March 9 Mars 1992

LE TEMPS - Région parisienne: Retour
d’un beau temps ensoleillé malgré quelques passages nuageux. Il fera 12.

SGE/PRB/D(92)46

AFP: LE MONDE EN BREF

JERUSALEM - M. Menahem Begin, l’ancien Premier ministre israëlien, est décédé, dans la nuit de dimanche à lundi, à l’âge de 78 ans, à l’hôpital Ichilov de Tel Aviv.

BELGRADE - Le général indien Satish Nambiar, commandant les casques bleus de la FORPRONU, est arrivé dimanche à Belgrade, se déclarant "déterminé à réussir" alors qu’"aucun obstacle ne s’oppose plus au déclenchement de l’opération de paix des Nations Unies".

PARIS - Les Etats-Unis, qui surveillent depuis février les mouvements d’un navire nord-coréen qu’ils soupçonnent de transporter des missiles sol-sol Scud vers l’Iran, ont haussé le ton à la fin de cette semaine, menaçant de l’arraisonner s’il ne changeait pas de cap.

CARSON CITY - L’ancien gouverneur de Californie Jerry Brown a remporté dimanche les "caucus" démocrates du Nevada avec 37% des votes devant à Bill Clinton (26%) et Paul Tsongas (18%).

TOKYO - Le parti libéral démocrate (PLD-au pouvoir au Japon), éclaboussé par 2 scandales politico-financiers, a perdu dimanche une élection sénatoriale partielle organisée dans la préfecture de Miyagi (nord du Japon).

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LE NOUVEAU GOUVERNEMENT BELGE

LA TRIBUNE: Trois défis

BRUXELLES - "Le social-chrétien flamand Jean-Luc Dehaene, nommé vendredi Premier ministre par le roi Baudoin, a formé un gouvernement aux effectifs réduits qui succède à celui de Wilfrid Martens. S’adossant sur la même fragile coalition que le détenteur du record de longévité à la tête d’un Etat de la CEE (plus de 12 ans), Jean-Luc Dehaene a promis de s’attaquer ‘en priorité’ aux 3 défis que la Belgique n’est pas parvenue à relever ces 10 dernières années: une dette publique la plus élevée d’Europe, une dégradation sociale qui a fortement accru l’audience des partis d’extrême droite et un affrontement culturel rémanent entre communautés wallonne et flamande."

FINANCIAL TIMES: No post for Martens

BRUSSELS - "Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene has been sworn in to succeed Mr Wilfried Martens, western Europe’s longest-serving leader, at the head of Belgium’s centre-left government. After he and 15 other members of a slimmed-down cabinet were sworn into office by King Baudouin at the weekend, Mr Dehaene, 51, said he had tried, but failed, to find a ministerial post for his fellow-Flemish Christian Democrat and long-time mentor, Mr Martens. He had faced opposition from his party rank and file which wanted a change after the 8 Martens’ governments over the past 13 years... Little change is generally expected from a ruling coalition containing the same 4 French and Flemish-speaking Christian Democrat and socialist parties as its predecessor. Now Belgium has a proper government for the first time since November 24, Air France’s acquisition of a stake in Sabena, the Belgian state carrier, is likely."

REFORM AND CIVIL STRIKE IN THE CIS

HERALD TRIBUNE: Free prices for bread, milk, sugar

MOSCOW - "Russia freed the prices of bread, milk, sugar and other staples over the weekend in another blow to a population already hit hard by president Boris N. Yeltsin’s economic program. A decree signed by Mr. Yeltsin removed remaining price controls on bread, milk, fermented milk, cottage cheese, sugar, salt, cooking oil and matches... A loaf of white
bread last week was selling for 4.20 rubles—7 times the pre-Jan. 2 price... One indication of the food situation, the newspaper ZHIZN reported Sunday, is that Moscow street traders have begun selling unsuspecting customers meat from dogs and cats, with city authorities powerless to crack down on the illegal trade... Following Saturday’s decree, only a few price controls will remain—on rents, medicines, baby food and some utilities."

