

EIR: What do you think of the way in which the foreign press, particularly the U.S. press, describes the Cardenista movement in Mexico as leftist?

Muñoz Ledo: I have spoken with U.S. experts, and they tell me that it is new, that it is over the last month or less, and that it is deliberate, calling us "leftists," "leftists," "leftists," "leftists."

EIR: To what purpose?

Muñoz Ledo: To discredit us. I said it in the Senate, commenting on Jesús González Schmall [the PAN senatorial candidate who challenged Muñoz Ledo's victory] who virtually accused us of being communists. I said that he was following the editorial line of the major U.S. newspapers. That when democracy stems from the PAN, Hurray! Hurray! Hurray! But when it comes from a nationalist force, then they no longer like democracy.

It is the great Reaganite trap. Reagan fell into a huge trap, for lack of reasoning and due to an excess of arrogance in believing that one could . . . impose on Latin America a neoliberal economy, forcing it to pay the debt, punishing wages, halting production, and triggering recession while at the same time believing that one could encourage democratization. . . .

There is an incompatibility between the attempt to win economic hegemony and the attempt to win political hegemony, that can already be seen. The more Reagan forced his hand in economic matters, the more he spoke of democratization, the more a nationalist and progressive democratization emerged. Throughout Latin America the nationalist and popular forces are winning. But despite the fact that the party of Rodrigo Borja in Ecuador calls itself Democratic Left, they don't call it "leftist." . . . Despite the fact that Jaime Paz Zamora in Bolivia has been a member of the left for 25 years, they don't call him "leftist." They call us "leftists." . . .

EIR: Regarding Kissinger, what do you think of his recent commentary about Salinas?

Muñoz Ledo: Well, that he should love him very much.

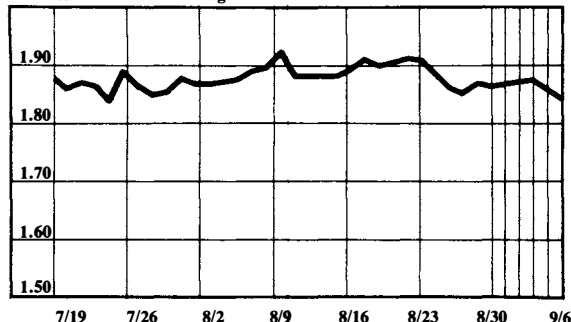
EIR: But do you believe that the banks have the luxury of giving Salinas a respite in debt payment, for political purposes?

Muñoz Ledo: For the banks it is not a luxury. It is a necessity. It is an enormous problem for the international banking system to continue financing unpayable debts. It is much better to turn them into non-performing assets, with the support of the international financial institutions and of governments, something we proposed seven years ago at the U.N., which is approved in all the resolutions, and which they haven't wanted to do because of the stupidity of the Baker Plan, which is nothing but a way of using the debt for political ends.

Currency Rates

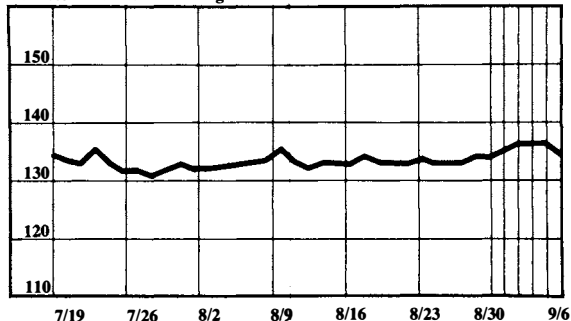
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



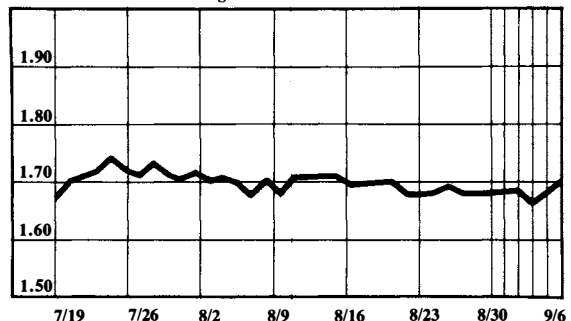
The dollar in yen

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

