
AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF


PARIS - La France a mis au point un "plan préventif de sauvetage de la paix" entre l’Arménie et l’Azerbaïdjan dans le conflit qui les oppose sur le sort du Nagorny-Karabakh. Le secrétaire d’État français à l’Action humanitaire Bernard Kouchner se rendra sur place du 3 au 6 mars prochain pour établir, des 2 côtés, des corridors humanitaires.

DUBLIN - Le calvaire d’une jeune Irlandaise de 14 ans enceinte après un viol va pouvoir prendre fin: la Cour suprême irlandaise lui a reconnu le droit d’avorter en Grande-Bretagne dans un jugement historique rendu mercredi à Dublin.

KOUROU (Guyane française) - La fusée européenne Ariane, dont c’était le 49ème tir à Kourou, a largué dans la nuit de mercredi à jeudi 2 satellites de télécommunications, l’un arabe, l’autre japonais.

AFP - Le Dow Jones marque un nouveau record à 3.283,32 pts (+0,78%)

NEW YORK - Wall Street a terminé mercredi sur son 6ème record en un mois, encouragée par de nouvelles indications positives sur la reprise de l’économie américaine.

ECONOMIES D’EUROPE ORIENTALE

DIE PRESSE: Aide occidentale pour les systèmes fiscaux de l’Est

VIENNE - "Un premier séminaire de 2 jours sur les systèmes fiscaux en Europe orientale s’est ouvert mardi à Vienne. Il prépare la création de centres de formation pour des agents des impôts à Vienne, Copenhague et Budapest. M. Salvatore Zecchini, directeur du centre de l’OCDE pour la coopération avec les économies européennes en transition, a expliqué dans un point de ‘presse’ que 600 experts des impôts d’Europe orientale devraient être formés chaque année. Devraient participer la Tchécoslovaquie, Hongrie, Pologne, Bulgarie, Roumanie, Albanie et les 3 états baltes. Plus tard si l’intérêt se fait sentir les états de la CEI sont aussi invités à participer aux formations. M. Zecchini a souligné que les cours pourraient commencer dans 10 jours." (2 autres articles également dans SALZBURGER NACHRICHTEN et WIENER ZEITUNG).

FINANCIAL TIMES: Trade expert for Polish finance post

WARSAW/LONDON - "Poland’s prime minister, Mr Jan Olszewski, yesterday turned to Mr Andrzej Olechowski, one of the country’s best known banking and trade experts, to fill the economic policy vacuum caused by the resignation of Mr Karol Lutkowski, the finance minister. The 44-year-old economist will have to be approved by the parliamentary budget committee and by the lower chamber of parliament, which is expected to vote on the nomination later this week. Mr Olechowski, who, as minister of foreign trade, played a key role in negotiating last year’s EC association agreement and was deputy chairman of the Polish central bank before that, faces difficult budgetary and other decisions once he wins approval... Earlier this week the government announced a 12% devaluation of the zloty against a basket of 5 western currencies to improve Polish competitiveness and offset the impact of domestic inflation."

FINANCIAL TIMES: EC clears trade deal with east
BRUSSELS - "Senior European Community diplomats yesterday cleared the way for implementation of free trade agreements between the EC, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, but asked the European Commission to continue discussions with the Poles about their alleged discrimination in favour of certain EC car imports. EC objections to Poland’s plan to divide its quota of duty-free car imports between General Motors, Fiat and Volkswagen - and impose a duty on other EC car imports - had threaten to delay implementation of the agreements on March 1."

F.T.: Aérospatiale seeks Russian role in Airbus

SINGAPORE - "Russian aircraft manufacturers including Tupolev and Ilyushin have been approached by Aérospatiale of France to consider possible collaboration in the development of a new 600-seat jumbo airliner with the European Airbus consortium. Mr Henri Martre, the chairman of the French state-controlled aerospace company which owns a 37.9% stake in Airbus, said at the Singapore Air Show yesterday that Aérospatiale was trying to introduce former Soviet as well as Asian co-operation in future Airbus plans to build an ultra-large aircraft. He said Aérospatiale had established links 2 years ago with the Soviet aircraft industry which were growing rapidly."

