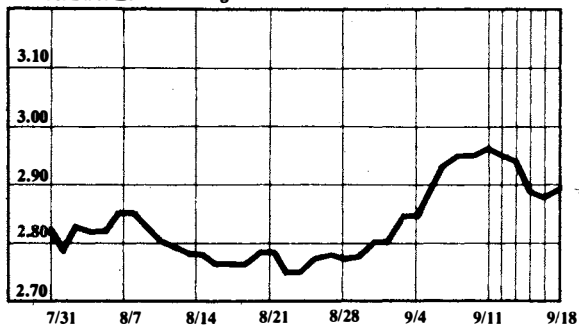


Currency Rates

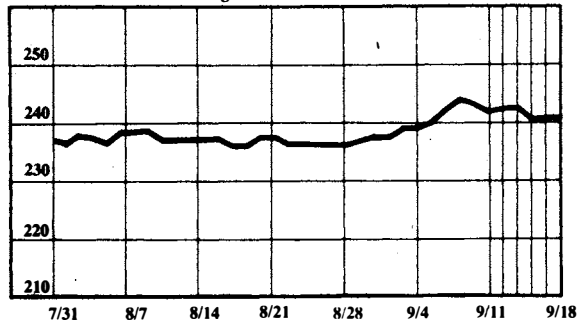
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



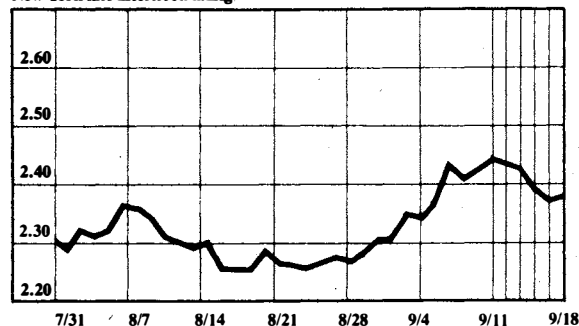
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



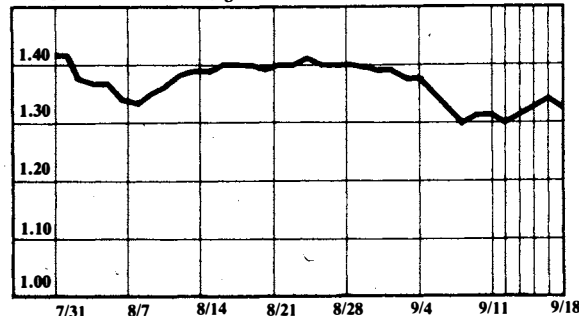
The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The murder of Israel's economy

by Mark Burdman

Appearing before high school students in Tel Aviv on Sept. 8, Israeli President Chaim Herzog spoke of Israel's own Nazi, Rabbi Meir Kahane, in the following terms: "I think it is a disgrace to the Jewish people . . . that a person should rise in the Jewish state and present a program that is very similar to the Nuremberg laws." The "Nuremberg laws" the President referred to were those racial laws promulgated by Hitler against the Jews in 1935, stripping them of all civil rights.

President Herzog has done Israel and the world an important service with his comments. Not only is he absolutely correct about Kahane, but, even more important, he has broached the word "Nuremberg" in an Israeli political context. Would that now a courageous public figure would arise in Israel, to raise the *other* meaning of Nuremberg, and call for the indictment of those individuals and institutions whose wilful destruction of Israel's economy and labor power corresponds to the post-war "crimes against humanity." The same individuals, it so happens, are responsible for the meteoric rise of Kahane.

As a result of the policies of the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. State Department, American Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering, and the international Jewish-surnamed mafia centered around the Bronfman family, Detroit's Max Fisher, and the Anti-Defamation League, the Israeli economy is in shambles. Public health and education services are collapsing, large numbers of families are falling below the poverty level, and, the surest sign of breakdown, the disease AIDS has begun to appear in Israel.

And yet, on Sept. 16, characteristically, the director-general of the Israeli Treasury, Dr. Emmanuel Sharon, was telling Israeli journalists that inflation was less of a problem than before, but that the IMF was demanding "more drastic budgetary cuts." His co-thinker in the Israeli cabinet, Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i, was simultaneously arguing that Israel needed "more austerity," since this was "lowering inflation."

Bank of Israel governor Moshe Mandelbaum told the press on Sept. 12 that one measure of the effectiveness of the government's "emergency" economic program is "how painful it is to the public, and I suspect it is not painful enough."

Then, on Sept. 10, Prime Minister Shimon Peres stated: "Our economic recovery drive is eight weeks old and there are indications of success, with inflation down and the trade

deficit reduced." He was speaking at the first plenary assembly of Operation Independence, a group of multimillionaires headed by Max Fisher, with significant input from Charles Bronfman and ADL chief Kenneth Bialkin. The group, nominally formed to "revive the Israeli economy," was in part inspired by the KGB-linked Armand Hammer of Occidental Petroleum.

These mafiosi have made their plan for Israel clear: "revive" it through making it a haven for casinos, real estate, and other dirty-money activities.

'They shouldn't be able to sleep at night'

As these comments were being made, the Israeli National Insurance Institute released a report, the findings of which were described by its author, Nissim Baruch, as "astounding." It showed that, over the past year, the number of wage-earning Israeli families living below the poverty line has leapt by 25%. Such families had about 121,000 children among some 267,000 people in 1984. Israel's total population is only in the 4-million range. "The results at hand demand immediate action by the government," Baruch insisted.

On Sept. 12, six hundred chronically ill elderly citizens and psychiatric patients had to be evacuated from Israel's private hospitals. The evacuation was precipitated by a strike by hospital workers who have not received pay for weeks, due to the refusal of pro-IMF Finance Minister Moda'i to transfer funds to the Health Ministry.

Yoel Sperling, chairman of the Private Geriatric Hospitals Association, told the *Jerusalem Post* that day: "I can't believe the State of Israel has come to this. . . . This is a national tragedy caused by the government's terrible wanton neglect. . . . We have to prosecute those responsible in the government. Such men should not be able to sleep at night." He revealed that, up until the evacuation, hospital bills had been paid out of workers' contributions from their paychecks!

Similarly, Rafi Tadmor, chairman of the Private Psychiatric Hospitals Association, told the *Post*: "The patients are in danger of their lives."

The budget cutting is also undermining Israel's ability to deal with the spread of AIDS. As the Sept. 13 *Jerusalem Post* put it, in the concluding segment of a six-part series on the disease, "Since Israel is already involved in the AIDS epidemic, it is important, according to medical experts, that the country implement preventative procedures for the spread of the disease, and be actively involved in research efforts to put an end to this devastating plague."

But, due to a "shortage
"At Rehovot's Kaplan Hospital, where research on AIDS and homosexuals in Israel is now taking place, they fear that they will not be able to continue their work. . . ."

An Israeli official was perhaps more precise than even he realized, when he told this correspondent Sept. 17: "Meir Kahane is our AIDS." Both Kahane and AIDS have the same mother—the IMF.

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