

headquarters of the Soviet bank BCEN. Kagan and Seligman were shareholders and keepers of the stock and archives. The Nazis left empty-handed. The Comintern's top transport company in Western Europe was untouched by the Nazis throughout the war.

Herriot, no longer prime minister by the 1930s, went for a much-publicized visit to the U.S.S.R. in 1932. This friend of the Soviet Union was later to be rewarded by being appointed honorary chairman of the French Communist Youth after World War II. His protégé Edgar Faure, a young up-and-coming lawyer in the late 1920s, learned Russian at the advice of the Grand Master of the Freemasonic Grande Loge de France—Masonry being the common feature of the Louis Dreyfus, Stern and Lazard Banks, of Herriot, Faure and Kagan—and made an extraordinary career after 1945, twice France's prime minister under the Fourth Republic, countless times a senior cabinet minister, and surviving into the Fifth Republic, where even General de Gaulle used him as a special envoy to the U.S.S.R. and China. In parallel, Faure—currently the Trilateral Commission's favorite wheeler and dealer on the French political stage—led a fruitful career as an international lawyer, being retained by some of the country's top corporations, such as Saint-Gobain-Pont-à-Mousson, France's fifth largest, as its consultant for Soviet affairs.

When the student and workers' uprising of May 1968 nearly toppled Charles de Gaulle, the price exacted by the Communist Party for withholding the final push was the appointment of Faure as education minister, from which job he supervised the delivery of French schools and universities to the leftists.

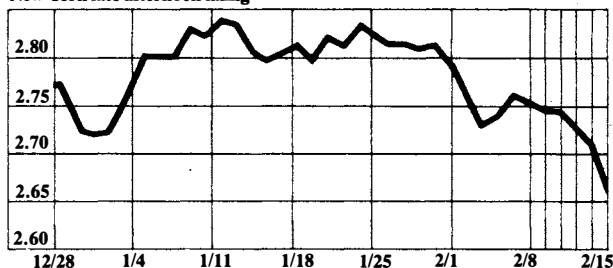
France's East-West trade, estimated at close to \$8 billion in 1983, 4% of the nation's external trade, plays a political role out of proportion with mere figures. "Is the French position on the Euromissiles a hindrance for French-Soviet trade?" a journalist recently asked KGB General Evgeny P. Pitrovanov, who doubles as first deputy chairman of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce. "One must be a realist, he answered; one cannot have bad political relations alongside good economic relations, can one? If we Russians, are compelled to build more weapons, we will have less money for new contracts and investment. That much must be clear." Recall the thesis put forth in 1957 by Soviet General Lagoskii, in an article on economic warfare as a tool of global strategy, that trade constitutes, as the title of the article had it, "the weak link."

The French case also illustrates the real nature of East-West trade: the extraordinarily important role played by the individual "brokers" without whose intervention it is virtually impossible to break into the Eastern markets, and the overwhelmingly political nature of their trade. When a consortium of Lazard Frères and Armand Hammer was awarded the gold-coinage contract of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, with Pizar and associates in the background, billions of dollars transacted allowed the corruption of leading politicians, including a foreign minister.

Currency Rates

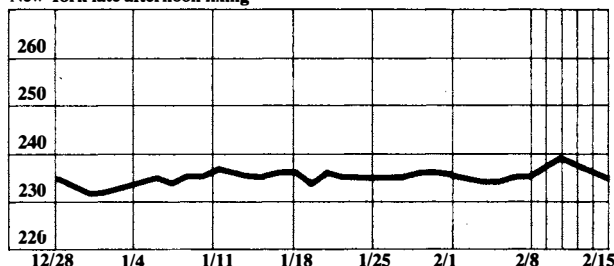
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



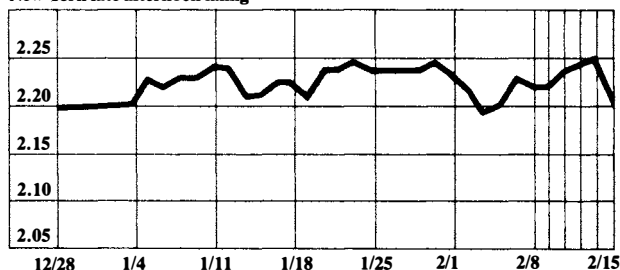
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

