

consumer supply situation. That marginal, artificial improvement was sustained through the Nov. 2-4 Thatcher visit. The bubble has now burst, and with it the Polish regime's ability to alleviate the worst winter supply situation since the first, desperate postwar years. As November runs its course, every item that vanishes from the store shelves will remain unavailable throughout the winter. There are no longer any reserves.

Also during November, the meager stocks of heating fuel will have been largely consumed, thus adding to the grim food picture the specter of freezing apartments in the bitter cold Polish winter.

Thus, by December, intelligence sources anticipate food marches, protests, riots, and plundering by desperately hungry families.

Polish women and housewives, says sources, will be in the forefront of these demonstrations. Any move by the regime to violently suppress such women's marches, would be sufficient to bring the entire country into full revolt.

Moscow prepares invasion plans

Moscow has been preparing for the eventuality of invading Poland to save its puppets, "restore order," and keep Poland a captive nation. At the end of September, following the huge "Autumn '88" Soviet-Warsaw Pact maneuvers in the Ukraine and Moldavia, the Soviet ground and air forces stationed in Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Belorussian Military District—ringing Poland—staged simultaneous large-scale maneuvers.

Soviet military contingency plans have been worked out by a team led by Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, now directing the Western High Command, under which the Western Theater of War is subsumed. The last Soviet public reference to Ogarkov occurred in the Oct. 13 edition of the military paper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*. Ogarkov was mentioned as present as an active officer at the Oct. 12 Moscow ceremonies on the 45th anniversary of the Russian-created Polish armed forces. (The Soviets had butchered the Polish officer corps at Katyn in 1943.)

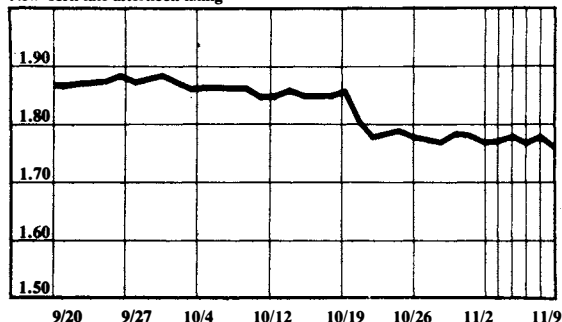
Once the December crisis hits with full force, the threat of a Soviet military intervention will become acute. The Polish regime knows it cannot handle an actual revolt, and would issue a call for "brotherly socialist assistance" from Russia. Soviet military preparations for an invasion have been completed, and Moscow would require at most 48 hours' notice to commence an invasion from two directions; marching west from the Western U.S.S.R. Military Districts and the Baltic, and marching east from the Soviet forces stationed in East Germany, joining the Soviet forces based in western Poland.

The first major strategic test for President-elect George Bush will thus probably occur even before his Jan. 20 inauguration, confronting him with the fact that he is morally responsible for the fate of 40 million Poles and the continent of Europe.

Currency Rates

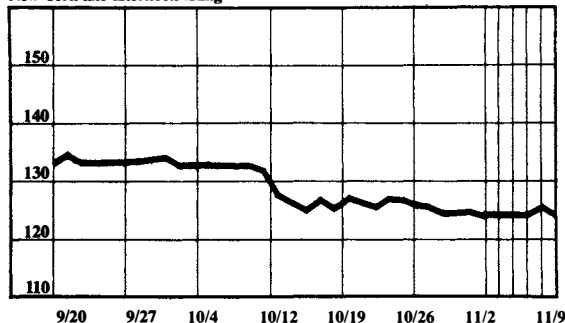
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



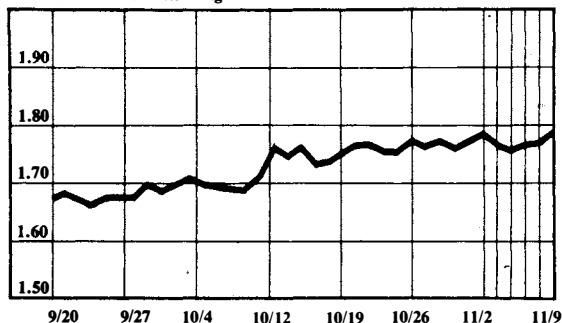
The dollar in yen

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

