

not wanted to unfetter the economy totally.

According to "Brick," organized crime would disappear if radical free market advocate Yegor Gaidar, or Grigory Yavlinsky, came to power! (It's remarkable that for him there is no great difference between them.) Probably "Brick" is right. He's a criminal, not a police veteran, and the very fact that he praises Gaidar means that the criminal world will lose much if Gaidar, or Yavlinsky, comes to power. "There will be no crime" simply means that crime would not be considered crime. Just free market economy.

The mafia helps businessmen, "Brick" says, and they gladly accept this help. Replacing courts and arbitration, criminals act more quickly and provide more guarantees to their customers. Even foreign businessmen appeal to the mafia to solve problems, not to local authorities.

"Nobody struggles against violence, against slaughter and theft, for to arrest a gang and get a rank is easier than to arrange peace in a city," regrets Kirpichov. He suggested taking the Japanese example: There, every district is controlled by a certain gang, which is responsible for order. Japan doesn't suffer from this, but remains a highly developed country.

A week later, *Obshchaya Gazeta* published an article by I. Kondratyev, titled "Two Genies Are Too Much for Russia." He is concerned about the public's indifference to killing off the major figures of the criminal world. "There's a possibility that this process will cause a serious problem, comparable to the Chechen conflict." For example, the President's edict "to reinforce measures to fight organized crime," and the extraordinary treachery of the Russian bureaucracy's predatory nature. President Boris Yeltsin, he alleged, is responsible for aggravating the situation, because with the help of this edict, criminal gangs betrayed each other.

On the other hand, some officials would also be to blame. They "like the idea of self-destruction," and would appear to be exploiting a "new generation of juvenile delinquents" against older criminals. "Youth" may be induced to kill traditional mafiosi, the so-called "thieves-in-law." The quantity of "killed" is transformed into quality. Was it worth it to shoot a 70-year-old "thief-in-law," who was out of business, three times in the back?

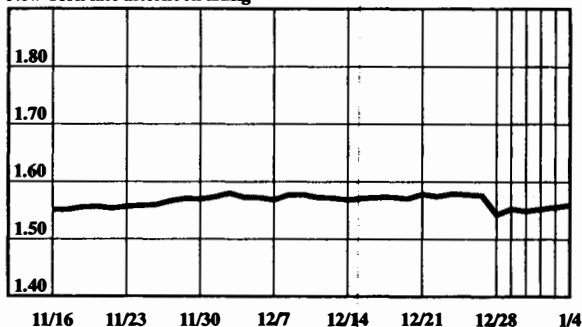
Kondratyev adds, "Not only serious and real mafia, but journalists as well have started talking about permanent long-term action, inspired by power-authority organs, with help of 'youth.' . . . A dangerous and paradoxical situation has come about: One segment of the criminals has started to blackmail and intimidate others . . . under supervision of official agencies." That's true. But it's still unknown who gave Kondratyev a hint to understand it.

At present, St. Petersburg "business circles" are making efforts to free Valeri Ledovskikh and other representatives of the Tambov-Malyshv criminal association. The city office of public prosecutor was recently reorganized, the special department supervising gangs' actions being eliminated.

Currency Rates

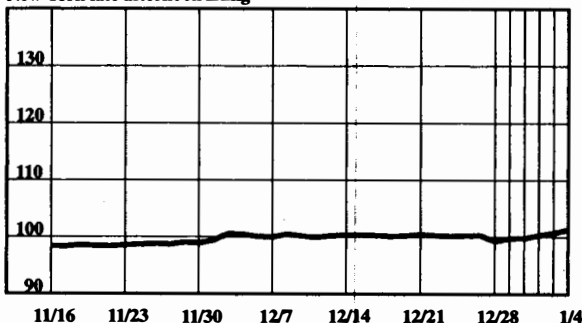
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



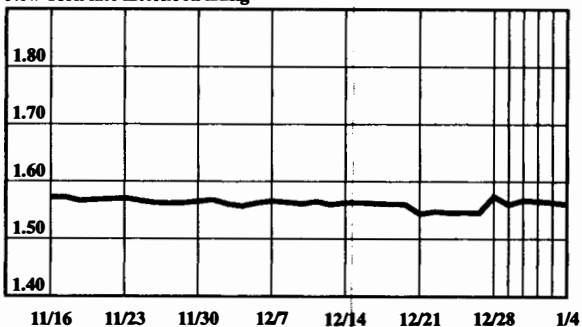
The dollar in yen

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

