

billion, while its real worth is not less than \$300-400 billion.

The 500 biggest enterprises, actually worth about \$200 billion, were sold for \$7.2 billion. For example, the Moscow auto plant ZIL, worth \$1 billion, was sold for \$4 million. The buildings of the State Institute of Education for Managers and Specialists in Chemical industry, worth \$100 million, were sold for 8 million rubles. The North Shipping Company was evaluated at \$3 million, the Novorossiysk port at \$22.5 million. And there are thousands of such examples.

### Colonialism and greed

The higher officials of Chubais's ministry used to say that rumors of "Russia being sold," widespread by the opposition, just reflected that they were unaware of the real situation. But when huge pieces of industries are easily bought by foreign companies, and the enterprises lose the ability to produce competitive machinery, losing their access to the world market, it's nothing but pure colonization. And this has already happened in the whole aluminum industry, its enterprises bought, 30% stock or more, by U.S., Irish, and Israeli companies. This has happened to the Mil Helicopter Plant, 28% of its stock bought by Boeing. And to "Electrosila," one of the most equipped and technologically developed St. Petersburg machine-building enterprises, 19% of its stock bought by the British "Madima."

The officials of the ministry might feel just a little bit anxious for the fate of the economy, directly influencing the standard of living. But they are more interested in their own standard of living than that of their fellow citizens. That's why they get so furious when Polevanov honestly describes the real situation. Because if the privatization policy really changes, and its second stage is started only after the grossest violations are possibly corrected, as Polevanov suggests should be done, the most influential liberals may lose much too much. For instance, Deputy Minister Pyotr Mostovoi may lose his "Lenzoloto" (Lena Gold) company together with his U.S. partner from "Star." And former Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar himself, the perfervid apostle of privatization and shock therapy, may lose his share in the newly made gigantic joint stock corporation, together with D. Cohan from the U.S. Pioneer Group, Inc.

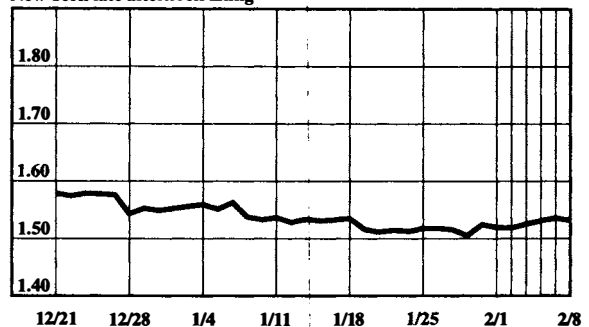
That is the real reason why the liberals used everything possible to compromise Polevanov, threatening him and insulting him. Not only him, but also Oleg Soskovets, who is making some real attempts to stop the looting of the economy, and was recommended by Polevanov to take charge of the ministry after he left.

But anyhow, Polevanov's letter was read in hundreds of analytical centers and millions of homes, and the state leadership, sooner or later, will have to do something about these problems. The country is terribly devastated, but not everything is lost yet. And the fact that Polevanov now works as a deputy chief of the Control Department proves that Mr. Chubais has not yet won the struggle.

## Currency Rates

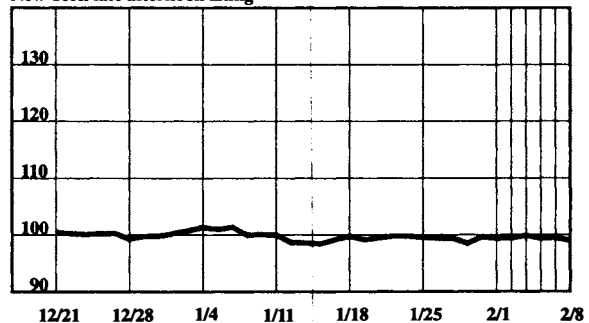
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



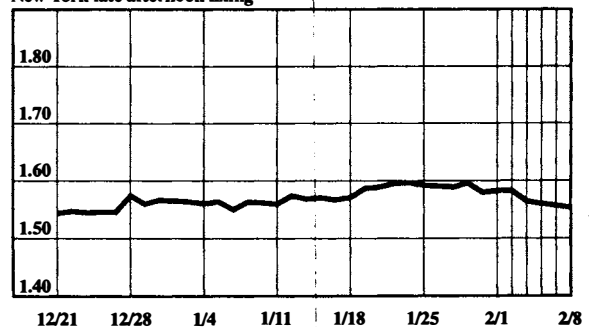
### The dollar in yen

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

