

# IZVESTIA ASSAILS USE OF CONFESSIONS

MOSCOW, March 1 (AP)—Izvestia said today the use of confessions in Soviet trials was a serious error that must be corrected. The Soviet Government newspaper blamed the late Andrei Y. Vishinsky for violations of "basic concepts of Soviet justice."

Mr. Vishinsky was prosecutor at the vast Moscow purge trials twenty years ago in which Stalin's enemies, after abject confessions, were executed or exiled by the thousands. Later Mr. Vishinsky became a member of the law academy, Deputy Foreign Minister, Foreign Minister and Soviet representative at the

United Nations. He died in New York Nov. 22, 1954.

Izvestia said Mr. Vishinsky was responsible for many "serious mistakes" when he was the purge trial prosecutor. It added that basic Soviet law should be that a man is innocent until proved guilty, and that confessions of guilt should not be overestimated.

The concept that a man is innocent until proved guilty was proclaimed a year ago by the Communist party's theoretical journal, Communist, but Izvestia said the nation's lawyers had been slow to recognize it. It added that law textbooks published last year ~~did~~ not even mention it.

"The latest legal textbooks published last year do not even mention the term 'subjective rights' upon which the theory is based," Izvestia said.

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