**** February 10 février 1993

**** LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: une nouvelle journée grise et maussade en perspective; températures de saison.

**** SG/PRB/D(93)27

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

ZAIRED: Le Haut Conseil de la République a rejeté mardi l’ordonnance du maréchal Mobutu déchargeant le premier ministre Étienne Tshisekedi de ses fonctions, ainsi que sa demande qu’une autre personnalité soit désignée pour former un ’gouvernement de salut public’. L’organe législatif de transition a en revanche souligné ‘la nécessité et l’urgence’ de mettre en place un gouvernement ’réaménagé’.

REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

BELGRADE - Bosnian warring factions battle for territory while international mediators wait for United States to produce own version of a peace plan.

WASHINGTON - United States warns of tragedy unfolding in Sudan of similar dimensions to that of neighbouring Somalia with hundreds of thousands of people threatened by famine.

WASHINGTON - Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe and Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi head for Washington and meetings at White House and Treasury Department as trade tensions grow between two countries.

HANOI - Vietnam wins promise of increased French aid and help in ending US embargo, but also gets lecture from French president François Mitterrand on democracy and human rights.

PHNOM PENH - Unidentified gunmen on motorcycles attack Cambodian town of Siem Reap, killing two, only days before the arrival there of French President Mitterrand.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FINANCIAL TIMES: Japan aims to ease tension with US

TOKYO - "Mr Yoshiro Hayashi, the Japanese finance minister, will try to defuse mounting trade tension with the US when he meets Mr Lloyd Bentsen, the US treasury secretary, in Washington at the weekend. Mr Hayashi is expected to relay Tokyo’s objection to US proposals to raise tariffs on minivans and multipurpose vehicles from 2.5% to 25%. Mr Yoshiro Mori, the international trade and industry minister, yesterday called on the US to act sensibly in dealing with the proposed tariff increase, and said he would be willing to travel to the US ahead of Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, to discuss various trade issues including the minivan tariffs. Mr Mori’s initiative comes as Mr Michio Watanabe, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, prepares for a 3-day visit to the US starting tomorrow. As well as the minivan issue, the Japanese are worried that they are being pushed into bilateral talks with the US on matters best dealt with through a multilateral forum such as GATT, including the opening of Japan’s rice market. Japan also believes that preliminary anti-dumping duties imposed on Japanese steel imports by the US Commerce Department undermine international efforts to work towards fair trade in steel."

REUTER: Big 3 won’t file suit against Japan

WASHINGTON - "The three biggest US carmakers said on Tuesday they would not file a dumping suit against Japanese car imports, easing a potentially volatile trade dispute for the Clinton administration. The three - General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co and Chrysler Corp. - had been considering a complaint against their Japanese rivals, claiming imports are being sold in the US at less than fair prices. ’Legal counsel have advised us that we
have a strong case under US trade law that Japanese manufacturers are dumping cars into the US market’, the companies said in a statement. But they added, ‘we have decided not to take legal action at this time’. The companies said they were encouraged by statements from the Clinton administration that it intends to address the chronic US-Japan trade imbalance. If the suit had gone forward, it would have been the largest dumping action in US history, covering most of the $45 billion a year in car imports that Japan ships to the United States.”

FINANCES

LA TRIBUNE: G7 à Londres le 27 février

PARIS - "C'est reparti. Alors que la coopération internationale piétinait depuis un an, l'élection d'un nouveau président aux Etats-Unis semble la remettre sur les rails. Le chancelier de l'Echiquier britannique, Norman Lamont, a invité les ministres des Finances et les gouverneurs des banques centrales des sept pays industrialisés le 27 février à Londres, a annoncé, hier soir, le Trésor. Cette réunion a pour objectif de parvenir à ‘un échange de vues informel sur la situation économique mondiale’, a précisé un communiqué du chancelier. Dans la matinée, le ministre français de l’Economie et des Finances, Michel Sapin, avait souligné que cette réunion répondait ‘manifestement à un souhait commun à beaucoup des pays membres du G7’. Selon lui, elle devrait être l’occasion de discuter des possibilités de coordonner le plan de relance américain que le président Bill Clinton présentera le 17 février et l’initiative de croissance européenne adoptée par la Communauté européenne. Un certain nombre de pays membres souhaiteraient néanmoins que cette relance du G7 qui comprend les Etats-Unis, le Japon, l’Allemagne, la France, le Royaume-Uni, l’Italie et le Canada, se fasse sur de nouvelles bases. Le communiqué du chancelier précise que la rencontre du 27 février ‘ne vise pas à aboutir à des décisions et ne fera pas l’objet d’un communiqué’. Le G7 version ‘années 90’ débutera peut-être à Londres."

