

.... October 1 Octobre 1992

.... LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Assez
beau tout au long de la journée. Vent
de sud-ouest faible. Il fera 19 .

.... SG/PRB/D(92)163

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

BRASILIA - Le transfert du pouvoir entre le président brésilien Fernando Collor et le vice-président Itamar Franco, initialement prévu pour jeudi, a été repoussé à lundi prochain à la demande de M. Franco qui souhaitait un délai de quelques jours pour former son gouvernement.

ANKARA - L'accrochage le plus meurtrier depuis août 1984 entre forces turques et rebelles séparatistes kurdes de Turquie dans le sud-est anatolien a fait mardi 203 morts, selon le Premier ministre turc Suleyman Demirel.

MANAMA - Un sérieux incident armé s'est produit mercredi à la frontière entre l'Arabie saoudite et le Qatar, faisant 3 tués et 1 blessé, selon des sources officielles à Doha et à Ryad, qui ont toutefois donné des versions différentes de l'incident, le premier entre les deux pays.

JERUSALEM - Le gouvernement israélien estime "de plus en plus urgente" une rencontre au sommet entre le Premier ministre Yitzhak Rabin et le chef de l'Etat syrien Hafez al-Assad, selon le ministre de la Santé Haïm Ramon.

PARIS - Le Premier ministre indien Narasimha Rao a achevé une visite officielle de 3 jours en France marquée par la volonté des 2 pays de donner une impulsion nouvelle à leur coopération bilatérale.

FINANCIAL TIMES: Sterling and lira under new pressure

LONDON - "Both the Italian lira and sterling came under renewed pressure against the D-Mark yesterday as tensions continued to dominate currency trading both inside and outside the European exchange rate mechanism. The lira, which was suspended from the ERM 2 weeks ago, suffered a 5.8% fall against the D-Mark after investors became increasingly concerned that the Bank of Italy would reintroduce exchange controls."

MORE ABOUT MONETARY UNION

THE INDEPENDENT: Rift with Germany reopens

LONDON/BERLIN - "A small group of European countries could proceed with monetary union, anchored on the mark, the German finance minister says in a newspaper article published today. The timing of the German intervention will infuriate British ministers, who are attempting to patch up the diplomatic row over their differences on the European exchange rate mechanism. The remarks threatened to undermine renewed efforts yesterday to restore warm relations between London and Bonn, and assurances from Paris that there were no plans for a 'mini-Europe'. The German finance ministry embarked on a rapid damage limitation exercise last night concerning remarks made by Theo Waigel, in an interview to be published today in NORDKURIER."

FINANCIAL TIMES: UK and Germany in new row over devaluation of sterling

LONDON - "Britain and Germany were last night embroiled in an extraordinary diplomatic row after an apparent attempt by the Bundesbank to set the record straight over its role in sterling's devaluation misfired. A statement by Mr Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, which was made available to the FINANCIAL TIMES through the German Embassy in London, brought relations between the UK Treasury and the German central bank to a new low. In his statement, Mr Schelesinger insisted that he had not undermined sterling in the controversial interview he gave to HANDELSBLATT, the German business daily, in the week that the pound was

forced to quit the ERM... Last night the Treasury attacked the German disclosures as a breach of confidential communications between the German and UK governments."

THE TIMES: Scottish bank chief attacks ERM rules

"The ERM contained the seeds of its own destruction, and most lending bankers 'breathed a sigh of relief' when sterling was forced to pull out last month, one of Britain's top commercial bankers claimed yesterday. Bruce Pattullo, the governor and chief executive of the Bank of Scotland, made the comments the day after Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, emphasised the importance of exchange-rate targets in the battle against inflation in a speech in London. The remarks from Mr Pattullo, who was last year voted Britain's most highly respected banker and has been tipped as a 'dark horse' possible successor to Mr Leigh-Pemberton, were seen as unusually outspoken for a banker normally regarded as the embodiment of understated presbyterian caution."

OECD REPORT ON MEXICO

REUTER: OECD likes Mexico, but won't let it join just yet

PARIS - "The OECD praised Mexico on Thursday for turning round its economy over the past decade, but officials of the think-tank for the world's richest countries were non-committal about when it might join their organisation. Mexico has been lobbying for some time to become a member, and an OECD report published on Thursday was a way for the organisation to get to know it better, OECD head of economic studies Stephen Potter told a news conference. Its study said Mexico had undergone a remarkable transformation, from a mainly rural, commodity-exporting country in 1940 to the world's thirteenth largest economic power today. 'As of 1992, Mexico's per capita income - measured at purchasing power parity - is in the range of that of the lower-income OECD countries, such as Greece, Portugal and Turkey', it said."

