

# GRIEVOUS DEEDS

WE FEEL a deep sense of indignation, anger and grief over the latest disclosures of violation of socialist principles under the Stalin regime in the Soviet Union. We refer to the apparent confirmation this week by a Jewish Communist paper in Poland of the charge that a large number of Jewish writers and other Jewish leaders were framed up and executed and that Jewish culture was virtually wiped out.

We denounce and protest this crime not only because of the horrible actions themselves. We have here a gross departure from the socialist principles upon which the Soviet Union, the first socialist state in the history of man, is founded.

The Soviet Union has to its ever-lasting credit that it developed and put into practice the socialist principle of racial and national equality. Hundreds of millions of people have been inspired by the elimination of the barbarous anti-Semitism of the Czars, the wiping out of the Czarist "prison-house of nations" and its replacement by a socialist multi-national state, by the encouragement to the development of culture in a hundred different tongues, including the Jewish language. It was the Soviet Union which saved millions of Jews from Hitlerite extinction during the war. As for Hitler's hordes which menaced the existence of every nation in the world, no one can deny that the Soviet Union dealt the major blows, in alliance with our own country, which defeated the Fascist axis. Also in line with the socialist principle of the rights of all peoples, small and big, was the decisive part the Soviet Union played in the establishment of an independent state of Israel.

But socialist principles were criminally violated in the late 1940s when Jewish leaders were framed and executed, when Jewish newspapers and other expression of Jewish culture were banned.

We register our strong dissatisfaction that the Soviet leaders have not offered any explanation of what took place.

Every supporter of socialism, every honest foe of racism, has a right to expect an explanation and a duty to ask for it.

The 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, especially in view of the exposure, following Stalin's death, of the plot against the Jewish doctors, and in view of the execution of Beria. But the Soviet leaders should explain to their friends and other honest workers in all countries, how these crimes were perpetrated. What false theories, if any, played a part in the violations? What has been done to punish all those responsible? What has been done to rectify the misdeeds? What is being done to guarantee against repetition of these actions against any minorities in the Soviet Union?

For our part, we frankly admit we were too prone to accept the explanation of why Jewish culture had disappeared in the Soviet Union in the late 1940s. Had we not done so, we would have served the cause of socialism better.

THE REACTIONARIES hope the recent disclosures will shake faith in socialism.

Our faith in socialism is stronger today than ever. It is stronger because it is more realistic than before. It is stronger because it understands better that socialism is self-correcting. When violations of democracy occur under socialism, socialism itself requires that the violations stop so that socialism can flourish. How different from capitalism, which demands that democracy be violated and which itself must be replaced in the long run if democracy is to be triumphant!

Loyalty to socialism does not mean loyalty to the mistakes and even misdeeds which may take place in any socialist country. Loyalty to socialism does not mean blind support for any particular leader of socialism.

Socialism is bigger than any individual, than his contributions or his mistakes. Socialism is as big as the people, for it is they who make socialism.

Loyalty to socialism means, in the first place, loyalty to the cause of labor, to our country and to the cause of socialism in our country. It means a sense of solidarity with the forces of socialism throughout the world and a spirit of mutual help, based not only on admiration for what has been achieved elsewhere but also on fraternal criticism of what may be wrong.