batch of gloomy official forecasts. The National Bank of Hungary, the central bank, is now braced for a fall of 5% in gross domestic product this year, a drastic revision of its original forecast of zero growth. Unemployment, currently just below 11%, is set to rise to 17-20% next year, a government report to parliament warns."

**OECD ECONOMIES**

**Germany**

**FINANCIAL TIMES:** Industry chief resigns after rift with Kohl

FRANKFURT - "Mr Heinrich Weiss, president of the Federation of German Industry, the BDI, resigned in a storm of controversy yesterday after less than 2 years in office. Mr Weiss, 50, had been under fire for some months because of his abrasive manner and go-it-alone leadership style. However, opponents said his fatal offence was to damage industry’s relationship with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other leading politicians... The federation’s leader is the main spokesman for 80,000 companies from all sectors, grouped in 34 different industry associations... He will be replaced temporarily by Mr Tyll Necker, currently one of 8 BDI vice-presidents, who preceded Mr Weiss in the top job. Grass-roots members have complained that its interests have been neglected while those of industrial giants such as Daimler-Benz have taken precedence."

**United States**

**WALL ST. JOURNAL:** New home sales dropped 2.6% in July
WASHINGTON - "In the latest gloomy report from the housing industry in the US, sales of new-single-family homes fell 2.6% in July to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 563,000. Moreover, the increase in June sales was revised downward. Sales of new homes in June rose 5.3% to 578,000, the Commerce Department said, rather than the 7.9% increase previously reported. While home sales data are often substantially revised, new home sales have eroded steadily since the first quarter, after peaking in January at a seasonally adjusted pace of 667,000 homes. July home sales, which were expected to be flat with June, were particularly disappointing because mortgage rates have continued to fall to the lowest point in 2 decades."

END-OF-TEXT