

Documentation

French author supports Bush starvation policy

The following excerpts are translated from an article appearing in the Sept. 14, 1990 L'Express magazine in Paris. The author is one "Jean Villars," the "pseudonym for a high official who specializes in defense questions."

We must face up to the facts: there are not, on the one hand, "good" transfers of high technology, and, on the other, "bad" ones. Indeed, most technology transfers have a double use: civilian and military. . . .

There is without a doubt a threshold of development, which once crossed, unleashes a cumulative effect in the acquisition of military technologies: it then becomes easier for a country to explore collateral areas, because it already has a certain scientific and technological expertise. . . . Over the last ten years, there are more and more networks of South-South technological cooperation, which get around the few barriers set up by the developed countries to bloc the acquisition of military technologies. . . .

Will preventing a Third World country from having access, as a whole, to the most advanced technologies, also compromise their economic development? This excuse is invoked by all the countries which, under one guise or another, have been barred access to Western technology: This would be part of an "imperialist plot," aimed at maintaining the Arab, Asian, or African (choose the appropriate adjective) "masses" in economic underdevelopment in order to better exploit them.

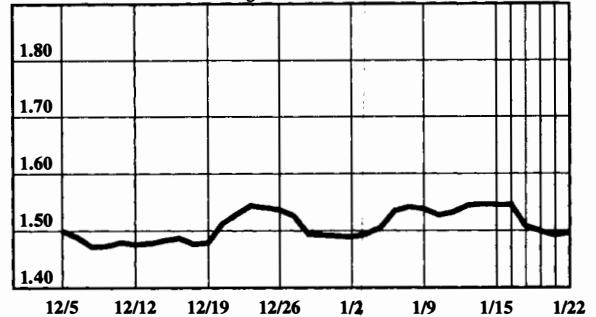
It is preferable to transfer "appropriate technologies" to Third World countries—that is, technologies that consume labor instead of capital, and of an "intermediate" technological level, making them easily "acclimatized" to local cultural and economic conditions, and permitting their immediate use—rather than the highest level technologies which . . . respond only to the desires of megalomaniacal elites and are oblivious to local realities. By refusing to transfer to Third World countries the best by-products of its technological innovation capabilities, the West would be doing a favor to those populations against their own elites. . . .

Technological apartheid is a brutal formula; but it nonetheless remains the last option, before direct military pressure, as a challenge to the blind forces of the Third World. For lack of grasping this, the West will have to resolve itself to seeing its economic growth become hostage to the manipulations of raw materials prices by accidental cartels and, in that case, to waging war, after having put itself in the position of losing the war.

Currency Rates

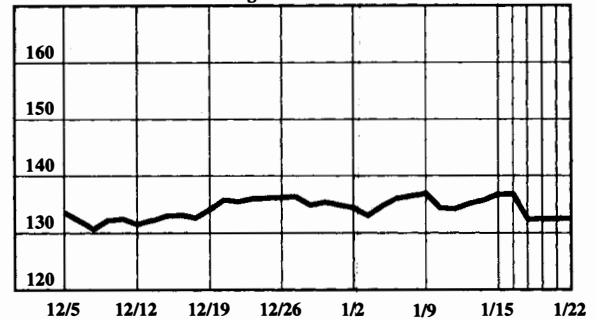
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



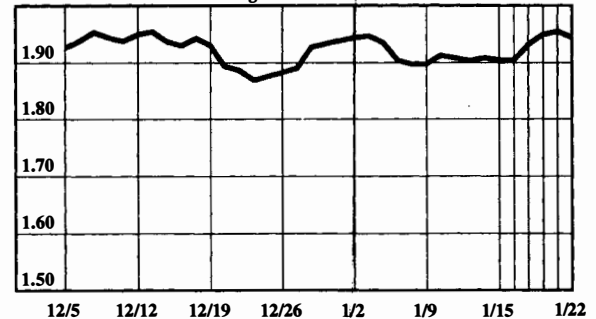
The dollar in yen

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

