

# RED PAPER CHIDES SOVIET ON JEWS

## Yiddish Organ Here Rebukes Moscow Press Aide Who Denied Anti-Semitism

BY HARRY SCHWARTZ

The Morning Freiheit, Yiddish-language Communist newspaper of New York, rebuked the press chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday for his attitude toward a report of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

The press chief, Leonid F. Ilyichev, had branded as "slanderous and anti-Soviet" an article on Soviet anti-Semitism that appeared last April in the Folkshtime, Yiddish-language Communist newspaper of Warsaw. His statement, given to a Moscow correspondent of the National Guardian, a leftist New York weekly, was the first official Soviet reaction to the Polish report, which aroused wide interest in many countries.

Yesterday's Freiheit said the Folkshtime article had been reprinted widely by many newspapers friendly to the Soviet Union and that, "these publications did not and could not find anything smacking of anti-Soviet slander" in the article.

Mr. Ilyichev said the article was "an intermixture of facts and fantasies." The facts related to unjustified imprisonment of Yiddish writers in the Soviet Union, he said, "but the conclusions this article draws as to the persecution of the Jewish people and their culture is a slanderous one."

### Freiheit Takes Issue

The Freiheit took sharp issue with Mr. Ilyichev. It said that "Soviet statesmen should give some consideration to the fact that not alone individual Jewish victims, but the entire Yiddish culture was liquidated."

While The Freiheit agreed with Mr. Ilyichev that there was no government anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, it complained that "there are so far no facilities for cultural self-expression by non-religious Socialist Jewish citizens of the Soviet Union," adding that "so far the synagogue still seems to be the only 'Jewish address' in the Soviet Union."

The Freiheit also complained about the absence of publicity in the Soviet Union about the persecution of Yiddish writers. It noted that Yiddish writers were being rehabilitated in the Soviet Union and added: "However, when in the course of such rehabilitation nothing is said about what happened to the people who are being rehabilitated, the procedure cannot be considered as the most helpful one. We deem such clarification to be as essential as is friendly criticism."

Mr. Ilyichev also gave the National Guardian's correspondent an "explanation" of remarks by Mme. Yekaterina A. Furtseva,



The New York Times

**REBUKED:** Leonid F. Ilyichev, press chief of Soviet Foreign Ministry. He was chided by The Morning Freiheit for his reaction to the story on anti-Semitism.

alternate member of the Soviet Communist party's Presidium, on the quota system applied to Soviet Jews.

Mme. Furtseva said last June that talk of Soviet anti-Semitism had arisen because the Soviet government had found that Jews made up more than half the staff of some departments and because the government had taken steps to transfer Jews out of these departments.

According to Mr. Ilyichev's explanation, Mme. Furtseva meant to say that "if at some time there had taken place changes in office personnel, these changes were dictated by the economic needs of the country and under no circumstances were aimed at any discrimination of persons of any nationality."

"If a chief of an office or department found that in his office there existed over-saturation of a certain group of specialists," Mr. Ilyichev said, "then proceeding from the economic needs of the country, and with no reference to nationality, some of the specialists were given other posts in industry, agriculture and other branches. Never at any time during the Soviet power were there any quotas for Jews or persons of some other nationality, and there are not now."

The American Jewish Committee here charged yesterday that there was still no official repudiation of anti-Jewish measures in the Soviet Union.

The fifty-year-old agency, devoted to combating bigotry and advancing human rights, also asserted that to date the Soviet rulers had done nothing toward the "rehabilitation of Jewish leadership and institutions." These charges were embodied in a special study, made public by the agency, that analyzed two decades of Communist anti-Semitism.