

be in a state of emergency, paid off all the state fishing company's old debts, authorized setting up a state fleet, and ordered state banks to hand over to it 23 boats and provide credit for their rehabilitation. The vessels were in bad shape, and it was not until Oct. 10 that the first catch from them came in. The government also eliminated all taxes and all red tape for private investors to import medium-sized trawlers, motors, nets, and other equipment not made in Peru.

Peru obtained from Holland a promise to donate seven trawlers, and from the United States Naval Reserve two obsolete cargo ships which will be refitted to turn anchovies into powdered fish milk, to be used as a high-protein additive to fruit juices and other foods.

Peru's plan is to raise per capita consumption from 12 to 20 kilos annually by 1990, which requires increasing production from 360,000 to 750,000 tons.

Soviets swallow Argentine fishing

Fishing agreements with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, signed by the Alfonsín government in July, now face a tough ratification fight in the Argentine Congress. Opposition to the blatant give-away is mounting from labor, industry, the Navy, and from all political parties except Alfonsín's Radical Party and Moscow's Communist Party. The only benefit for Argentina named by government officials defending the accords, are Soviet purchases of supplies and repairs in Argentine ports. The Russians will set up their own colony of repairmen, it was announced during Alfonsín's mid-October visit to Moscow.

On Oct. 13, Argentina's main fishing port, Mar del Plata, was closed down by a civic strike organized jointly by the Peronist General Confederation of Labor and the fishing industry. Fishing boat owner association president Hector Fernández Blanco announced that the strike would be by "fishing industry workers in defense of their jobs. The Soviets will be allowed to catch resources that Argentine operators are not allowed to catch." Argentine fishermen, who hauled in 550,000 tons in 1979, are now effectively limited to a 450,000-ton catch.

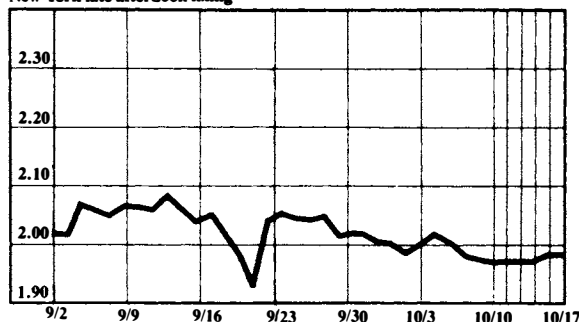
In a joint advertisement published on Sept. 23, labor and industry asked, "On the basis of what scientific data . . . does the fishing subsecretariat intend to negotiate quotas in favor of foreign fleets at the same time it systematically denies and restricts permission for local contractors to incorporate new boats under the Argentine flag? National shipyards are being prevented from building fishing ships because the applications authorities deny them fishing permits." The 30,000 unionized fisheries workers and 80,000 workers in related industries ask, "Should the failure of the fishing subsecretariat [to promote the domestic industry] oblige the country to give in to foreign pressures?"

As in the tragic experience of Belaúnde's Peru, an Argentine government which puts the interests of foreign creditors first, is wantonly undermining its own national economy and national interest.

Currency Rates

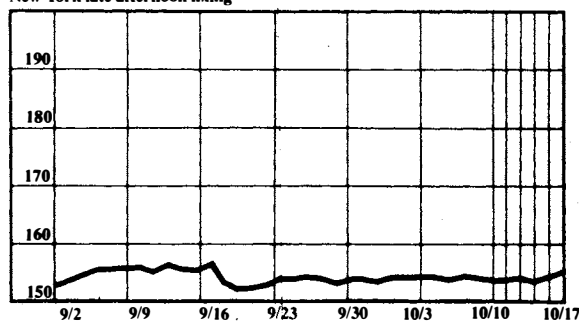
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



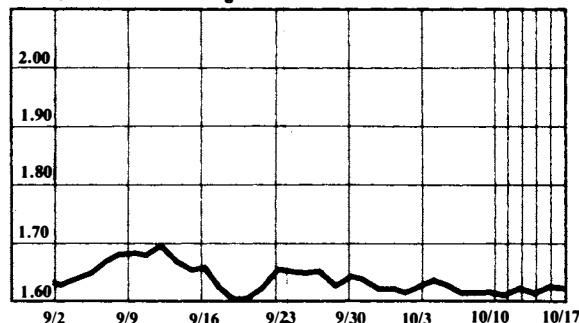
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

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The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

