

this tent, or out of it,” and that Australia was on “thin ice” and did not have “a tenable negotiating position.”

The Australian head of Prince Philip’s World Wide Fund for Nature, David Butcher, also attacked Howard’s stance, saying that Australia would be completely alone if Howard continued with his campaign.

Perhaps coincidentally, but perhaps not, Howard’s government has been rocked by scandal in recent weeks, that saw him forced to sack three key ministers in one week, over alleged excessive travel claims. It was the single-worst scandal ever endured by an Australian government, apart from the 1975 sacking of the government of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam by the Queen.

Revive nuclear energy

One of the scandal’s victims is Science and Technology Minister Peter McGuaran. McGuaran had been the driving force behind a recent reinvigoration of Australia’s nuclear industry, which, due to a political decision in 1967, is virtually nonexistent, save for one small nuclear reactor used to produce medical isotopes. Half of the so-called greenhouse gas emissions is carbon dioxide (CO₂), one source of which is the burning of fossil fuels. As Australia’s electricity production is largely reliant upon coal- and gas-fired power plants, any sane strategy to reduce greenhouse emissions, without crippling industry and development, would necessarily involve increasing use of nuclear power, which has zero emissions. Even the Japanese, the hosts of the Kyoto summit, admit that the strict greenhouse reduction targets they have set themselves are reliant upon them having 20 new nuclear power plants operational by 2010.

In the event of McGuaran’s departure, it is not known whether any of his plans will survive in the government; however, a recent public statement by Resources Minister Warwick Parer, who pointed out that the best way to reduce emissions is to use nuclear power, indicates that they might.

Terrorists brought into play

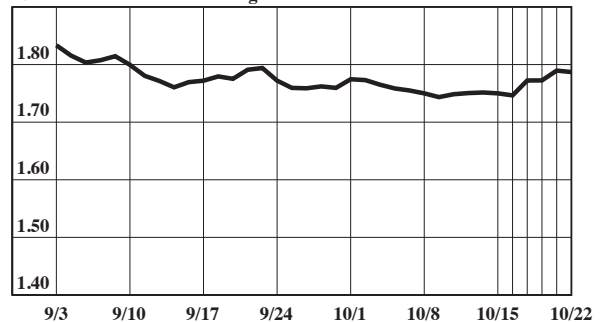
On Oct. 20, eleven activists from Greenpeace, which is linked to the terrorist group Earth First!, breached the security of Kirribilli House, the Australian prime minister’s official residence in Sydney, and occupied the roof, while two of Howard’s children were inside. The activists unfurled banners attacking Howard’s position on the greenhouse emissions cuts, and tried to erect solar power panels, before finally coming down and being arrested for trespassing. Greenpeace is run by the British Lord Melchett, the heir to the ICI chemical fortune.

The incident perhaps best illustrates what is at stake at the CHOGM meeting: the genocidal plans of the British oligarchy’s empire, as opposed to the welfare of the nation-state. It remains to be seen whether Howard can successfully continue to stand up for the nation-state, in the face of immense pressure. If Tony Blair has his way, Howard won’t.

Currency Rates

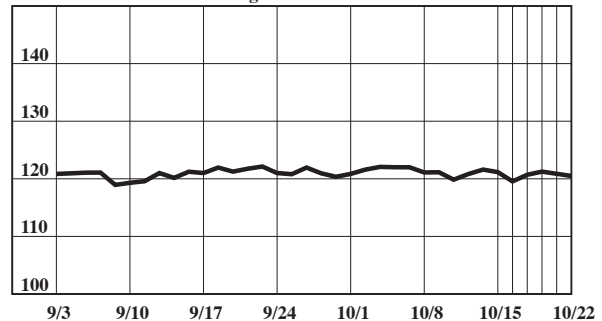
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



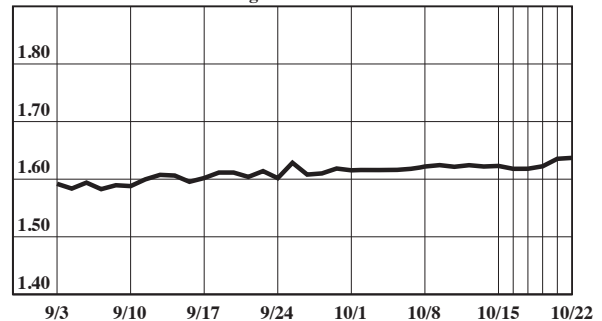
The dollar in yen

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

