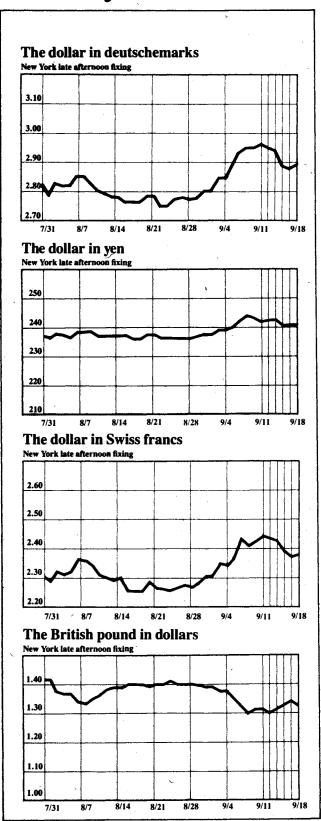
Currency Rates



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 world "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 directorgeneral 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