HAITI - Le président haïtien en exil, M. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a demandé jeudi à l'ONU d'imposer un "blocus total et intégral" contre son pays.

BURUNDI - Le gouvernement burundais du président assassiné Melchior Ndadaye a annoncé mercredi soir que le Comité de Salut public mis en place par les putschistes après leur coup d'État de jeudi dernier avait "cessé d'exister".

BOSNIE - Les corps d'une trentaine de personnes ont été localisés dans une forêt au sud-est de Sarajevo, a annoncé jeudi le Centre de presse de l'armée bosniaque.

GEORGIE - Les partisans armés de l'ancien président géorgien Zviad Gamsakhourdia ont reconquis jeudi Khobi (ouest de la Géorgie), une ville que les forces fidèles à Edouard Chevardnadzé avaient prise mercredi.

ESPAGNE - Un satellite chinois incontrôlé de 2 tonnes est tombé jeudi dans l'océan Pacifique à quelque 1 600 km à l'ouest du Pérou, ont annoncé les autorités spatiales américaines. La Chine a catégoriquement démenti vendredi que son satellite soit tombé.

ETAS-UNIS - Les incendies qui ravagent le sud de la Californie sur près de 300 km, avaient quelque peu perdu en intensité jeudi en raison d'une temporaire accalmie du vent, laissant derrière eux les ruines fumantes de plus de 500 villas et 40 000 hectares de végétation calcinée.

ULSTER - Deux frères catholiques ont été tués jeudi soir par balles près de Warringstown, à 30 km au sud-ouest de Belfast, a annoncé la police.

LE SOMMET DE BRUXELLES

LE FIGARO: Remettre l'Europe en route

BRUXELLES - "Les Douze se retrouvent ce matin à Bruxelles pour un sommet exceptionnel dont l'objectif est simple: célébrer dignement l'entrée en vigueur du traité de Maastricht sur l'union européenne. Du coup, tout sujet trop conflictuel devrait être écarté des débats. 'Les ingrédients de la crise sont toujours là, juge un haut fonctionnaire. Mais personne ne fera de surenchères, ni vers le haut ni vers le bas'... Le sommet peut-il, dans ces conditions, déboucher sur un message fort? Tout le monde en doute. C'est pourquoi les sujets sensibles - comme le GATT - ont été évacués de l'ordre du jour et ne seront évoqués que de façon informelle. En fait, une belle cérémonie de baptême de l'union européenne - qui entrera officiellement en vigueur le 1er novembre - et un accord sur les sièges suffiraient largement au bonheur des chefs d'État et de gouvernement..."

THE GUARDIAN: Delors seeks jobs boost

BRUSSELS - "Jacques Delors will try today to shake European Community heads of government out of what he sees as their complacency towards unemployment and rising industrial unrest. At an EC summit in Brussels, he is expected to expand on his criticism of finance ministers earlier this week when he chided monetary orthodoxy for allowing the EC jobless total to rise to a probable 20 million or more next year... Mr Delors wants to allow investment in labour-intensive social projects, such as housing and inner-city regeneration. He intends to give a presentation on a draft of the white paper on competitiveness, growth and employment which will be debated more fully in December. It argues that 20 million new jobs could be created by the end of the decade by promoting job-sharing, part-time work and wage flexibility."
THE TIMES: Major vows to stop Delors

BRUSSELS - "John Major arrived in Brussels last night determined to block an ambitious programme by Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, to revive the European economy with a substantial programme of infrastructure spending. In what threatens to be a serious clash at today's special summit, called to celebrate the ratification of the Maastricht treaty, Mr Major is preparing to argue that the Delors blueprint will make Europe less, rather than more, competitive. Mr Delors's plan is regarded as naive by Britain."

APEC AND OECD

BUSINESS TIMES: OECD, a model for APEC

BANGKOK - "The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) should do analytical research and provide information to help its 15 members in their economic planning instead of being turned into a trade negotiating body. One model for APEC is the Paris-based OECD, the members of which are developed countries. Thai Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi, who made the suggestion, told BT in an interview: "OECD has been very helpful as a learning experience for them to align their policies, to learn from one another, to have research done together. 'OECD has created clear-cut directions for the developed countries. What we need is more information exchange so that we can move in one direction. That would already be a great achievement. It (APEC) should be trying to ease in the changes in trade practices, not forcing and making demands'".

AUSTRALIAN F. REVIEW: A broader role for APEC

LIMASSOL (Cyprus) - "The Prime Minister, Mr Keating, believes he has succeeded in giving a new direction to the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum at the group's summit meeting in Seattle next month... On Saturday, Mr Keating said in Cyprus, where he is attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, that he was confident the Seattle Summit would endorse a new direction for APEC, including a name change to the Asia Pacific Economic Community. 'APEC, first envisaged, was like a mini-OECD, an information-sharing, policy-focused organisation’, he said. 'What I think it may become is a device for pro-active liberalisation of trade, which is taking it a step further. I think we will get an endorsement of those sorts of directions at this leaders' summit’."

UNITED STATES

HERALD TRIBUNE: Growth rebounds

NEW YORK - "The American economy has finally climbed out of the doldrums and is heading toward moderate and sustainable growth, the government reported Thursday, prompting President Bill Clinton to say, 'We are moving in the right direction, and we have to stay on this course'. The Commerce Department, in its preliminary estimate, said gross domestic product grew at a rate of 2.8% a year in the third period, with inflation running at just 1.8%. The figures came close to the upper limit of the range in which economists see the American economy performing over the next few years as it overcomes the deficits of the 1980s and adjusts to the rigors of international competition... But the figures represent a definite rebound from the meager growth rates of 0.8% recorded in the first quarter and 1.9% in the second - and the government said they would have been about half a point higher without the effects of the summer’s floods in the Midwest and drought in the Southeast."

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FINANCIAL TIMES: Korea opens procurement market

"South Korea has agreed to open its government procurement market to international competition during intensive negotiations in Geneva aimed at completing the Uruguay Round of talks on world trade liberalisation. This includes the sensitive construction sector. Offers are now awaited from just 4 of the 12 countries engaged in negotiations on opening government procurement contracts to international competition: Canada, Switzerland, Singapore and Israel. As negotiators yesterday completed the latest round of procurement negotiations, they talked with increasing confidence of resolving differences ahead of the December 15 deadline for agreement on the Round."
WASHINGTON - "Japan has placed an order to buy about 15,000 tons of rice from the US, a US rice industry official said Wednesday. David Graves, head of the US Rice Millers’ Association, said the order, the first from Japan since the 1960s, was a 'good first step'. The Food Agency is to import 200,000 tons of processed rice before New Year’s, when demand for rice for holiday foods such as mochi rice cakes is particularly great. Cold summer weather caused such a poor rice harvest in Japan this year that some of the rice could be used for non-processed foods."

END-OF-TEXT