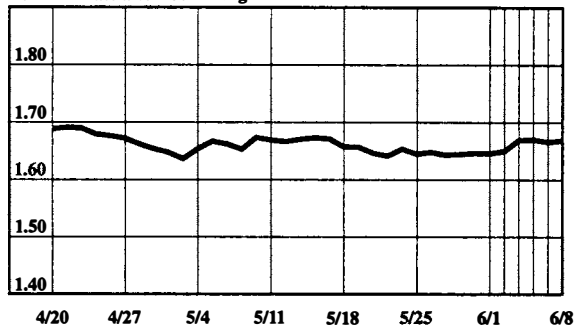


Currency Rates

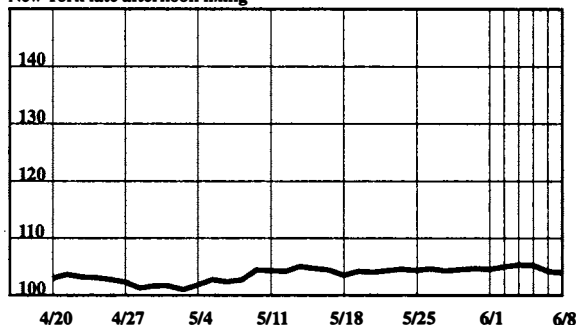
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



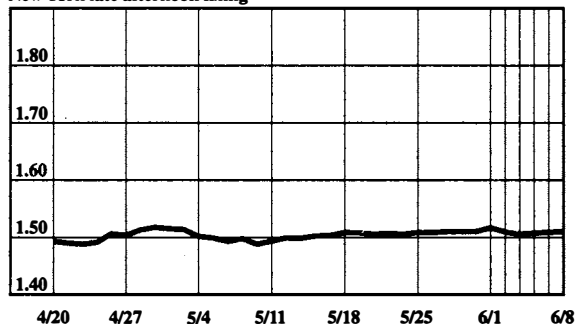
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



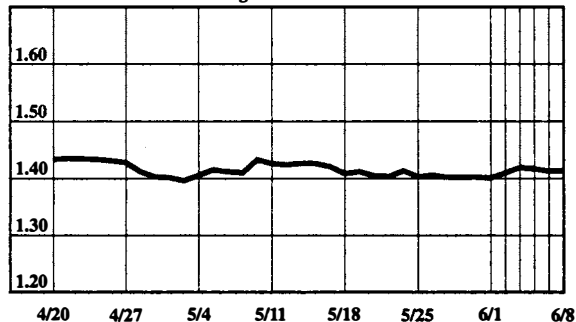
The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



preventing him up to now from proceeding in a big way against the illegal drug trade. It certainly wasn't the law on the books.

On the Westdeutsche Rundfunk radio station, Erwin Scholz, head of the Ahlen Drug Consultation Center and chairman of the Federal Association for Accepting Treatment of Drug Addiction and a Human Drug Policy, characterized the new guidelines as a small step in the right direction. The justice ministers of Hesse and Berlin also lined up on Krumsiek's side, and the Bremen social welfare authorities saw an affinity with Krumsiek's line of thought. SPD federal parliamentary representative Singer has already announced that following this summer's federal elections, there will be a careful relaxation of drug policy in the direction of the North Rhine-Westphalia guidelines. It is indicative that it is only after the elections that the SPD intends to come out with its true policy; some party officials apparently suspect that they will not be able to win votes with this kind of program.

'Repressive' policy a success

Krumsiek's initiative is particularly incomprehensible in view of a report issued by two state representatives following a visit to Stockholm, Sweden. According to the daily paper *Die Welt* on May 3, Wolfgang Kuschke (SPD) and Hermann-Josef Arentz of the Christian Democratic Union, who are their respective parties' drug abuse experts, said they had been impressed by Sweden's successful "repressive" anti-drug policy. Arentz reported that as a result of Sweden's liberal drug policy during the 1960s and 1970s, the number of drug addicts had doubled there. But since the late 1980s, Sweden has drastically changed course, and has made not only the possession, but also the consumption of mind-altering drugs, including hashish, punishable by fines and jail terms. The Swedish judicial system also was given the power to force every drug-dependent individual to remain for up to six months in a therapeutic institution. Since then, the statistics have been going downward. In 1967, some 17% of all teenage girls and 23% of all boys polled admitted that they had taken drugs, whereas by 1992, the figures had sunk to only 3-5%.

Kuschke also spoke out against a proposal by state social welfare minister Müntefering, according to which legal "fix"-studios would be established for everyone's use; this, he said, is tantamount to starting an ad campaign to promote consumption of hard drugs. Kuschke added that the Dutch had made many mistakes, such as when they permitted such establishments, called coffee shops, in which heroin often is also on sale.

But all is not lost, despite the negative developments portended by Krumsiek's guidelines. The fatal consequences of a policy of drug legalization must and can still be exposed, citing the examples of England, the Netherlands, and Sweden. The current election campaigns in Germany provide an opportunity to do this, and the battle can still be won.