

ment for his role in opening up the economy of Peru for the cocaine trade. The *Journal* itself has often boosted this "liberalization" of the economy, on "free enterprise" grounds, at the same time that it has gone on record against the Reagan administration's war on drugs.

Despite the official Peruvian government denial, the *Journal* article was given widespread international play. UPI and the Spanish news agency EFE released international wires on García's "admissions," and the widely read *Diario de las Americas* of Miami gave it banner headlines: "Alan Garcia says he is a Marxist, and that Peru will follow a strong anti-imperialist line."

The *Journal's* article, bylined Eric Margolis, did not hesitate to issue the veiled threat of a coup against García, saying that the President's current popularity among the Peruvian people was "a heavy, even dangerous burden for an inexperienced man of 36 in a nation where boundless hope can quickly turn to despair and revenge."

Documentation

The following is the full text of the Peruvian government's official communiqué, denying that President García had called himself a Marxist in an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*:

In regard to the article of reporter Eric Margolis, published by the daily *Wall Street Journal* and picked up by the UPI and EFE agencies, reproduced in several local dailies:

1) At no time in the interview did the President call himself a Marxist. The chief of state was very clear in asserting what he has always maintained, that Marxism is a method of interpreting history, used by APRIsmo [García's APRA party—ed.] and other political parties, which is substantially different from having declared himself a Marxist.

2) Regarding the quote taken from the President's message to Congress July 28 which says "private property, another foreign concept, has been imposed on us by the imperialists," we affirm that that statement does not appear in any part of the presidential message nor has any declaration in this sense been formulated by the President.

3) The circulation of the article by reporter Eric Margolis seems to have the sensationalist intention of confusing the U.S. population, by presenting a distorted image of the Peruvian President at a moment in which our government is carrying out a battle against the IMF and has just rescinded the oil contracts that harm our national dignity.

4) This secretary, on the orders of the President of the Republic, is sending a copy of the chief of state's message to Congress on July 28 to the *Wall Street Journal*, which clearly defines the position of the government and of President Alan García.

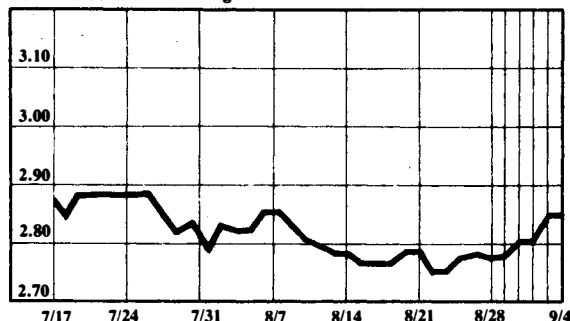
Lima, Aug. 31, 1985

Victor Tirado, press secretary of the republic

Currency Rates

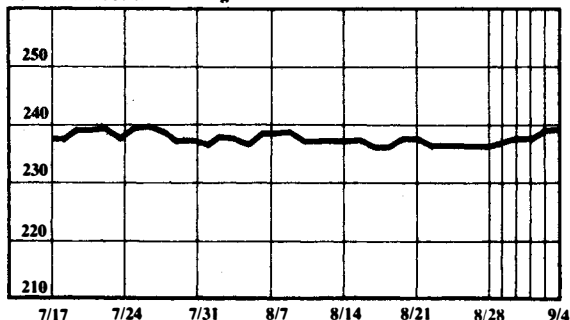
The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



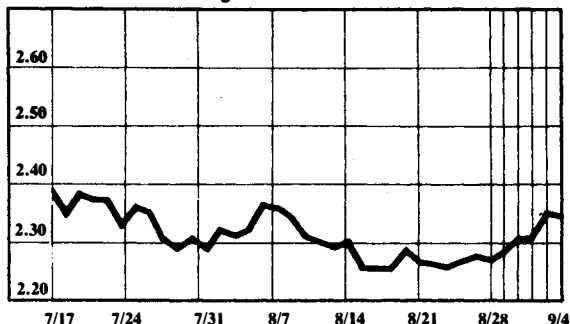
The dollar in yen

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