ENVIRONMENT

REUTER: Rich nations want pollution trading in global-warming pact

UNITED NATIONS - Industrialised nations formally proposed on Wednesday that a global accord on lowering so-called greenhouse gases should permit countries to trade among themselves the right to pollute. The proposal - presented to delegates here preparing for a world environment summit - was greeted with suspicion by many representatives of developing countries, some of whom saw it as a plan by the rich to buy their way out of trouble. A number of environmentalist groups also expressed strong opposition to the plan. Quotations from the Paris-based OECD, countries agreeing to emit specific levels of greenhouse gases would be able to work together to reach an overall goal."

THE GUARDIAN: Earth’s future in the balance, say top scientists

"In an unprecedented step, the 2 most august scientific bodies in Britain and the United States today jointly warn of catastrophic outcomes as a consequence of population growth, the consumption of natural resources and the destruction of the environment. In a clear attempt to persuade world leaders to take seriously the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in June, the US National Academy of Sciences and the normally-conservative Royal Society of London have issued the bleak statement: ‘the future of our planet is in the balance’. The joint communiqué, which points out that global population is growing faster than expected and that the pace of environmental change has accelerated, ends: ‘sustainable development can be achieved, but only if irreversible degradation of the environment can be halted in time. The next 30 years may be crucial’."

BRAZIL

REUTER: Brazil clinches debt deal with Paris Club

BRASILIA - "Brazil clinched a deal with the Paris Club of creditor nations on Wednesday, Economy Minister Marcilio Marquez Moreira said. The agreement took the Third World’s largest debtor nation another step forwards in its effort to restructure its total $118bn foreign debt. Brazilian negotiators, led by central bank president Francisco Gros, signed the agreement with the Paris Club group in Paris at 2345 GMT, Moreira said to reporters in the Brazilian capital."

ONE YEAR LATER IN KUWAIT

F.T.: US winning the race for Kuwaiti contracts

LONDON - "... It appears that companies from only one of the Gulf war allies, the US, is winning anything like victors’ spoils... US groups have won at least $2bn worth of contracts and export orders in Kuwait since last March. Moreover, US exporters have increased market share in Kuwait, notably for cars and foods. Officials expect pre-war export levels of about $3bn to rise well above $7bn for the next few years. US companies should also do well out of contracts still to be let. Of a likely bill for reconstruction of about $20bn over the next 2 or 3
years, at least half will be spent on restoring the oil industry, while this year’s budget set aside $9bn for defence spending. US groups are leading contenders in both fields... British and, particularly, French officials are disappointed. 'The overall picture here of awarding contracts is gloomy’, said a French diplomat, who reckoned French groups had tendered for $1.5bn worth of contracts but won just $500m worth since liberation. Most of this represents the French share of Kuwait’s postwar $2bn order for 15 Airbuses.”

OECD ECONOMIES

United States

WASHINGTON - "The US economic recovery is on the way, according to 40 forecasters surveyed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. But the economists admit to growing doubts about their own forecasts. The forecasters see the economy barely growing in the current quarter, but foresee a substantial pick-up in the second quarter and accelerating growth later in the year. The median forecast is for inflation-adjusted annual growth rates of 0.6% in the current quarter, 2.3% in the second, 3.1% in the third and 3.2% in the fourth.”

Australia

F.T.: Keating stakes A$2.3bn on recovery

CANBERRA - "Australia’s Labor government yesterday staked its future on a A$2.3bn ($1.72bn) spending programme intended to speed up economic recovery and bring unemployment below 10% before the next election scheduled to take place by mid 1993. The success of the package will determine the government’s chances of overhauling the conservative opposition made up of the Liberal and National parties, which has a substantial lead in most opinion polls and is widely expected to win the election. Mr Keating said the spending programme would form the first stage of a 4-year ‘strategy for growth’ which would create 800,000 jobs and lay the groundwork for a decade of prosperity.”