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WARN WARNING: TOPIC: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL

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SUBJ SUBJ: TAKE 2 OF 2--European Press Review for 24 April

REF REF: 1. EUP2001042400025 Caversham BBC Monitoring in English
24 Apr 01 ///Djukanovic's narrow victory.

SOUR SOURCE: Caversham BBC Monitoring in English 24 Apr 01

TEXT TEXT:

The daily speaks about a Pyrrhic victory which signals a great deal of trouble ahead for the Balkans.

If Montenegro goes independent, it says, all other separatist movements and undercurrents so typical for the Balkans might emerge. Yugoslavia will cease to exist and so will its president, Vojislav Kostunica, on whom Western politicians have pinned their hopes.

Thus, PRACA warns, the Western politicians who used to back Djukanovic's separatism "are reaping the benefits of what they sowed, for in the new situation which has come about in the Balkans, the division of Yugoslavia could have fatal consequences".

Mr fix-it?

Ahead of the presentation by the French government on Tuesday of new "measures aimed at tightening up the economic legislation", notably regarding redundancies in a context of big job loss announcements, the daily LIBERATION carries a cartoon of Jospin which covers two-thirds of its front page, headlined: "Redundancies: Jospin fixes the prices".

It shows the prime minister surrounded by huge taps, bearing the names of big companies - such as Marks and Spencer, Danone and Dim - which have recently announced closing plans in France. People are pouring from the taps into a large protesting crowd that a barefooted and unsteady Jospin is attempting to cross.

Taking the biscuit in Hungary

The Budapest daily MAGYAR HIRLAP reflects on what it calls "perhaps Hungary's first close encounter with globalization", the planned closure of an otherwise profitable local biscuit factory by the French multinational food group Danone.

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The problem's global nature is also reflected by the fact that Hungary is not alone with its problem, Danone has also announced similar closures in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Italy, the paper says.

Referring to the old traditions of the Hungarian biscuit factory "as part of the national culture", the paper says: "the plan might be justified in business terms, but certainly not in social terms".

In the light of large-scale protests by employees and sympathetic consumers, the paper even questions the business rationale behind the decision:

"It is doubtful whether the outrage will not have a fatal impact on Danone".

* UFO sector in recession

At a time when international groups such as Danone and Mark and Spencer have announced closing plans which have given rise to strong protests in France, the French LE FIGARO decries another closure, but in Britain this time.

* "The very official British Flying Saucer Bureau has stopped its celestial activities after half of a century at the service of *UFOs," the paper says in a kind of pamphlet on today's world.

"But, this time, profits have nothing to do with it. It is the aliens who are to blame and even French Communist Leader Robert Hue is powerless against that," it continues with the same hit of irony.

* "One must know that the flying saucer sector is in recession," it says, quoting figures: "The 1,500 ufologists working for the *Bureau used to report about 30 UFOs a year and today? Nothing, nothing at all!".

According to the head of the Bureau, the reason is probably that "our cousins from 'overplanets' have finished their scientific programme of exploration".

[Description of Source: Caversham BBC Monitoring in English --]

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