

Hommages aux Victimes de l'attentat à Madrid

Genève, la Suisse

La douleur ressentie par les Madrilènes suite aux attentats ayant eu lieu jeudi matin était présente au caucus de l'UNESCO hier. « Nous pouvons nous mettre à la place des Madrilènes parce que nous avons également subi les répercussions insensés et tragiques des terroristes. De la part de tous les Géorgiens, nos cœurs sont avec toutes les familles des victimes », disait Mme. Marianna Tsenokos, la déléguée de Georgie pendant la réunion de l'UNESCO.

Bien que le groupe responsable pour les dix bombes ayant tués 199 personnes de douze nationalités n'ait pas encore été déterminé, M. Rafaël St. Pierre, délégué de l'Espagne voulait exprimer qu'il faut faire attention pour ne pas mettre la responsabilité à un groupe non-coupable.

Le comité UNESCO a fait une pause pour rendre hommage aux 1430 victimes des événements du 11 mars dernier.

« On est très touché par le soutien moral des gens. C'était un attentat contre la démocratie », disait M. St. Pierre. « La voie de la diplomatie est toujours préférable. »♦

South American Services



Reuters

Tribute to the Victims of Madrid's Bomb Attacks

Geneva, Switzerland

The pain felt by Madrid's inhabitants following Thursday's bomb attacks was also present at the UNESCO Caucus yesterday. "We can understand the pain felt by the people of Madrid since we have also suffered horror and tragic terrorist attacks in the past. From all Georgians, our heart is with the victims' families" said Marianna Tsenokos, Georgian UNESCO Ambassador. Even though the group responsible for the ten bombs that killed 199 persons from 12 different countries has not yet been identified, Mr. Rafaël St-Pierre, Ambassador from Spain, expressed that UNESCO must be careful not to point out a group that, after all, might not be responsible for the attacks. The UNESCO Committee paused for a moment of silence to pay tribute to the 1450 casualties of the March 11th events.

"We are very touched by people's moral support. It was an attack against Democracy" said Mr. St-Pierre. "The ways of diplomacy are always preferable."

South American Services

Corruption Not So Scandalous

New York, USA

The Second Committee of the General Assembly has tackled the potentially divisive issue of corruption with surprising ease. Many working papers on the floor suggest innovative, albeit ambitious, solutions to government corruption. These ideas include establishing a global body which would monitor all transactions by governments, and a "transparency project" in which developing agencies would be rewarded "both financially and politically" if they made their accounts public. These ideas however may be unreasonable as some nations feel they cannot make private transactions public. Also, some countries have meekly mentioned that their needs "might not be addressed," but they are not necessarily getting much attention. ♦



African Press

Surveillance Américaine Accrue au Large de la Corée du Nord

Washington, États-Unis

Le Conseil de Sécurité des États-Unis vient récemment d'annoncer un renforcement des forces armées navales et aériennes aux abords des côtes de la péninsule nord-coréenne. Cette mesure est prise suite à l'observation accrue « d'actions suspectes » dont la nature n'a pu être confirmée par le chef du personnel du président, M. Andrew Card, tenu sous le couvert du secret militaire. Cela survient au lendemain de la campagne diplomatique menée par le Dr. Condoleezza Rice en Asie du Pacifique, dans le but de rallier les pays concernés aux politiques anti-nucléaires défendues par les États-Unis.

On pourrait par conséquent émettre l'hypothèse d'un rapprochement plausible entre agissements nord-coréens et activité nucléaire, lequel rapprochement n'a bien entendu pu être confirmé par M. Card. L'opération américaine à caractère pacifique, ayant nécessité la collaboration des forces japonaises et australiennes ainsi que celle du gouvernement sud-coréen, est menée sérieusement en regard de « la menace potentielle » que les agissements nord-coréens représentent pour la nation américaine. Le cabinet de la Corée du Nord à quant à lui refusé d'émettre tout commentaire concernant le sujet. ♦

Asie-Presse

Long-Term Poverty Alleviation through Education: Economic Commission for Latino America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Ottawa, Canada

It was affirmed by the majority of ECLAC members that education is key to establishing a long-term plan for poverty reduction. Speaking for the South American block, the delegate from Ecuador commented that a comprehensive system must be developed by ECLAC and the Inter-American Development Bank "Education is the means to restore human dignity and confidence, while illiteracy is the root cause of all poverty-related problems," said the Columbian delegate. Debt relief would be awarded to countries investing in socioeconomic sectors such as education, prevention of HIV/AIDS, eradication of corruption, and methods of dealing with natural disasters. Education and the inter-country transfer of technical know-how are seen as key to sustainable development and eventual self-sufficiency as FDI decreases unemployment. Funding is expected from the US, the EU, and 5% of the GDP of each member country. A transparent working group in the form of an international supervisory body consisting of local representatives that would be accountable to ECLAC was suggested to prevent corruption. ♦

South American Services



United States' Character Called Into Question

New York, USA

Yesterday the United States was described as "unilateral and manipulative" by Poland and Austria for its conduct in the First Committee of the General Assembly, amidst charges of "financial bribery." When asked to comment on this, the US declared its great success with nations that share similar objectives. The US is working cooperatively with Russia, China, Afghanistan, South Korea, Israel, Canada and Denmark, all of which have played positive consultative roles in the negotiations involving small arms and light weapons. Canada has been praised as a "builder of bridges, strengthening relations" between nations.

The US defended its interests by demonstrating its inclination towards bilateralism, not unilateralism as Poland had previously stated. The US has clearly achieved much success with many bilateral agreements in the First Committee. Claims made in a critical vein are ungrounded as the Americans continue to work bilaterally and in some respects multilaterally, as was acknowledged in a statement to the press yesterday afternoon. ♦

North American Times



IMF Responds to Haitian Revolution

Washington, USA

The International Monetary Fund discussed how to help Latin America's most impoverished country yesterday now that there has been a revolution and a new government established.

After a request from Haiti's new President Guy Philippe for help to "strengthen our own economy so we can compete in the international economy," the IMF decided to give the new government \$12 million dollars. The question that arose from this, however, was how this money is to be distributed.

The three areas where Haiti requested aid were the banking system, the agriculture and industrial initiatives and the elimination of the black market. The IMF discussed distributing the money equally among these three areas, although Haiti requested money specifically to boost their tourism and legitimate trade, which would in turn combat the black market.

The aid is unlikely to go far, however, as Haiti has \$361 million in expenditures versus \$273 million in revenues as well as \$2.1 billion in debt. ♦

African Press



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