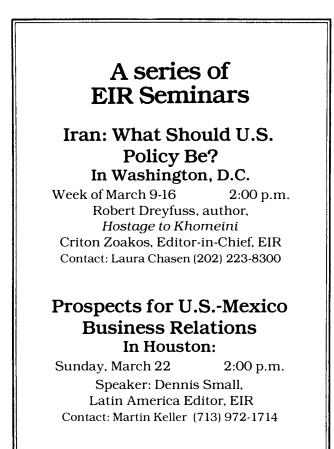
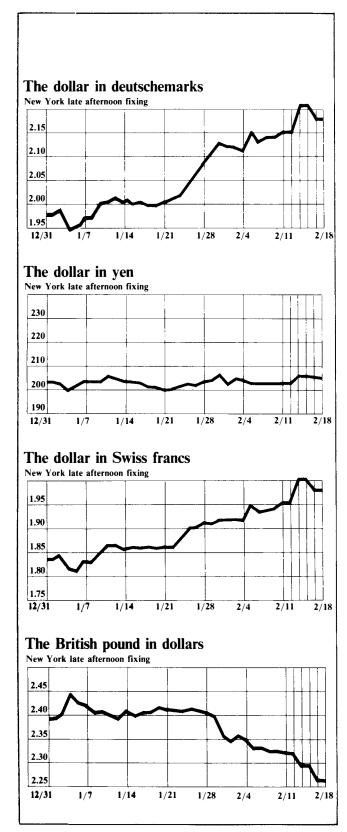
intended impact is to identify the West German plan with the man the White House likes the least in the sphere of monetary affairs.

Meanwhile, according to senior State Department sources, Secretary Haig will warn the President that Chancellor Schmidt cannot control the Willy Brandt wing of his own party, and is therefore dangerously soft on the Russians. In fact, the SPD left (the friends of Henry Reuss) have made a major effort to undermine Schmidt on two counts: arms control and nuclear energy policy. The merits of the armaments issue aside, the Brandt wing of the party has created a loud, if narrowly based, "claque" in favor of unilateral European arms reduction, for the principal purpose of disorienting the Reagan administration's policy toward West Germany. If Haig has his way, the sources added, the April meeting between Reagan and Schmidt will concentrate solely on Schmidt's alleged softness regarding the Polish situation!

If Reagan is led, Othello-like, into repudiation of the Western European plan, his last apparent chance to avert a depression will have disappeared. That is by no means certain at this writing. But for the moment the Europeans have assumed a burden in maintaining shortterm currency stability that they cannot sustain for long.



Currency Rates



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