

have the conditions for us to grow. Today we have a population in Brazil in which 54% are under 18 years of age.

Of course the Vatican's position has much influence, not only personal but also, well, we are a country where the great majority are Christian, truly Catholic. It is thus both support and solidarity that we are receiving; also from various influential politicians in the United States, linked to the Democratic as well as to sections of the Republican party, who are favorable to changing the way we pay our foreign debt.

EIR: You mention the problem of the United States. Lyndon LaRouche has supported the moratorium decision of the Brazilian government. In 1982 he wrote his book, *Operation Juárez*, in which he proposed precisely the policy of launching a new, more just international economic order. Today LaRouche is a candidate in the Democratic Party for the U.S. presidency, and he has a political action committee that has influence throughout the United States. How does the industrial federation view such support?

Franco: To our joy, we know that there exist U.S. politicians, like LaRouche, who is linked to the Democratic Party who, through already published works, truly defends the right of the developing countries to have more flexible conditions for paying their debts. Also, I was in Washington last year with President José Sarney and in the company of Minister Dilson Funaro, and we spoke with five senators in the office of Senator Bradley, who also is thinking very much along the lines of our desires on the foreign debt renegotiation.

EIR: Until very recently, you presided over the Latin American Industrialists Association (AILA). Do you think a joint action of these countries is necessary?

Franco: Exactly. We have urged a broad reform of the international economic order through modification of the international organizations. And through the presidency of AILA, we did what we could; we were also in the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank], we were in ECLA [Economic Commission on Latin America]. We also brought Claude Cheysson, the commissioner of the European Community, to Brazil to explain to us how the European Common Market works, thinking that we would create a Latin American Common Market in the future. On the 26th and 27th of this month, we will be in Mexico City [in April] because we are going to have a meeting of AILA, and 12 countries have already confirmed their attendance.

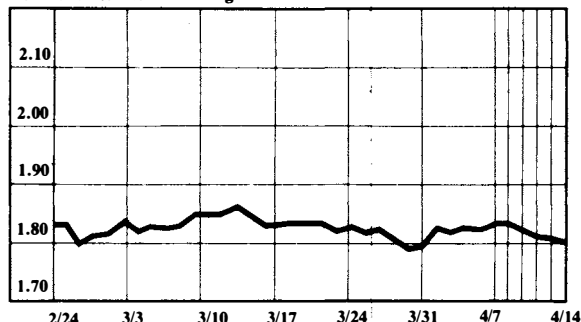
EIR: What does the CNI plan to propose at that meeting?

Franco: We are going to show the need for support and solidarity of all countries, including that of Mexico and Argentina, which have problems similar to ours. To show that with a clear and sharp definition of the Brazilian foreign debt, we will be able to leave behind the threat of recession that Brazil faces today.

Currency Rates

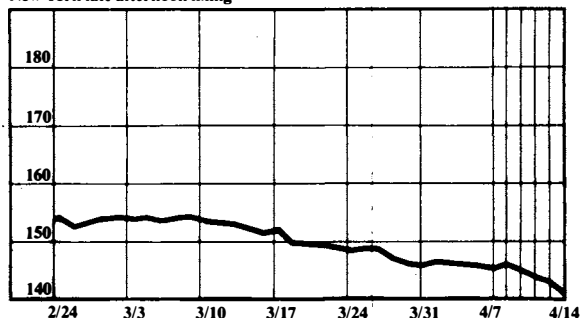
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



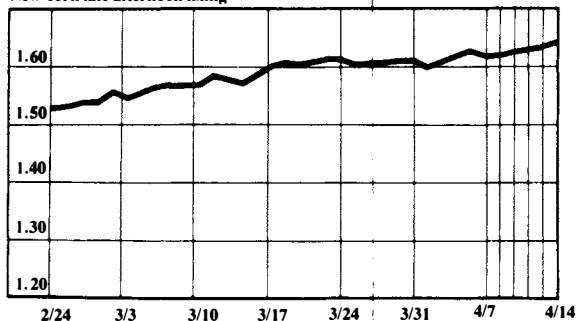
The dollar in yen

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

