EX-YOUGOSLAVIE - Seize soldats américains constituant la 1ère partie du groupe avancé du bataillon américain devant se déployer dans l’ex-république yougoslave de Macédoine sont arrivés lundi vers 10h30 (08h30 GMT) à l’aéroport de Skopje. Le général français Jean Cot, qui vient de prendre la tête des troupes de l’ONU dans l’ex-Yougoslavie, est arrivé lundi soir à Sarajevo, en compagnie du général belge Francis Briquemont, qui doit remplacer le général Philippe Morillon à la tête des casques bleus en Bosnie.

IRAK-ONU - Trois experts de l’ONU ont quitté lundi Bagdad après une dernière tentative infructueuse de convaincre les autorités irakiennes d’installer des caméras de surveillance sur 2 sites d’essai de missiles en Irak.

NIGERIA - Des manifestations importantes ont éclaté lundi à Lagos au premier jour d’une semaine nationale de protestation destinée à contraindre le gouvernement militaire à accepter le résultat de l’élection présidentielle du 12 juin qu’il a annulée.

ON THE EVE OF THE G7 SUMMIT

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Clinton to host jobs talks this fall

SAN FRANCISCO - "Calling chronic unemployment one of the most vexing problems in the industrialized world, President Bill Clinton announced that he will convene an international jobs summit this fall. Before flying to Tokyo on Monday for his first meeting with the leaders of the G7 nations, Mr Clinton said that his purpose at the summit was to create more jobs at home through expanded trade and international cooperation. As a step toward those goals, the president said in a speech here that he had asked his top economic and labor advisers to invite their G7 counterparts to a conference in the US to consider 'the causes and... answers for this stubbornly high unemployment', which he called a 'global crisis'."

AFP: G7/ Le Japon favorable à l’initiative du président Clinton

TOKYO - "Le Japon s’est félicité mardi de la proposition du président américain Bill Clinton de tenir à l’automne aux Etats-Unis une réunion au niveau des ministres de l’économie des 7 grands pays industrialisés pour lutter contre le chômage. Quelques heures avant l’arrivée à Tokyo du président américain, qui devait rencontrer mardi le premier ministre Kiichi Miyazawa à la veille de l’ouverture du sommet du G7, le ministre japonais des Affaires étrangères Kabun Muto a qualifié 'd’excellente idée’ l’initiative américaine."

HERALD TRIBUNE: A Russian aid package short of Clinton’s goal on agenda

WASHINGTON - "The Clinton administration plans to announce at the economic meeting in Tokyo this week that the US, its European allies and Japan will provide $500 million in new aid to Russia to assist its economic program. But even with a $1.5bn contribution from the World Bank, the package of assistance will be only half as big as what the White House originally wanted... The aid that the allies have agreed to provide includes a $125 million commitment from the US, $120 million from Japan and $80 million from Germany, administration officials said. Mr Clinton has been personally telephoning world leaders in a last-ditch effort to assemble an aid package that could be announced this week. On Saturday morning, he won Germany’s commitment after talking to Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The rest of the $500 million is expected to come from Britain, Italy, France and Canada. With the World Bank’s contribution, the package would then total $2bn."
THE TIMES: Britain keeps US guessing over cash for Russian fund

TOKYO/WASHINGTON - "The final size of Britain’s contribution to President Clinton’s privatisation fund for Russia was still being discussed yesterday despite claims in Washington that agreement had been reached with America’s European allies and Japan. Behind this contradiction lay a quiet tussle over whether money already pledged by Britain would be included in Mr Clinton’s plan to provide $500 million (£330 million) to help Russia transfer state assets to private control. The idea of converting bilateral aid already promised into multinational assistance is one option being considered in Whitehall. The British stake in the Clinton fund is likely to be agreed at the G7 summit, but British officials were not prepared to predict yesterday how much of it would be new money."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Suharto in plea on farm reform

TOKYO - "President Suharto, the Indonesian leader and head of the Non-Aligned Movement, yesterday urged the G7 nations to reach a quick agreement on the liberalisation of farm trade, which would assist developing countries. In a pre-G7 meeting, Mr Suharto told Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, Japan’s prime minister, that a settlement of the Uruguay Round of trade talks must be fashioned with the needs of developing countries in mind, as these were particularly vulnerable to shifts in trade policy and protectionism. Mr Suharto, in his role as chairman of the 108-member group, said economic assistance from developed countries should not be linked to human rights issues."

