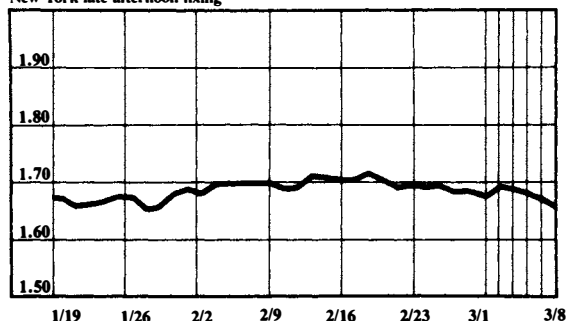


## Currency Rates

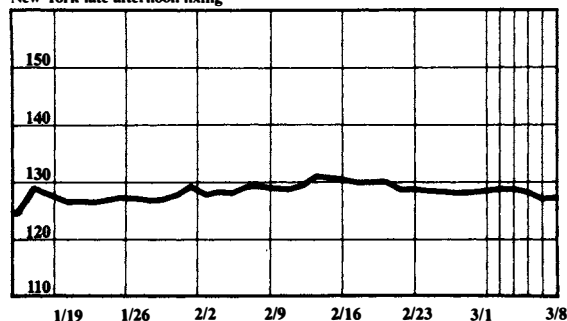
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



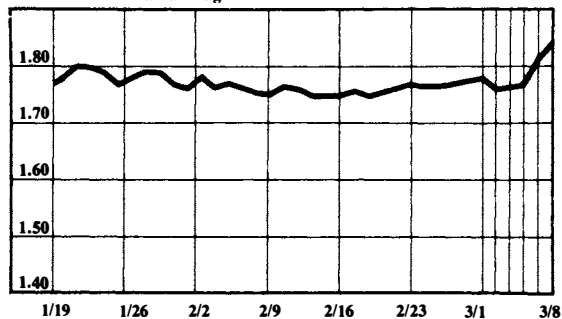
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



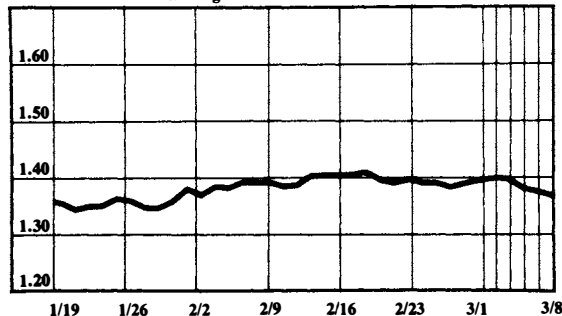
### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



## Brazil stumbles into national tragedy

by Mark Sonnenblick

Brazilian President José Sarney is subjecting Brazil to the tragedy of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, the daily *O Estado de São Paulo* wrote in its Feb. 28 editorial. The staid mouthpiece of São Paulo's traditional coffee exporter oligarchy did not venture so far as to imply that the Sarney family's lust for presidential power had been behind the suspicious death of president-elect Tancredo Neves on the eve of his inauguration two years ago, leaving the throne to his obscure Vice President Sarney. But *O Estado* called for general elections in 1988: "When will the day come when he who did not want to be President, but ended up being, decides to think of Brazil and not his personal image or the interests of those who surround the Palace and want to stay there as long as possible?"

A more potent commentary on the destruction wrought by Sarney was offered by Dilson Funaro, the former finance minister who raised living standards and led Brazil into a debt moratorium Sarney has since repudiated. Funaro, who served as Sarney's finance minister from August 1985 to April 1987, judges "a government is finished when it is no longer able to solve a country's fundamental problems. And the Brazilian government is, right now, so caught up in a process—whether presidential term or other things—that it separated itself from the fundamental problems and lost the ability to make decisions."

Funaro expects the Sarney government "will be practically over the moment the [new] Constitution is ready. . . . At that point I hope the nation will go back to discussing the main questions. The worst thing that could happen to a country is not to have a design; and Brazil has lost its design."

Funaro has a clear idea of Brazil's national mission. As he travels around the country expressing it, he is greeted by warm applause and wishes he could become President. People remember his March-November 1986 "Cruzado Plan" price freeze as the only time when millions of Brazil's working poor could go into a supermarket and come out with more than rice and bananas, or go into a drug store and purchase more than a couple of aspirin. The political establishment and the mass media are going to great lengths to disparage the Cruzado Plan, and the honesty of the man a U.S. Brazil-