

A FORTHRIGHT RESOLUTION

IN FRIDAY'S issue we published the text of a resolution adopted by the recent New York State convention of the Communist Party on the Jewish question in the Soviet Union.

We consider this resolution a milestone in American Communist treatment of this question, which has been a burning one ever since the revelations of the crimes committed against persons and culture of Soviet Jewry and the disclosures of the distortions of the Leninist policy on the national question which was part of the original basic foundation of the Soviet Union.

The Communist Party resolution strongly criticizes the failure of the Soviet leaders to date to carry out its pledges to correct past injustices by fully restoring Jewish cultural and educational facilities. The resolution presses the Soviet authorities to issue a frank and full statement both as to past failings, present accomplishments and future intentions concerning the Jewish question in the Soviet Union.

At the same time, the resolution firmly combats the attempts of reactionary forces in this country—themselves the source of anti-Semitism here—to exploit the errors in the Soviet Union to discredit socialism, create hostility to that country and to buttress the Cold War. The resolution expresses confidence that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union will correct all errors on the Jewish question—a confidence based on the historic role of the Soviet Union in outlawing anti-Semitism, in the earlier development of a healthy and unprecedented policy on the national question, and in the self-criticism initiated by the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party last February.

The resolution notes that as the Soviet Union ended the anti-Semitic policy of the Czars, Jews entered all phases of economic, professional, administrative and cultural life, and advanced on their merits, with thousands winning "the highest honors the Party and Government of the Soviet Union can award."

The action of the New York Communist Party in formulating a forthright resolution on so vital an issue, is particularly timely since more than 2,000,000 Jewish people live in this city. The New York convention has given the first concrete implementation of the "new course" on relations toward other Communist Parties and the countries of socialism adopted by the recent national convention of the party.

Many commentators in the anti-Communist press could not ignore the decisions of the national convention when they were announced. But they tried later to blunt the impact of the decisions by insinuating they would never be carried out. It is ironic that when only a few weeks later the New York convention implements one of these decisions in such unmistakable terms, every paper in this city suppresses the news.

Perhaps this silence is not surprising. Evidently the press wants American Communists either to be silent over mistakes in the socialist countries—to fit in with the image the press has always painted of American Communists—or to be hostile toward these countries. American Communists are neither silent nor hostile. Their policy is not designed to further the plans of the reactionary press. Their purpose, on the contrary, is to fulfill their international obligations in a fraternal and, where necessary, critical way, and to serve the American people by combatting at all times the foes of peaceful coexistence.