

The King apologizes

In a letter, Swedish King Carl Gustaf has withdrawn his criticism of the Norwegian seal hunters. The king had based his criticism on a film about Norwegian seal hunting off Greenland, which the second national Swedish television channel showed in 1989. Most of the accusations in the film were rejected by the special commission on seal hunting which the Norwegian government set up to investigate the claims.

The commission found that the producer, Odd Lindberg, did not have the competence to call himself a seal hunting inspector, and that there was no proof whatsoever that Norwegian seal hunters had skinned living seals. The commission was also able to show that the sequence in the film in which a dead baby seal is dragged over the ice, followed by its distraught mother seal, had not been filmed by Lindberg, but originated from a seal hunt which took place in Newfoundland at the end of the 1970s.

This past summer, the Norwegian seal hunters won a lawsuit against the newspaper *Avisen* from the area around Tromsø, and actions are also under way to sue the Norwegian daily *Aftenposten*, Norwegian radio, and the second national television channel in Sweden, for libel.

often turned down such invitations, but this time felt they could not back out. Again, the outcome was not what Greenpeace desired, as the Greenpeace representative was forced to take a certificate of thanks for Greenpeace's "extraordinarily active and excellent marketing of whale meat."

In Norway people believe that this year's battle was only a foretaste of the confrontation next year when commercial whaling starts again. With Greenpeace in the lead, many environmentalist organizations are threatening to boycott Norway and its industry. The nation is girding for the fight. Norwegians have improved their starting positions after this year's skirmishes.

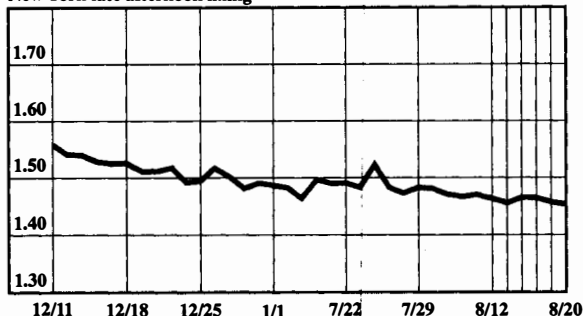
At the debate in Lofoten, the former chairman of Greenpeace Norway, Bjoern Oekern, commented on the situation: "We have found an effective means to prevent them [Greenpeace] from taking bloody pictures, and without such pictures they will get no publicity in the international media."

He also thought that it was "pathetic" to listen to Greenpeace these days. "They have no arguments they can use against whaling any longer, only grasping efforts to get ahold of money."

Currency Rates

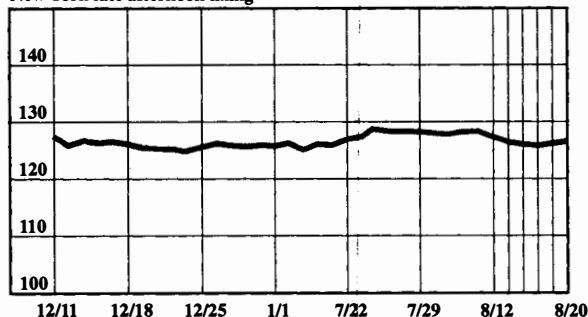
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



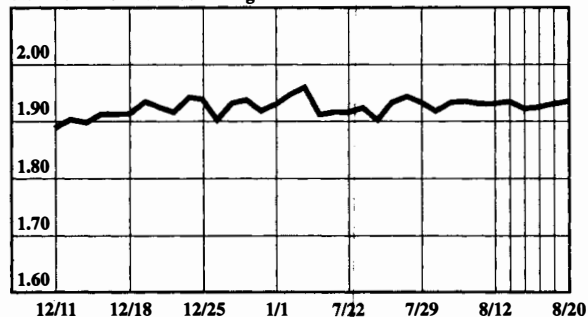
The dollar in yen

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

