

Patterson Sees Need for Soviet Action on Jewish Question

The following statement was written for the Morning Freiheit by the noted fighter for Negro rights, William L. Patterson:

By WM. L. PATTERSON

Neither the reports presented to the 20th Congress nor any of those following it which have touched upon the murderous attacks upon Jewish intellectuals in particular upon Jewish professionals, upon the Jewish people as a group, or attacks upon their age-old culture, give a comprehensible or adequate and clear picture of what has happened. That something happened is to be recognized, but what and why—above all, why?

As a Negro in the United States who has dedicated his life to the realization of a Socialist society firm in the belief that it alone can bring to the Negro people security of life and property and equal opportunity freed from any restrictions based upon color or nationality to participate in all phases of American life, the fate of any minority in a Socialist state is a matter of grave concern. This holds especially true for the Jews living in the Soviet Union.

IN CZARIST RUSSIA the position of the Jewish people plumbed the very depth of degradation and dehumanization. Granting that remnants of the racist-religious persecution of Czarist days would have remained tenaciously clinging to the



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minds of some, who accepted the new, and desperately utilized by some who sought a return to the old, all of the political, economic and cultural weight of the new order should have at all times been made available for the protection of these people in the full and complete enjoyment of their rights and their dignity as human beings.

How did it happen then that such was not the case in a Socialist state?

I, A NEGRO, must have an answer that satisfies the Negro

people, otherwise they cannot be brought to believe that a Socialist society holds the complete reward for them. They must see that those who turn upon the Jews in the Soviet Union, violate Soviet law and Soviet democracy and that the violation of either is intolerable and punishable under that law. If there is no flaw in the theory of Socialist relations they must see the application of remedial measures when in the development of those relations men, women and youth have suffered because of their faith or nationality.

All of America demands as much as this, but for the Negro people nothing less would suffice.

THE TREATMENT of the Jews in the Soviet Union is not only an internal matter. It concerns not only Jews who live outside of that Socialist state. It concerns all and especially those who understand the meaning of human dignity. We must then seek a full picture. Armed with that our contributions to the cause of peace and the furtherance of a democracy that demands respect for human dignity is greatly enhanced.

Only such a picture strengthens the hand of the friends of Socialism. Its absence enables the enemies of Socialism to malign it successfully. The analysis, the clarification, must include the nature and character and extent of the remedial processes.