

priority to cheap labor-intensive “small rural projects” using “appropriate technology.”

Were such maoist standards applied to Brazil’s computer industry, it would be argued that its only real achievement has been to replace tens of thousands of poorly paid clerks with a few thousand engineers paid 50 times more. And, Fleury’s stated concern for Brazil’s poor workers is contradicted by his prediction that Brazil’s underpaid labor is what will soon give its computer products “competitive capacity.”

Another disappointing feature is that Fleury hides the real motive forces behind Brazil’s computer development. To pander to current Brazilian public opinion, he counterposes computer against nuclear development. He says that computers involve a model with “less state participation.” He apparently fears to mention the group of army colonels who ordered the development of independent computer capabilities in 1979 as essential for national security. Nor does he mention how these military economic nationalists are what have, so far, sustained protection for the industry against vocal outpourings from Brazil’s private business sector, to the effect that the early Brazilian copies are much more expensive and of lower quality than the foreign originals. Fleury’s compromises with pragmatism and with academicism weaken an otherwise powerful polemic.

### Ending technological dependence

Fleury is at his best when he reminds his audience that to maintain its monopolies, Britain forbade emigration of skilled craftsmen until 1825 and export of its machines until 1842. The United States broke Britain’s stranglehold on advanced technology the way Brazil is trying to break IBM’s today, “by a certain amount of industrial espionage, by buying British machines (normally illegally contrabanded), and by recruiting British citizens to work.”

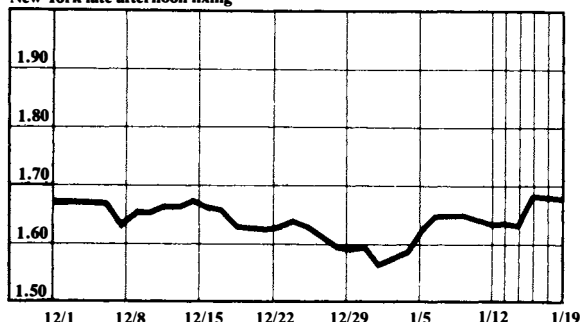
For a nation to fail to obtain the ability to generate technology, he concludes, “is to run the risk of culturally annihilating oneself and to remain in eternal dependence of the countries which create and produce technology.”

The Brazilian Computer Industry Association highlighted that concept in ads it ran in the press Jan. 19, alerting against the retreat which the government made the next day: “The struggle for worldwide domination of an industrial sector brings some countries to threaten others. In the past, they sent fleets and troops. Now they impose trade sanctions. The authorities of the countries threatened sometimes give in—and their people lose the historic opportunity, remain dependent, poor and backward. Other countries resist. Remember when everybody made fun of the ‘Made in Japan’ labels. For a while, this [effort to develop] seems like obstinacy. But, in the medium term, it is the best thing a government can do for its people. Submit, and be despised by history. Or resist and see how your industries and your consumers will benefit. . . . Each of us has a big responsibility, because history does not remember cowards.”

## Currency Rates

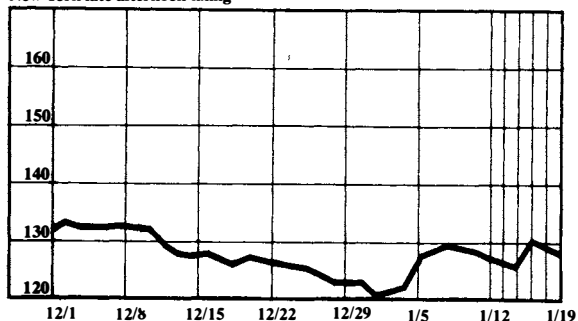
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



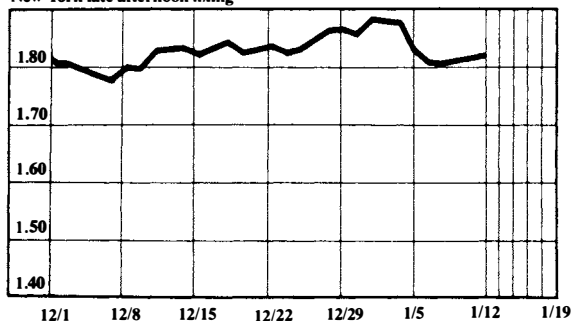
### The dollar in yen

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

