

# Freiheit on Soviet Jewish Question

Chaim Suller, manager of the Morning Freiheit, Yiddish daily published in New York, reported on the condition of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union in the Sunday Worker, Sept. 22. Suller first reviewed his account last year of plans for the revival of Jewish culture that he had been told about during a visit to the Soviet Union in July 1956. These plans had been approved by the Soviet Writers Union, but had not been approved by the Soviet government. Still, other Jewish journalists who visited the Soviet Union at that time also reported on plans that were made. "This made us all feel certain," Suller said, "that the plan would really be carried out. But it is clear to all that now, a year later, this plan has NOT been carried out. Not one book has been published in Yiddish. There is not a single Yiddish newspaper except the one in Birobidian (which did not cease publication during all this period). There is no permanent Yiddish theatre. The Jewish cultural conference was not called. The Yiddish literary journal has not yet appeared."

Suller expressed the opinion that this failure did not constitute evidence of anti-Semitism. And he expressed hope that the plan "will be fulfilled." But he said, "We must . . . conclude that this failure to satisfy the cultural needs of the Jewish population is a violation of the fundamental principles of socialism as they relate to the national question. No socialist and no friend of the Soviet Union can overlook or condone it."