

the Anglo-Soviet Trust, parroted the opposition that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the man Thatcher has a teenage crush on, Soviet boss Mikhail Gorbachov, have to German reunification.

Kendall broke off further questions from a group of journalists, after *EIR* asked him whether Deutsche Bank chairman Alfred Herrhausen might have been killed, because he was the architect of Chancellor Kohl's reunification drive. "I don't believe that," said Kendall as he stalked off. Otto Wolff von Amerongen insisted to *EIR* that former East German secret police (Stasi) deputy director "Markus Wolf would never kill my friend, Herrhausen." Wolff von Amerongen told *EIR*, "It is theoretically correct that Herrhausen had been an instrument of German reunification, but his assassination had nothing to do with the Soviet intelligence services. . . . [Siemens executive] Kurt Beckurts was killed because he was a high-tech man. Herrhausen was killed, because he was a symbol of capitalism in Germany. It had nothing to do with the KGB or Stasi, nor did it have anything to do with Herrhausen's friendship with Chancellor Kohl or the reunification issue."

A handful of optimists

Despite the desperation over Gorbachov's fate betrayed by most businessmen in private, there were a handful of optimists. Fiat part-owner Umberto Agnelli, whose International Council for New Initiatives in East-West Cooperation had co-sponsored the conference, said in his private discussions with businessmen at lunch, that "Bush got Gorbachov through the winter." Perhaps, what Agnelli was actually reflecting, was his personal euphoria over concluding a \$1.36 billion joint venture to make Fiats in the U.S.S.R. for export to Western Europe. Agnelli said in his speech that he was happy because he had tapped a workforce that earned \$50-150 a month, while the Soviets were happy because it was a new way to earn hard currency.

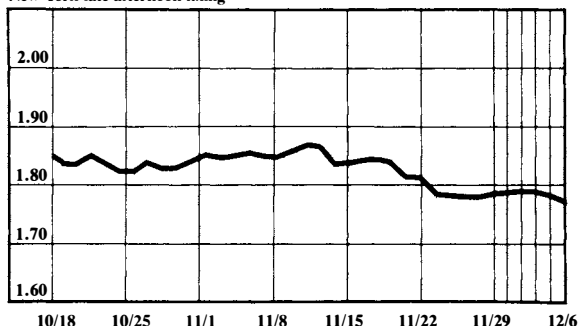
Agnelli's praise of Bush's appeasement was reported by luncheon keynote speaker Hedrick Smith, a former *New York Times* correspondent in Moscow and author of *The Russians*, initially attacked by the Soviets but a bestseller there since *glasnost*. Smith, too, said that despite the food shortages and the onset of winter, he thought Gorbachov would pull through, because Gorbachov, "being an excellent political strategist," had been given concessions he could parlay into political capital at home by Bush at Malta. Smith added that, while the opposition had been sabotaging *perestroika*, it could not find a new leader around whom to coalesce, especially since reputed Stalinist Yegor Ligachov lacked the "weight and power" to overthrow Gorbachov.

Few of the businessmen *EIR* spoke with in the corridors of the conference shared this optimism. Instead, they and their Soviet trade partners betrayed the mien of two stumbling drunks, trying to prop each other up, lest they fall into the gutter.

Currency Rates

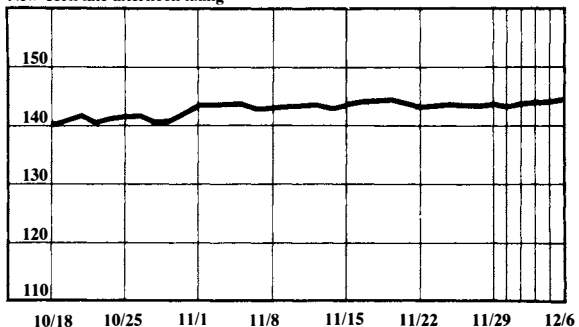
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



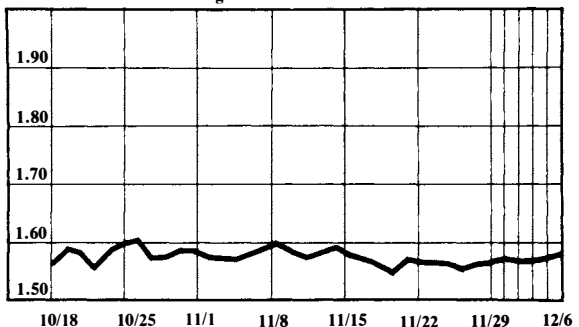
The dollar in yen

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