FINANCIAL TIMES: OECD sees sharp growth for Mexico

"Mexico should enjoy single-digit annual inflation and growth of 5 to 6% through the mid-1990s, although a widening current account deficit presents risks to the economy, according to a survey from the OECD. A survey published today, the first by the Paris-based organisation of industrialised nations for a non-member country outside eastern Europe, says that the deficit - expected to widen to \$16.2bn this year - 'could once again become difficult to finance'. At 5% of GDP, the deficit exceeds that recorded at the onset of the debt crisis in 1982, although, unlike then, it is not a result of government borrowing... The OECD said its analysis underlines the importance of policies to encourage savings. Unless savings recover, investment might have to be scaled back, jeopardising the recovery programme... The survey is a reflection of increased co-operation between Mexico and the OECD. The Mexican government hopes this will result in its membership of the organisation."

RUSSIA

FINANCIAL TIMES: Russia begins big industrial sell-off

MOSCOW - "The world's biggest privatisation, the sale of nearly 70% of Russia's productive capacity, officially begins today with the first issue of Rbs10,000 vouchers to the country's 150m men, women and children. Mr Anatoly Chubais, the deputy prime minister in charge of privatisation, said in an interview yesterday that the privatisation 'is unprecedented in the history of Russia and perhaps in the history of the world. There has never been such a campaign to open up our economy, to our people and to foreigners'."

CEE/ETATS-UNIS

LES ECHOS: Soja: l'Europe temporise, Washington s'impatiente

GENEVE - "Les Etats-Unis ont lancé, hier, un ultimatum à la CEE dans le conflit sur les oléagineux, qui continuait à faire l'objet de discussions bilatérales en marge du conseil du GATT. Washington a fixé à aujourd'hui midi le délai donné à la CEE pour accepter un arbitrage contraignant du GATT sur le montant des compensations communautaires dues aux autres pays producteurs de soja, pour corriger les distorsions commerciales créées par les subventions de la CEE à ses producteurs, a indiqué hier l'ambassadeur américain au GATT, Rufus Yerxa. Il a d'ailleurs ajouté que la Communauté

n'accepterait 'probablement' pas cette exigence."

ECONOMIES OCDE

France

AFP: Le budget 1993 parie sur la reprise économique

PARIS - "Après des pertes de recettes considérables en 1992, et alors que l'activité ne devrait repartir que dans le courant de l'an prochain, le budget 1993 est l'un des plus difficiles que la gauche ait eu à boucler depuis 1981. Ce budget se donne pour objectif 'd'accélérer la modernisation de l'économie au moment de l'ouverture du Grand Marché européen tout en poursuivant l'effort de solidarité'. Il se solde par un déficit accru en 1993, à 165,4 mrds de francs (soit 2,2% du PIB) et une charge de la dette plus lourde, à 170 mrds de FF. Echaudé par les résultats décevants de 1991, le gouvernement a retenu une hypothèse de croissance qu'il qualifie de raisonnable (2,6%), correspondant en tous cas aux prévisions de juin de l'OCDE (2,6%) et à celles plus récentes du FMI (2,7%). Toutefois, il faudra pour cela que se réalisent les 3 postulats du ministère de l'Economie: reprise aux Etat-Unis (+3%), remontée du dollar (5,50 FF en moyenne sur 1993 contre 4,73FF mercredi) et détente monétaire en Allemagne, grâce à la modération des hausses salariales."

Italy

REUTER: Cabinet approves tough 1993 budget

ROME - "Italy's 4-party coalition approved on Thursday a tough 1993 budget after a heated 10-hour debate that went on through the night. Labour Minister Nino Cristofori told reporters the decision had been taken unanimously. After disagreements on spending cuts prolonged the meeting, the cabinet missed a midnight (2300 GMT) constitutional deadline for presenting the budget to parliament, but political sources said this would not create a problem. No details of the budget package were immediately released, but officials had earlier said Prime Minister Giuliano Amato was searching for 60 trillion lire (\$49bn) in extra savings, mainly through cuts in capital spending. The government is expected to hold news conferences later on Thursday to explain its plans."

Japan

FINANCIAL TIMES: Housing starts lift Japanese gloom

TOKYO - "Housebuilding in Japan, one of the few bright spots in an otherwise gloomy economy, recorded a 12% increase in housing starts in August against a year earlier. It was the third consecutive monthly increase, according to figures published by the Ministry of Construction. August's rise was the biggest since March 1988 when the economy was in the midst of a property boom. However, overall construction orders placed in August fell 5.8 from the year before, led by a 38.7% fall in orders from the private sector, according to the Japan Federation of Construction Contractors."

END-OF-TEXT