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Official blasts Italy and Spain on steel aid

BONN - "Lack of cooperation from Italy and Spain is endangering an EC plan to end the steel industry’s worst post-World War II slump, said Karel van Miert, the EC competition commissioner. A special meeting of the EC Industry Council on July 26, critical to the EC’s efforts to restructure its steel industry, was postponed because Spain and Italy were refusing to cut crude steel capacity in exchange for aid, Mr van Miert said. The intransigence of Madrid and Rome to discuss ending state aid for their steel industries threatens to derail EC efforts to prepare an industry restructuring plan this autumn. 'Mainly because of Italy and Spain the whole thing is blocked', Mr van Miert said. 'Until now, we have received almost no cooperation'."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Brussels goes to court in dispute over trade policy

BRUSSELS - "Germany and the Netherlands are to be taken to the European Court for defying European Commission efforts to forge a unified trade policy toward cheap imports from China and former Communist countries. The Commission wants to abolish - or harmonise - national quotas on imports in order to impose an EC-wide quota to match the single European market. These national quotas number around 6,500, with many dating back to the second world war."

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FINANCIAL TIMES: A barrier to exports in eastern Europe

BERLIN - "Companies in eastern Europe and Russia see poor telecommunications as their main barrier to exports, according to an international survey published yesterday. Among 800 companies in 6 countries surveyed - Russia, Lithuania, Hungary, Romania, Poland and Latvia - inadequate telecommunications were a more frequent source of complaint than transport links or border crossings according to the results unveiled at an FT conference by the OECD. Among Polish companies, telecommunications were rated the single greatest domestic barrier to exports, more significant than exchange rates, the instability of financial regulation, and other infrastructure shortcomings. Speakers at the FT conference on telecommunications in central and eastern Europe, held in Berlin, claimed that investment was falling far short of that required to provide a basic service."

ECONOMIES OCDE

Italie

LA TRIBUNE: La Banque centrale salue le pacte social
ROME - "Conformément à ce qu’elle avait laissé entendre, la Banque d’Italie a annoncé hier la réduction d’un point, à 9%, de son principal taux directeur, prenant effet aujourd’hui, à la suite de la conclusion d’un ‘pacte social’ entre le gouvernement, les syndicats et le patronat. Dans la foulée, le ministre du Budget, Luigi Spaventa, a indiqué que la loi de finances rectificative, dite ‘manoeuvre Ciampi’, visant à 13 000 milliards de lires (49,5 mrd de francs) d’économies budgétaires supplémentaires cette année, serait soumise d’ici à la fin de la semaine à un vote de confiance du parlement."

Spain

FINANCIAL TIMES: Gonzalez gets unions on side

MADRID - "Spain’s prime minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, yesterday won agreement from the country’s 2 leading unions - the Socialist UGT and the Communist Comisiones Obreras - to start talks on a long-term wages pact. Both unions have in the past been extremely critical of the government’s liberal economic policies... By offering to allow the strike legislation to pass into law untouched, the prime minister is giving the unions what they want. Employers earlier this year denounced the draft law as a ‘striker’s charter’ for the powers it gives pickets... Figures showing the Spanish economy in a much sharper recession than had been feared - GDP shrank by 1.1% in the 1st quarter - have added to the sense of urgency Mr Gonzalez is keen to give to the ‘social pact’ talks and to the work that has already begun on producing a restrictive budget for 1994."

END-OF-TEXT