EC

THE TIMES: EC opposed to quotas to help steel

LONDON: "Martin Bangemann, the EC industry commissioner, has told Europe’s steelmakers he opposes any re-introduction of output and delivery quotas to try to prop up the ailing industry, but may back a voluntary regime of capacity cuts. His message accompanied a report from Fernand Braun, the EC’s special steel envoy, stating that Europe’s steel-makers say the Community will have to foot a £4.8 billion bill if they are to cut 50,000 jobs and bring production in line with needs over the next 3 years. Half the job losses would be in Germany, Europe’s biggest steel producer. The steelmakers have indicated they would be willing to make capacity cuts of up to 25.8 million tonnes of crude steel and 17.9 million tonnes of rolled products, but that most of the cuts offered are ‘potential’ rather than ‘definite’ or ‘probable’. Last year, the Community produced 133 million tonnes."

OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES

REUTER: 3 million jobs short for US economy

WASHINGTON - "The US economy is currently 3 million jobs short and the Clinton administration plans to get them back, Labour Secretary Robert Reich said on Tuesday. Echoing White House concern about a weak job market despite signs that the sluggish economy is gathering strength, Reich said employers need an economic ‘jolt’ to resume hiring. ‘Employers need to be assured that the Clinton administration means business when it talks about getting the economy back on a solid footing’, he said in an interview. At this point in a recovery, Reich said, the economy should have created 3.5 million jobs since the bottom of the recession, officially pinpointed as March 1991. But by his calculation, only about a half-million jobs had been created by January, when there were 108.8 million jobs. 'So, we’re 3 million jobs short’, he said. 'The president will do whatever is necessary to get the jobs back’.

NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES

REUTER: Russian nuclear scientists flight to N. Korea

MOSCOW - "Itar-Tass news agency said on Tuesday that Russian authorities had prevented a group of nuclear weapons specialists from boarding a flight to North Korea to work on modernising Pyongyang’s
It quoted Valery Tretyakov, a security ministry official, as saying the scientists were stopped from boarding a flight from Moscow to North Korea last October. Russia had expelled two North Korean diplomats in connection with the incident, he said. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Moscow has tried to play down Western fears that low-paid Russian nuclear scientists could be tempted to sell their services to developing countries. North Korea denies any intention of producing nuclear weapons. Tretyakov said an initial group of about 10 scientists from Miass, near Chelyabinsk, had actually travelled to North Korea last year to convince themselves the project was serious. They returned to Russia and expanded their group to more than 30. In all, more than 60 people, including experts from other parts of Russia and the former Soviet republics, had discussed the project. Tretyakov did not say how many scientists had been stopped from boarding the plane at Moscow’s Sheremetyevo airport. The reason for detaining them was that Moscow was a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, he said.

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Chile’s economy roars

BUIN - "Mr Valenzuela is general manager of winemaker Vina Santa Rita, and the blueprint is the $4 million plan for Vina Carmet, a unit Santa Rita plans to spin off, float on the stock market and turn into a big exporter. Says Mr Valenzuela: 'We’re thinking big’. So is the rest of Chile, a small country with big ambitions. While attention has focused on the transformation of Mexico and the rebirth of Argentina, Chile has Latin America’s most vibrant economy, so successful that an Argentine business magazine recently ran a cover story titled ‘Chile Inc’. And while the industrialized world frets about recession and Latin America worries about debt and inflation, the talk here is of leaving the Third World behind. The first Latin American nation to undertake structural reforms, it is now savoring the fruits. Its economy grew 9.7% in 1992."