

Daily Worker Hastens To Whitewash Stalin's Partners-In-Crime

By Myra Tanner Weiss

Stalinist sources in Poland and New York have now confirmed Leon Trotsky's charge that Stalin's murder-machine in the Soviet Union systematically committed the most monstrous anti-Semitic out-

rages. The Jewish paper, *Folksstimme*, published in Warsaw, Poland, on April 4 revealed the tragic facts of the mass slaughter of the leaders of Jewish cultural and political activity in the Soviet Union. The Stalinist purge of Jews occurred in two waves: in the Thirties during the infamous Moscow Trials and in the period following World War II up to 1953.

In another development, the Moscow trials of 1934-38, in which all the old leaders of the Bolshevik Party under Lenin were liquidated with Leon Trotsky as the principal accused, were admitted to have been frame-ups with Stalin as the master architect. This admission comes from Khrushchev in his speech at the closed session of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union last February. *Borba*, a government paper in Yugoslavia, published extensive excerpts from the Khrushchev report in which it was admitted that Stalin personally directed the purge of old Bolsheviks in the Thirties, fabricated the confessions, obtained "through the crudest kind of pressure . . . by physical means," and instructed the police how to deal with the accused.

LIST OF CRIMES GROWS

These two new revelations confirm to the hilt the criminal character of the police dictatorship in the Soviet Union that Trotsky combatted since its inception after the death of Lenin. They follow admissions made almost a year ago that the post-war "Titoist-Trotskyist" trials were frame-ups in which Communist leaders of East Europe were liquidated; the revelations this year of the frame-up of Red Army leaders in the purges that prepared the Hitler-Stalin Pact of 1939; and the admission that the alleged plot of Soviet Jewish doctors in 1953 was a frame-up and part of the anti-Semitic campaign.

An editorial in the *Freiheit*, Yiddish-language newspaper of the Stalinists in New York, com-



LEON TROTSKY

menting on the *Folksstimme* revelation of anti-Semitic purges, described how Jewish culture had flourished in the early years after the Russian Revolution and then "was crushed in a veritable vandalistic manner, almost wiped out as a result of the monstrous crippling and horrible deeds of the conspirators — all of which was made possible . . . under the 'harmful influence' of the personality cult." (English translation of the *Folksstimme* article appears on this page.)

The list of artists, scientists and anti-fascist fighters who were annihilated in these purges exceeds even the worst fears of class-conscious workers throughout the world. The extermination of Jews included the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow which provided leadership to the Jewish people in their heroic contribution to the defense of the Soviet Union against the Nazi invasion. *Folksstimme* reported that this Committee had "suddenly without why or where-

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... Anti-Semitic Purges

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fore been liquidated and its leaders sentenced to destruction."

In 1937 Leon Trotsky, writing on anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, warned Communist workers against blinding themselves to the crimes of Stalinism. "Woe to those workers, revolutionists, socialists, democrats who, in the words of Pushkin, prefer 'a delusion which exalts us' to the bitter truth," said Trotsky. "A healthy revolutionary optimism has no need for illusions. One must face life as it is. It is necessary to find in reality itself the force to overcome its reactionary and barbaric features. That is what Marxism teaches us."

SOCIAL ROOTS

Under the Czar anti-Semitism was widespread in Russia. The workers revolution of 1917 swept this foul oppression away and established the economic foundations which will eventually liberate mankind from all oppression. When the revolution ebbed the bureaucracy helped to consolidate its police machine by appealing, at first covertly, to the worst prejudices of the most backward sections of the population.

The anti-Jewish purge of the Thirties was the culmination of this process. It was part of the purge of the most advanced workers in the Soviet Union, including almost all of the leaders of the Russian Revolution.

The Second World War impelled the Soviet workers into revolutionary struggle once more — and especially the Jewish people. The anti-Jewish purges in the post-war period were part of a new attempt to destroy the revolutionary mood of those who had sacrificed so much in the war years.

The editors of the Daily Worker, April 13, expressed their shock at the extermination of Jews in the Soviet Union. They say, "We register our strong

dissatisfaction that the Soviet leaders have not offered any explanation of what took place." However, the editors failed to note that the new Kremlin masters have not as yet even admitted publicly that the anti-Jewish purges took place. Only the Jewish press of Poland has exposed the murder of Jews in the Soviet Union.

JUST HAVE FAITH

But the Daily Worker editors — without waiting for their requested explanation or even the details of these bloody events — rush to assure their readers that the present Soviet leaders "are taking steps to prevent a recurrence of other types of violation of socialist principle. We have confidence that they will take the necessary measures in this grave matter too," they say.

How can the editors of the Daily Worker know that steps are being taken to prevent new pogroms if they don't even know what caused them in the first place? What is the justification for this servile expression of confidence in the "new" leaders of the Soviet Union, all of whom are guilty of participating in the slaughter of Jews?

The indignation of class conscious workers throughout the world will not be "consoled" by proclaiming Stalin's guilt, followed by a quick whitewash of Stalin's partners-in-crime. The murder of revolutionary workers and minority peoples in the Soviet Union must be avenged. The first stirrings of the political revolution of the workers in the Soviet Union has already toppled the edifice of lies and frame-ups on which the rule of the bureaucratic caste is founded. This revolution will grow until the bureaucracy has lost its power and workers' democracy is fully restored.

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