February 28 Février 1992

LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Le soleil brillera et le ciel sera bien dégagé. Il fera 12.

REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

MOSCOW - Fighting intensifies in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, torpedoing an Iranian peace initiative and generating fresh invective from the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas - President George Bush and leaders from 5 Latin American nations pledged to step up the war on drugs and to broaden its front to Europe and Asia.

BELGRADE - Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic has forecast that United Nations peace-keeping troops will help to end Yugoslavia's inter-communal conflict, which cost more than 6,000 lives last year.

THE OECD IN THE PRESS

NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN: The "Keiretsu" system in automobile industry on the agenda at the OECD multilateral consultation in April

"The OECD will convene the first multilateral consultation meeting in early April in order to explore the possible solution to the international conflicts caused by the problems related to 'Kreiretsu' and to the country of origin of products. The sales networks in Japan which are criticized by the United States as being closed, and the 'US Honda' case in which the additional collection of customs tariffs in connection with the local procurement is contested will also be discussed. As trade and investment frictions are becoming serious between the United States and Japan and the EC and Japan, in particular in the automobile sector, the OECD judges that certain international rules are necessary."

CANBERRA TIMES: OECD head: 'Adjustment fatigue' could threaten world trade

"World-wide political uncertainty and rapid change were producing fatigue and caution which could threaten multilateral trade, the Secretary-General of the OECD, Jean-Claude Paye, said yesterday. For 40 years the world had progressively opened its borders to competition, but competition had become so fierce that it imposed on business the obligation of rapid and continuous adjustment, he said. This adjustment generally was good, because it produced higher productivity, but the pace of change at times created the feeling of 'adjustment fatigue'...

Jean-Claude Paye was speaking at the National Press Club in Canberra during a visit to Australia at the invitation of the Federal government to meet ministers, business people, government officials and academics."

OCDE: L'emploi augmente seulement en Italie (IL POPOLO) - OCDE: 30 millions de personnes sans emploi en 92 (ITALIA OGGI) - LA REPUBBLICA, IL GIORNALE, IL MESSAGERO, CORRIERE DELLA SERA, IL SOLE-24 ORE, etc. Press coverage of the presentation of the Italian translation of the 1991 Employment Outlook in Rome February 24th, 1992.

THE EUROPEAN: Shame of illiterate millions

LONDON - "Europe’s illiterate millions pose a serious threat to the economic performance of their countries, a new report has warned. The OECD says that illiteracy is no longer restricted to Third World nations. Several million people in the most advanced nations of Europe cannot read or write. Governments are criticised for the lack of adequate adult training schemes to help workers improve their skills. The report gives startling examples which highlight the problem."

A PROPOS D’AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

AFP: L’OTAN cherche à accroître sa coopération scientifique avec l’Est

FINANCIAL TIMES: Eight ex-Soviet republics join United Nations

MOSCOW - "Eight former Soviet republics today take their seats at the United Nations, sensitive to the fact that they have few other attributes of full statehood. Bright republican flags - the most colourful symbol of statehood - were on proud display at a Moscow hotel yesterday. The occasion was a meeting of parliamentary deputies from the Commonwealth of Independent States to consider ways of co-ordinating their actions following the collapse of the Soviet Union in December."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Dutch say CSCE needs crisis team

"Decision-making in the 48-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe must be streamlined if it is to act effectively in times of crisis, foreign minister of the Netherlands, Mr Hans van den Broek, said yesterday. In an address to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, Mr van den Broek endorsed a German-Czechoslovak proposal that the CSCE should establish a steering committee as a form of executive on behalf of the collective membership. Such a committee could be modelled on the lines of the European Community’s Troika (past, present and future presidents of the EC Council of Ministers), delegated to represent the Twelve in areas such as political co-operation."

CIS

FINANCIAL TIMES: Russia to remove key price controls

MOSCOW - "The Russian government yesterday announced politically explosive plans to remove the remaining price controls on key items ranging from oil to vodka within the next 2 months. The announcement is a bold gamble by the government to push through radical economic reforms in the face of gathering political opposition, and to secure early financial assistance from the West. A draft programme worked out with the IMF and approved by the government yesterday would keep price controls on medicines, baby food and local services such as rents."

EC

FINANCIAL TIMES: Finland to apply for EC entry

HELSINKI - "Finland’s centre-right coalition government last night voted in favour of applying to join the European Community. The Finnish parliament will debate the proposal in the middle of next month and is expected to approve making a formal application on March 18. The proposal is expected to receive parliamentary approval as the opposition Social Democrat party is in favour of EC membership... Finland, which is a member of the EFTA, hopes to join Sweden and Austria in parallel entry negotiations. A recent report commissioned by parliament predicted that EC membership would boost economic growth, create 100,000 new jobs over the next 10 years, and lead to cuts in taxes and consumer prices."

HERALD TRIBUNE: EC decisions face new legal hurdle

BRUSSELS - "A European Community court threw out Thursday a multimillion-dollar fine on 14 chemical companies in a ruling that could lead to challenges to countless other decisions by the EC Commission going back as far as 3 decades. The Court of First Instance, a branch of the European Court of Justice, said the EC Commission had failed to follow its own procedures in fining the companies 23.5 million Ecu ($29 million) for a price-fixing cartel in 1988. The ruling marked the second serious court setback for the Commission this month, following a decision that quashed a Commission order that British Aerospace PLC pay back 44.4 million Ecu in illegal subsidies it received from the British government... EC lawyers
feverishly studied the 52-page ruling to determine its potential impact, with no clear-cut verdict by day's end. The Commission must decide whether to appeal the ruling to the full EC Court of Justice."

THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

F.T.: US and Mexico face $24bn boost

"A successful North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) would add an annual $24bn (£13.7bn) to trade between the US and Mexico by 1995, according to a study by the Washington-based Institute for International Economics. The US would transform a visible trade deficit in 1990 into a substantial trade surplus. A total of 609,000 jobs would be created in Mexico. While 112,000 US workers would be 'dislocated', the creation of 242,000 jobs would give the US a net gain of 130,000 new jobs, the study suggests."

ECONOMIES OCDE

Etats-Unis

AFP: Sénat: Mme Franklin au Secrétariat au Commerce

WASHINGTON - "Le Sénat a confirmé jeudi, à l'unanimité (moins une voix démocrate), le choix du président George Bush de nommer Mme Barbara Franklin au poste de Secrétaire américain au Commerce et de reconduire M. Alan Greenspan à la tête de la Réserve fédérales. Mme Franklin, femme d'affaires de 51 ans et membre de longue date du parti républicain, succédera à Robert Mosbacher qui avait démissionné au mois de décembre pour diriger la campagne électorale de M. Bush."

United Kingdom

THE TIMES: Trade deficit soars to surprise £794m

"The government suffered another blow yesterday, this time from the January trade figures. They showed a monthly current account deficit up from £409 million in December to £794 million, as a result of a fall in exports and a smaller fall in imports."