

AN EDITORIAL STATEMENT

# Anti-Semitism and the Soviet Union

**H**UMANELY-CONCERNED AMERICANS will not agree with Soviet Foreign Ministry press chief I. F. Ilyichev that the question of anti-Semitism in the U.S.S.R. is an internal matter; as they would not contend that anti-Negro practices in the United States are an internal concern only of this country. Or that the Rosenberg Case was a private American matter.

Nor can these same Americans—among whom are those of the highest good will toward the Soviet Union—be fully reassured by the lack of candor evidenced by Soviet officials seeking to maintain the position that anti-Semitic occurrences in their country are matters of internal concern only. All injustice is a matter of

universal concern.

Humanely-concerned Americans—with whom the people of the GUARDIAN associate themselves—stand together in abhorrence of anti-Semitism and all other forms of discrimination, of registration of peoples by race, color, nationality or other group differentiation; of quota systems however rationalized and wherever existing.

We learn with relief and all possible satisfaction that amends are being made where possible and that restoration of suppressed culture is taking place; yet we cannot regard executions of Jewish leadership and resulting terrorization as in any way different from legal lynch-

ings with which Americans are all too familiar.

That they have occurred in a socialist society, even despite a tradition of law making such acts criminal and punishable, compels the conclusion that even such a society cannot in 38 years wipe out centuries-old prejudice, nor make a whole people proof against the corruption of power or the power of corrupt forces to regenerate and exploit it.

All humanely-concerned Americans await full reassurance; and many look to the Soviet Union to set a needed world example in the complete elimination of even the semblance of barriers between peoples making up a nation.

—THE EDITOR