

stripping operations. In recent months, he has bought Butoni food group and a series of other companies. He is one of the few in Italy with liquidity in the depressed economy.

However, as De Benedetti and Agnelli move to grab up major Italian companies, revelations are coming out in Italian press, unreported elsewhere, that are a potentially explosive indictment of the entire Gyllenhammer/De Benedetti Roundtable network. On April 13, *Panorama*, the Milan weekly, carried revelations from recently released letters of murdered Vatican financier Roberto Calvi of Banco Ambrosiano, who was found hanging Freemasonic cult fashion under Blackfriars Bridge in London in June 1982. Shortly before his death, on June 6, according to *Panorama*, Calvi wrote a letter to one Monsignor Hilary of the Vatican in which the banker asked for an urgent meeting with Pope John Paul II to explain details of a massive plot he had uncovered to destroy the financial base of the Vatican. Calvi, according to the new revelations, explicitly cited "De Benedetti and others who did and are still trying to grab the assets of Banco Ambrosiano." According to the same *Panorama* revelation, Calvi, in a second letter to Cardinal Palazzini, implicated Vatican Secretary of State Casaroli in the De Benedetti plot. Within days of the letters, Calvi was dead.

The day before, on April 12, Calvi associate Umberto Ortolani, told *Europeo* magazine that he has detailed revelations regarding "political and financial warfare which has been fought for years in Italy." Ortolani stated that "a name for all to recognize—Trilateral [Commission]" was behind this warfare and that one purpose was to prevent a feared merger of the two great centers of Vatican finance, Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano and Carlo Pesenti's financial network.

De Benedetti is considered to be "Trilateral" because of his intimate personal friendship with Henry Kissinger and other Trilateral Commission members. De Benedetti had an involvement with Calvi's Banco Ambrosiano as vice chairman in 1981. There are allegations that he stayed just long enough to set up the Vatican-tied bank for failure.

On April 16, Carlo De Benedetti appeared in Paris to announce plans for a French imitation of his Italian financial empire. He will buy major French food industry shares, and build a new European motor parts group around a takeover of the French Valeo company.

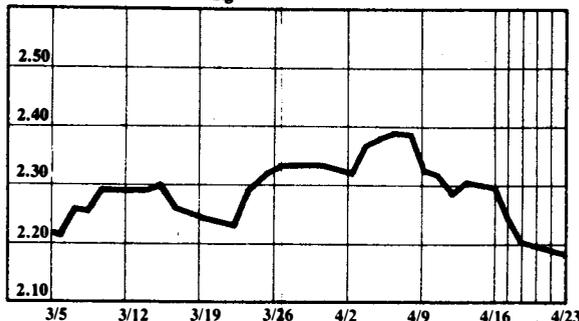
That is interesting, since one demand of the Industrialists' Roundtable is Europe-wide standardization of parts for automobiles and other things, something which could make Valeo enormously profitable.

De Benedetti, coming to Paris the day after French Finance Minister Balladur announced plans for selling off French state industry, also announced that he has formed yet another financial holding company, *Ceres*, owned by his CIR holding company in Italy together with Compagnie Financiere de Suez, Banque Nationale de Paris, UAP insurance, and Banque Worms. "I hope to do in France what I have done in Italy," the Venetian financier boasted. That alone should be reason enough for an investigation by French authorities.

Currency Rates

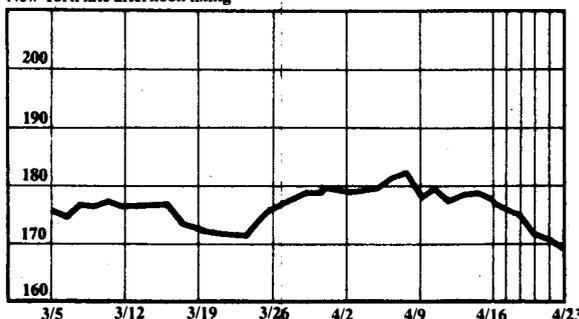
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



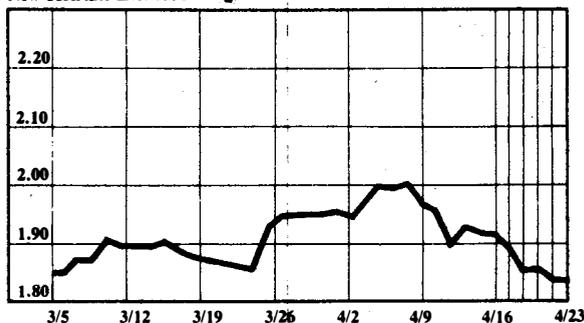
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The British pound in dollars

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