LES ECHOS: L’Arménie prise en tenailles

"La petite république d’Arménie est menacée depuis quelques jours de ne plus avoir accès à la mer Noire. Le président turc Turgut Özal a laissé entendre que la Turquie pourrait ainsi ‘donner une leçon’ aux Arméniens... Depuis l’effondrement de l’URSS, Ankara multiplie les tentatives pour s’imposer en tant que partenaire économique privilégié de ces républiques. Mettant en avant sa situation géographique, la Turquie espère devenir l’intermédiaire obligé entre les hommes d’affaires occidentaux, peu à l’aise avec les traditions d’Asie centrale, et des républiques qui se sentent isolées du reste de la CEI dont le point de gravité semble souvent se situer entre Moscou, Minsk et Kiev... Ankara a également lancé l’initiative d’un marché commun de la mer Noire, qui en regroupe les 9 pays riverains (Turquie, Bulgarie, Roumanie, Moldavie, Ukraine, Russie, Géorgie, Arménie et Azerbaïdjan)."

Herald Tribune: Nuclear scientists hired at cut rate

NEW YORK - "The US government is hiring more than 100 scientists from Russia to help America harness the vast energy of nuclear fusion... It is the first known case in which the government has tapped Russia’s scientific talent, although private industry has already done so. Russian scientists can now be hired for a pittance by Western standards. In a one-year contract worth $90,000, the United States will buy the services of 116 Russian scientists. This amount comes to only $65 a month per scientist, but it equals 6,500 rubles a month, or more than 7 times the unofficial national average monthly wage of 900 rubles. The fusion research is to be done by scientists at the Jurchatov Institute of Atomic Energy in Moscow on a type of fusion reactor known as a Tokamak, and the findings are to be sent to the United States."

AID AND TRADE

Herald Tribune: Japan wants strings on aid

TOKYO - "Japan, no longer content to bankroll aid programs without a say in development policies, is stepping up its criticism of World Bank lending strategies and setting the stage for conflict with the United States. With self-confidence drawn from their own experience in building an economic superpower from the rubble of World War II, Tokyo officials are calling on the World Bank and other multilateral lending bodies to adopt policies that give governments a bigger role in developing their economies. That approach runs counter to the laissez-faire strategies pursued by the World Bank and championed by Washington... The emergence of a more independent Japanese voice on development policy reflects not only Japan’s increased financial muscle, but also the end of the Cold War and the US economic decline, changes that have propelled the aid policy debate into a new phase."

Financial Times: OECD forges compromise

PARIS — "The OECD has forged a compromise over the transition to tough new rules intended to stop aid funds being mixed with commercial loans to help exporters win contracts. The compromise, which emerged last week, is expected to defuse a row between the US and Spain over 2 unusually large Spanish credit lines to Mexico and Venezuela which were rushed through before curbs on mixing aid with commercial credits came into force on February 15... OECD efforts to eliminate ‘mixed credits’, in which governments cheapen the cost of loans for projects in target markets by mixing aid funds with pure commercial credits, have made significant progress."

The Times: Aerospace execs to save GATT

BRUSSELS — "European community aerospace executives and Martin Bangemann, the European commissioner for industry, have discussed a seemingly far-fetched plan that could ease tensions between the Community and America through a trade-off involving aerospace and agricultural subsidies. Officials from AECMA, the industry grouping of 9 of the Community’s largest aerospace concerns, have suggested that if Germany can
be persuaded to back the call by Arthur Dunkel, the secretary general of the GATT, for 36% subsidy cuts in the common agricultural policy, then the American authorities might drop their complaint over Airbus subsidies, which is lodged with a special GATT committee."

THE INDEPENDENT: Virgin to fight British Airways

LONDON - "Richard Branson is poised for a rapid expansion of his airline, Virgin Atlantic, that will launch it into head-on competition with British Airways around the world. His ambitious plans follow last week’s sale of the Virgin music business to Thorn EMI, which leaves him with £300m in cash to reinvest in his businesses. Expansion will involve more than doubling Virgin’s fleet of aircraft from 8 to about 18 over the next 3 years, and launching 6 new services to large cities in the US and the Far East. A service to Johannesburg is likely to begin later this year... With Virgin’s expansion focusing on some of the world’s most lucrative routes there will be concern at BA which, despite its size, derives most of its profit from a few large markets such as the north Atlantic... There is already bitter rivalry between Virgin and BA, with Mr Branson accusing the larger airline of conducting a dirty tricks campaign against him."

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END-OF-TEXT