

FREIHEIT RAPS ILYICHEV'S ATTACK ON POLISH ARTICLE

The Morning Freiheit, progressive Jewish daily, has criticized an attack on the article in *Folksstimme*, Polish-Jewish newspaper, about Soviet Jewish writers made by Soviet press chief L. F. Ilyichev in an interview with the National Guardian.

Ilyichev told Tabitha Petran of the Guardian (Sept. 3) that the *Folksstimme* article, which reported the murder of Jewish public figures and writers, was "slanderous and anti-Soviet." The press chief of the Soviet foreign ministry said the article was a mixture of "real fact and certain fantasies."

The true facts in the *Folksstimme* article, Ilyichev admits, "concern those Jewish writers who were charged and condemned unjustifiably." But, he added, "the conclusions this article draws as to the persecution of the Jewish people and their culture is a slanderous one." Ilyichev pointed out that others besides the Jews suffered injustice.

An editorial in the Morning Freiheit, reprinted in its English page on Sunday said:

"Ilyichev is quite right in stating that injustices inflicted on the Jews during Stalin's later years of one-man rule were of the same nature as those suffered by all Soviet peoples. . . ."

"It seems to us," the Freiheit editorial added, "that Soviet statesmen should give some consideration to the fact that not alone individual Jewish victims but the entire Jewish culture was liquidated. . . ."

The Freiheit said, "No one will question Ilyichev's statement that there is no state anti-Semitism in the USSR." It also recalled how the Soviet government rescued millions of Jews from extermination by the Hitlerites.

The editorial also said:

"All fair minded people are applauding the rehabilitation of the Jewish writers that have already taken place. 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."