

among the members of the small Action Party (a tool of the British establishment for their Italian “anti-fascist” friends, with an ideology which idolized the British-backed terrorist of the 19th century, Giuseppe Mazzini) as representative of the financial power of the Anglo-French “Entente Cordiale,” under the auspices of Cuccia’s friend André Meyer, the head of Lazard Frères investment house. Through Cuccia’s Mediobanca, those circles have more or less controlled Italy’s big private corporations, owned by dynasties whose dedication to industry never survived the first generation.

Thanks to that backing, Cuccia was able to use Mediobanca, formally a State-owned bank, to consolidate his position at the center of an intricate web of holdings and *fondi* which own each other, including corporations such as Fiat, Pirelli, Pesenti, Orlando, De Benedetti, Assicurazioni Generali, and RAS—the big corporations which dominate the Italian automotive, tire, cement, office machinery, and other industrial sectors, as well as the huge insurance business centered in Venice.

Since Cuccia’s friends abroad launched the “Italian conservative revolution” in 1993, establishing the dictatorship of financial markets and starting large-scale privatizations, Cuccia has vastly enlarged his power by buying two of Italy’s State-owned banks: Banca Commerciale Italiana (Comit) and Credito Italiano. That is, he has organized friends who have bought them for him.

Through the Gemina operation, Cuccia has now put together a 40 trillion lira (about \$25 billion at the current exchange rate) conglomerate by absorbing the former Ferruzzi empire and by tightening the already close connections with FIAT chairman Agnelli and other allies.

Through the Olivetti reorganization, of which the details are not known, Cuccia will for sure pull off a similar operation: Cuccia protégé De Benedetti will avoid immediate bankruptcy, in exchange for releasing control of his company to Cuccia’s friends and allies.

### Preparing for the storm

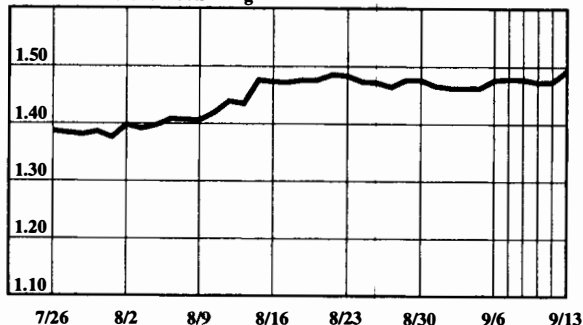
Whereas most commentators have focused on secondary aspects such as the emergence of a national chemical monopoly under Gemina, Prof. Marcello De Cecco, a well-known economic historian, has commented to *EIR* that Cuccia’s Gemina “can be useful to open the umbrella in a general sense.” Or, to shift metaphors, Cuccia is preparing to face the oncoming financial storms—the international financial crash—by putting all of his friends in the same boat. His plans are to buy up State companies ENI (energy), STET (communications), and ENEL (electricity) by using the usual methods. He hopes he can do that before he dies (he is 90 years old) and then leave the command of the system to Giuseppe Romiti, now manager of FIAT and his chosen successor at Mediobanca.

But, too bad for him: The big crash may very well come before Cuccia can do that.

## Currency Rates

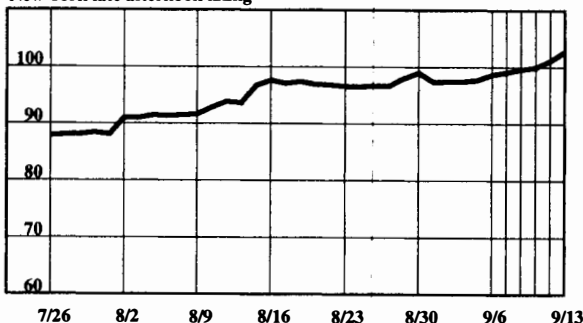
### The dollar in deutschmarks

New York late afternoon fixing



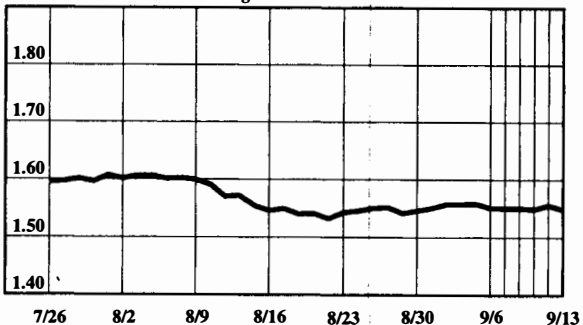
### The dollar in yen

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

