

already foreseen average price drops for the current fiscal year of around 7%, and for farms concentrated on grain production, cutbacks of up to 17%, even before the EC summit in Brussels. That alone was already far more than most West German farms can endure.

The Italian government pronounced itself satisfied with the Brussels accord, but farmers are gravely worried, particularly the small Italian farmers with under 15 hectares of land, so far exempt from the measures, but waiting for the ax to fall. The World Wildlife Fund, stronghold of the European aristocracy, is jumping for joy. In a signed article in *Corriere della Sera* of Jan. 30, Italian WWF president Fulco Pratesi proclaims he would like to "freeze" 2 million hectares in Italy alone, which would amount to 20% of overall grain production.

What about the Guillaume Plan?

There was not a word in Brussels of the plan of French Agriculture Minister François Guillaume, which envisions an increase in the prices of the international market rather than an adjustment of EC prices to those of the international market.

Thus, while the French-proposed Guillaume Plan calls for confronting the financial interests and their agents from the food and agricultural cartels, by proposing to reorganize world markets on the basis of a parity price, the French government capitulated, in practice, to these same interests, which—via Brussels—are pushing a systematic policy of lowering prices.

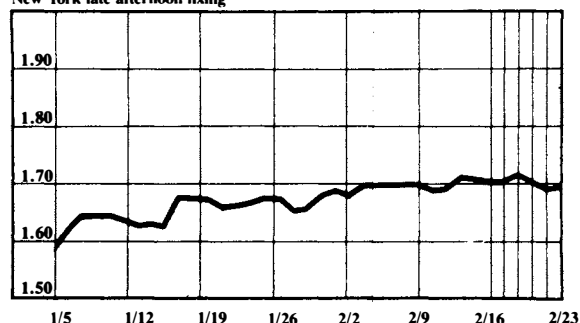
In a news broadcast on Feb. 15 by Vatican Radio, the personal views of Pope John Paul II were expressed during a renewed plea for the "New Marshall Plan" of Guillaume. The program stressed Japanese support for the initiative, following the last visit of President François Mitterrand to Japan. Maurice Halff, the postwar high commissioner responsible for implementing the original Marshall Plan in the French zone, then defended the Guillaume initiative from a recent sardonic attack in the French press. Halff said: "We must recall that the last grain sale to the U.S.S.R. was concluded at 450 francs per ton, while the average price is 1,250 francs. This is what measures the enormity of the mess and the absurdity of a situation where, in the face of the famine of millions of human beings, the mass of surplus grain piles up, which cannot be sold without breaking the price. François Guillaume rejects this dilemma. To get out of it, he requires a return to the practice of the 'just price' and the allocation of the supplementary sums collected in this manner to the cause of the Third World. Again it is necessary that the political will of the great exporting or purchasing nations be affirmed, brought together by a common action in an accepted discipline."

This article was based on reports by Marion Peretti in Italy, Christophe Lavernhe in Paris, and Rosa Tennenbaum in West Germany, and was written by EIR staff writers.

Currency Rates

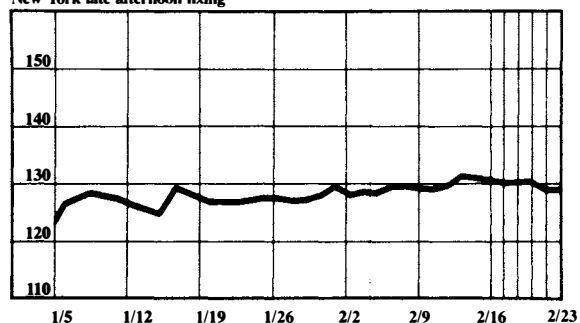
The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



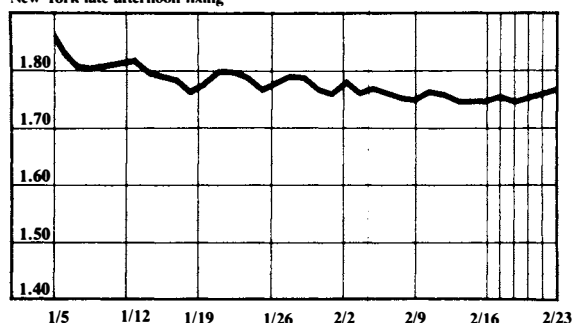
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

