

to maintain their line that they did not know anything—even though Italian Treasury Minister Guido Carli has already admitted that the BNL people in Rome must have known something.

### The Bulgarian connection

The network in which the Atlanta BNL office was involved included the Bulgarian state company Kintex, whose name acquired international fame when it arose in the context of the investigation of the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981. At the time, Kintex was already being investigated as an important nodal point in the international drug and weapons networks. Chris Drogoul was introduced to Kintex by a United Kingdom-based Iraqi firm, Matrix-Churchill.

According to an article appearing in the Italian weekly *Panorama* on Sept. 24, Admiral Martini, the chief of the Italian military intelligence agency SISMI, warned already in 1988 that Iraq was making a lot of “purchases” (obviously of weapons), and was demonstrating an ability to spend large quantities of money.

Even if the technicalities of the functioning of the whole operation are still to be clarified, one can immediately see the similarities with the operations partially revealed during the course of the Irangate scandal in the United States—i.e., a big network working through big international banking conduits for the purpose of financing secret weapons deals which ultimately go for fueling the Middle East conflict.

Indeed, the two scandals may actually be two sides of one and the same operation. Just as it would be ridiculous to think that the Atlanta operation was unknown at some level in the Italian political leadership, it would be even more absurd to think that it was unknown to people in the U.S. administration. It was in the United States that Drogoul collected the money to be lent to Iraq. One large lender of money for the BNL Atlanta operation was reported to be one of the Morgan banks; it was the Commodity Credit Corporation which guaranteed large portions of the BNL credits to Iraq; and in addition to the list of Italian firms that might have been involved in the deals, the Italian press has reported that several U.S. firms were also involved, including General Motors.

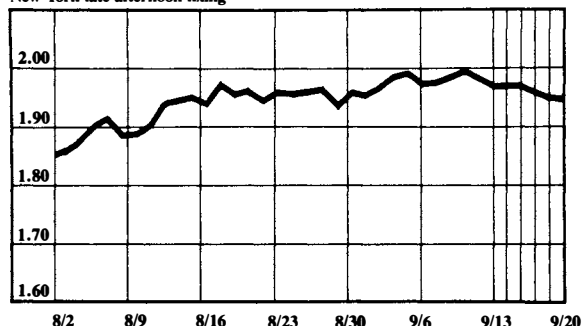
So it is difficult to believe the official explanation that the FBI only began the investigation after it had received an “anonymous tip.”

The question arises: Why was the operation blown, and why at this time? One explanation could be that it was in the period June-July that Gen. Michel Aoun launched his operation to free Lebanon from the Syrian occupation; Aoun seems to be supported by Iraq, and has been abandoned by the U.S. government in favor of Syria. Could it be that the intent of the scandal is to sabotage this crucial line of support for Lebanon, so as to speed up the establishment of a “Greater Syria” as part of U.S.-Soviet “New Yalta” arrangements?

## Currency Rates

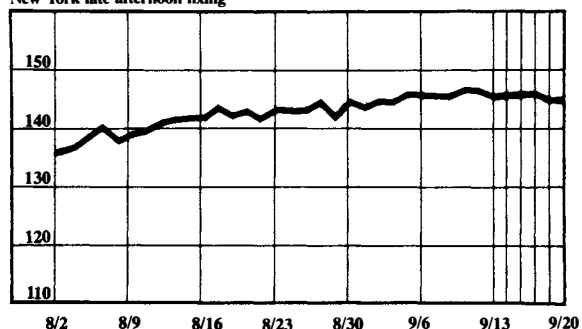
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



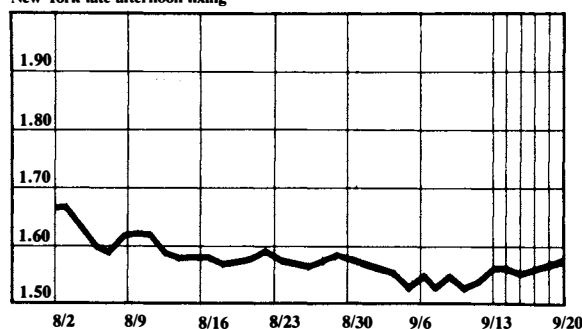
The dollar in yen

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

