- On Oct. 10, Mexico raised the price of staples—beans, rice, eggs, and cooking oil—by 50%!
- IMF-imposed rises in the price of beef, rice, and beans in the Dominican Republic have forced most of the population to give up the national dish of rice, meat, and beans. The price of beans has gone up nearly 1,000% over the last year, while beef is out of the reach of most people. The population is increasingly shifting to pasta, which is cheaper, but much lower in protein.
- Starvation conditions are already predominant in Bolivia, the one nation of the continent which has declared a unilateral debt moratorium on the premise that it will not pay its debt when it can't feed its people. Bolivia has been under a credit cutoff since May 30, when it declared the moratorium on its $4.3 billion in debt. No agreement can be expected in the near future. Rumors are circulating that the creditor banks are preparing to block and seize Bolivian accounts—pending agreement from the Reagan administration.

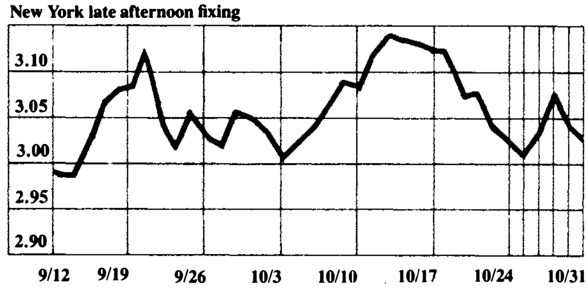
On Oct. 31, milk producers in Venezuela announced that there has been a 40% drop in milk sales since the price was increased a month or two ago. Malaria in the southern and eastern regions is now resulting in deaths. There were 200 cases last year in the state of Bolivar, and 2,279 this year—and more deaths. Eradication programs for the malaria-carrying mosquito were eliminated in 1981, *for budget reasons.*

The screws are also being tightened on Peru, already under siege from the Nazi-Communist Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) gang. Peru has been unable to meet IMF conditions, and hasn't paid interest since July. Up until Oct. 30, the government was carrying out mini-devaluations; on that day, it reduced the currency value by 2.6%. On Nov. 2, gas prices were raised in Peru, and the desperate Belaunde government is now talking about asking the banks to be allowed to pay Peru's debt of $13 billion *in commodities.* This is precisely the colonialist demand to seize control over developing countries' raw materials to which Colombian President Betancur alluded in his Oct. 30 statements to Thorn.

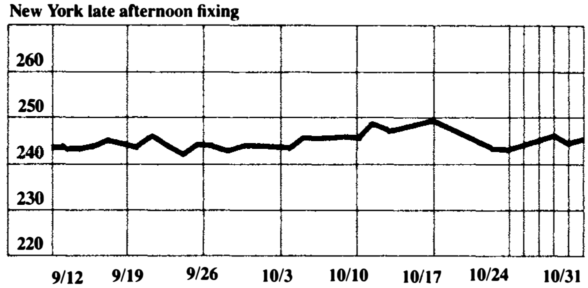
In Colombia, where informal IMF conditionalities are in place, President Betancur is under extreme pressure to adopt an emergency economic program including the IMF's conditionalities. In a memo deliberately "leaked" to the press—and then backed publicly by all of the country's dope mafia-linked "business" circles—Finance Minister Roberto Junguito stated that the country is "facing its gravest crisis of the last 50 years. There is a crisis in the state's finances, in the foreign sectors, and in the financial sector, which make it urgent that solutions be found. The principal conclusion is that it is urgent for the country to adopt measures that imply sufficiently broad adjustments in the fiscal and monetary orderings to avoid a total erosion of its international reserves by the beginning of 1985, a monetary flood and uncontrolled inflation." The International Institute of Economics, a private pro-IMF think-tank, has diagnosed Colombia's problems as stemming from the fact that the drug market is "in recession along with the real economy."

Currency Rates

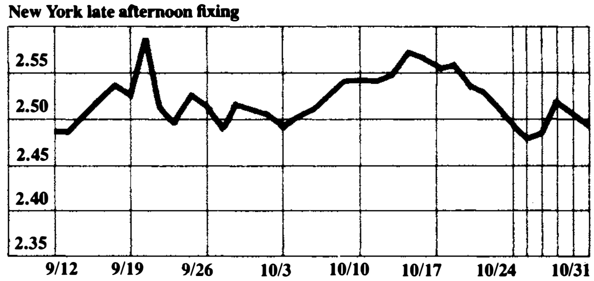
The dollar in deutschemarks
New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in yen
New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs
New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars
New York late afternoon fixing