REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

BELGRADE - International efforts to end the war in Bosnia were back on track after Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic narrowly survived a confidence vote and Bosnia’s Serbs agreed to stay at the negotiating table.

ACCRA - Voters turned out in droves for Ghana’s first presidential elections for 13 years, but the main opposition party accused the government of trying to cheat.

UNITED NATIONS - Security Council members agree on the need to reinforce the military component of the U.N. mission in Angola, where at least 1,200 people are reported to have been killed in recent fighting, council President Andre Erdos of Hungary said.

CHERBOURG, France - A Japanese freighter due to ship a cargo of the highly radioactive substance plutonium from France is waiting in international waters until the material is ready to be loaded, the French government said.

****************

ELECTIONS PRESIDENTIELLES AUX ETATS-UNIS

AFP - WASHINGTON - Le candidat démocrate Bill Clinton a été élu mardi soir 42ème président des Etats-Unis, selon les chaînes de télévision. Avec les résultats de l’Etat de l’Ohio, le gouverneur de l’Arkansas a passé la barre des 270 votes des grands électeurs. Il devance également George Bush sur l’ensemble des suffrages populaires par 44% contre 39%, le candidat indépendant Ross Perot s’attribuant les 18% restants. Ces estimations portent sur 67% des votes. A 00h40 locales (05h40 GMT), Bill Clinton avait obtenu 30 521 194 voix, soit environ 44% des suffrages, George Bush en avait obtenu 27 002 298, soit près de 39% et Ross Perot 12 473 912, soit quelque 18%.

REUTER: Clinton promises ‘new beginning’ for America

WASHINGTON - "Bill Clinton said he plans nothing less than 'a new beginning' for America. 'My fellow Americans, on this day, with high hopes and brave hearts and massive numbers, the American people have voted to make a new beginning’, he said late Tuesday. He hailed his supporters as 'a remarkable coalition for change' and he called on supporters of Republican incumbent George Bush and independent Ross Perot to join him in 'creating a re-United States'... The 46-year-old Arkansas governor nailed down victory about 10:48 p.m. when US television networks projected him the winner in Ohio. Bush was graceful in conceding the race to the first person elected president to be born after World War II. 'Here's the way we see it and the country should see it: That the people have spoken, and we respect the majesty of the democratic system’, the 68-year-old Bush told disappointed followers in his adopted home town of Houston. He said he had telephoned Clinton to congratulate him and to pledge a smooth transfer of power. Clinton’s Inauguration will take place Jan. 20."

REUTER: History made as women sweep into Senate

WASHINGTON - "Women swept to victory in US Senate elections Tuesday, winning 4 seats for the Democrats in California, Washington state and Illinois. In historic firsts, Carol Mosely Braun of Illinois became the first black woman ever elected to the Senate and women were elected to California Senate seats. Colorado Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a Cheyenne Indian, became the first native American to win a Senate seat. In California, Dianne Feinstein defeated Republican Sen. John Seymour and Rep Barbara Boxer won the seat held by retiring Democrat Alan Cranston. In Washington, Patty Murray won the seat held by retiring Democrat Brock Adams... Overall, Democrats added to their 57-43 majority with a net gain
of one seat as a handful of races remained to be decided."

REUTER: European markets give muted response

LONDON - "European financial markets on Wednesday gave only a muted reception to Bill Clinton's US presidential election win, which had already been largely discounted in trading over the last few days. The dollar came off its highs to trade around 1.5630 marks, little changed from Tokyo traders had earlier marked up the dollar on the belief that Clinton's pro-growth economic policy may eventually force the US Federal Reserve Board to raise interest rates, making the US currency more attractive to foreigners. But it retreated again in Europe as investors took profits."

GATT

AFP: Echec des négociations agricoles sur les oléagineux

CHICAGO (Etats-Unis) - "Les Etats-Unis et la Communauté européenne ne sont pas parvenus à résoudre leur différend sur la réduction de la production européenne d'oléagineux, a annoncé mardi M. Ray MacSharry, commissaire européen à l'Agriculture. Cette issue intervient après 3 jours d'intenses négociations entre les délégations américaines et européennes réunies à Chicago. M. MacSharry a déclaré que la Communauté européenne est allée 'aussi loin qu'elle le pouvait' pour conclure un accord sur l'Agriculture à Chicago. L'absence de compromis devrait conduire les Etats-Unis à annoncer très prochainement des mesures de rétorsion contre une ère tranche de 300 millions de dollars d’importations européennes."

FINANCIAL TIMES: We will conclude pact, says Gonzalez

PARIS - "France is not alone in not wanting a hasty world trade deal, Spain's Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said yesterday. Some EC partners were using the French stand to protect themselves. 'I do not believe France is isolated', Mr Gonzalez declared after meeting France’s President François Mitterrand. 'Other countries are shielding themselves behind the French position'... 'We will reach an agreement in the GATT talks, but there are certain conditions I, too, would not accept', Mr Gonzalez added."

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

FINANCIAL TIMES: Bangemann says Maastricht marks road to federal state

BRUSSELS - "The Maastricht treaty is a milestone along the road to a federal European state, ensuring that 'more and more decisions can only be taken at the European level', according to Mr Martin Bangemann, vice-president of the European Commission. Mr Bangemann, a former German economy minister and Bonn's senior commissioner in Brussels, said the EC must integrate further before it takes in new members, and that the notion of 'subsidiarity' - ensuring decisions are taken at the most appropriate level of government - 'presupposes the idea of a federal European state'."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Major rebuffs EC commissioner

LONDON - "Mr John Major yesterday angrily clashed with a European commissioner over the implications of the Maastricht treaty as the UK cabinet mounted a make-or-break attempt to thwart the rebellion over Europe within the ruling Conservative party. Fighting to avoid a House of Commons defeat tonight that would gravely undermine Britain's foreign policy, threaten the treaty's future and jeopardise his own career, the prime minister described as 'very silly and ill-informed' a speech by Mr Martin Bangemann which described Maastricht as a milestone on the road to a federal Europe."

FINANCIAL TIMES: France and Spain close ranks on Maastricht

PARIS - "France and Spain yesterday ruled out changing the Maastricht treaty on European union to meet Denmark’s demands for a special status. After talks with President François Mitterrand, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish prime minister, said that Denmark’s proposals for binding legal exemptions from key provisions required an unacceptable rewriting of the treaty on EC political, economic and monetary union... France’s European affairs minister, Ms Elisabeth Guigou, said in a parliamentary debate yesterday that France would study Denmark’s proposals but ruled out any renegotiation of the accords."
FRANCFORT - "Helmut Schlesinger, le président de la Bundesbank, a enterré hier tout espoir d’une baisse prochaine des taux directeurs allemands. ‘Un assouplissement, même léger, de notre politique ne peut être envisagé pour le moment, car nous n’avons toujours pas de certitude ni sur la volonté du gouvernement d’enrayer la dérive des finances publiques, ni sur la détermination des syndicats à modérer leurs revendications salariales’, a-t-il déclaré lors d’une visite à Leipzig...
Dimanche, le ministre des finances, Theo Waigel, a reconnu la nécessité de combler une partie du déficit budgétaire par un recours accru à l’emprunt. Jürgen Möllemann, son homologue de l’Economie, évalue en effet la baisse des recettes fiscales due au ralentissement conjoncturel à 20 mrds de DM."