

provided for in Articles 656, 657, 658, and 661 of the Penal Code. Such was also the explicit will of the Legislator expressed in the already cited Law No. 191 of May 18, 1978.

We have, however, traced a body of case law relevant to crimes conforming to those foreseen in Article 501 and 501b. In this case, too, the will of the Legislator is clear, which, differently from what is foreseen in Article 293 of the abrogated Code, has in the new code anticipated consummation of the crime to the phase of conduct—in the specific case, the spreading of instrumental reports apt to disrupt the availability of commodities and their market prices; considering the production of actual effects, by malice or guilt, as an aggravating circumstance.

Agiotage

In regard to the configuration of the crime of “agiotage,” [speculating on the rise and fall of the public debt or public funds—ed.] the Supreme Penal Court in a ruling of July 9, 1980 stated that it “is identified in the safeguarding of the public interest . . . both that prices be formed by natural mechanism of economic forces, and by virtue of the control of the Public Administration.” Upsetting of prices owing to the abandonment of preventive chemical practices in agriculture, caused by reports that constitute, among other things, the hypothesis of the crime foreseen in Articles 656 CP and analogous ones, would be such as to have repercussions on the balance of payments, the national currency, the stock market, hence configuring broadly also the cases of Articles 501 and 501b of the Penal Code.

The law by which the spreading of reports constitutes the crime of agiotage was reaffirmed, implicitly and *a contrariis*, with the ruling of the Supreme Penal Court of Jan. 29, 1979, whose ruling reads:

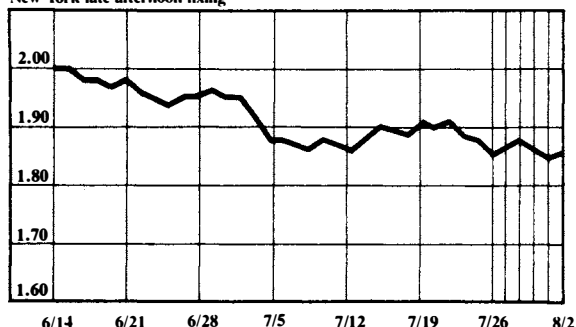
The grounds of the crime of agiotage foreseen by Art. 501 PC are not fulfilled by the mere communication of false reports to one or more certain persons, inasmuch as the law incriminates exclusively the conduct of publishing or spreading such reports.

All this is put forward by the present petitioners Fiorella Operto, president of the Schiller Institute Giorgio Prinzi, responsible editor of *Nuova Solidarieta*, and others, all convinced in full good faith that in the conduct denounced by them of the abovementioned Paolo Gentiloni, Silvia Zamboni, Tiziana Urbani, Paolo Galletti, Anna Donati, Sergio Ferraris, Vincenzo Caffarelli, Cristina Grandi, G. Conigliaro, Eugenio Cialfa, Aida Turrini, Giovanni Valentini, Carlo Carlucci, Lorenzo Soria, and Giuseppe Fadda the grounds are confirmed for the hypotheses of criminality above delineated—and that this is also in conformity with the opinions expressed by qualified Legal operatives—they appeal to Your Lordship such that in your capacity of Titular Officer for Penal Action you may in fact determine whether and to what degree the cited subjects indicated by us have incurred the penal culpability in point.

Currency Rates

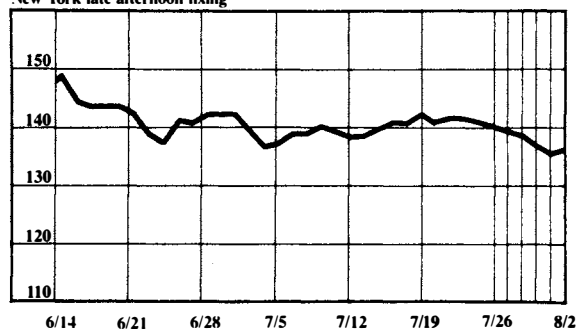
The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



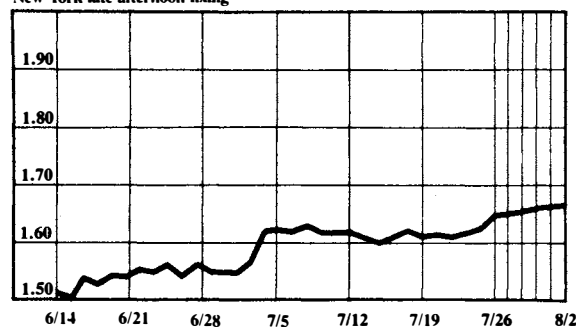
The dollar in yen

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

