

The 'Forward' Glorifies Era of Czarist Pogroms

By Rose Wortis

THE JEWISH PEOPLE throughout the world are alarmed at the revival of anti-Semitism in Germany, at the release of the Nazi war criminals and their restoration to power in Western Germany, and the decision of the western powers to rearm Germany.

Huge protest demonstrations against the release of the Nazi criminals have taken place in Israel, France, Britain, the U. S. and throughout the world.

But the Jewish Social-Democratic leaders in our country, who parade as spokesmen of Jewish labor, are indifferent to these developments. In their pathological hatred of the Soviet Union and the New Democracies, where anti-Semitism has been outlawed, where Jewish life and culture are flowering, where hundreds of Jewish writers, artists and scientists have been awarded the Stalin prize, they have instead started a most sinister campaign of lies and slander about anti-Semitism, pogroms and liquidation of Jewish life in these countries.

The GEB of the ILGWU and the Amalgamated met in their quarterly sessions in January, when all decent thinking people throughout the world are aroused by Commissioner McCloy's announced release of Nazi criminals responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Jewish and other peoples in the Nazi concentration camps and gas chambers. But neither these important meetings nor the official journals of the unions took any notice of this.

The Jewish Forward reported McCloy's action in a few insignificant lines on its back pages, withholding editorial comment for weeks. A conference of the Jewish Labor Committee, which met shortly afterwards, adopted a milk-and-water face-saving resolution to appease the aroused sentiments of the Jewish workers, and then went on to their real business for which the conference was called, its part in Wall Street's anti-Soviet war campaign among the Jewish people.

The conference elected a delegation, headed by Jacob Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated, David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, J. Baskin, general secretary of the Workmen's Circle and Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee to the United Nations, not to protest the release of the murderers of six million Jews, but to attack the Soviet Union. To quote their words, the delegates were named to protest "the brutal uncivilized violations of the human rights

and genocide covenants" of the United Nations by the Soviet Union and to "appeal to the conscience of humanity to terminate this genocide."

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IN PASSING we might say that the latter three of these gentlemen, as far back as January, 1942, during the most crucial period of the war on the Eastern Front enthusiastically, associated themselves with a statement of N. Chanin printed in the official organ of the Workmen's Circle, which said in part, "The last shot has not yet been fired: it is yet to be fired, and the final shot will come from free America and from that shot the Stalin regime will be shot to pieces."

More recently the anti-Soviet campaign of these Jewish Social-Democrats has taken on the character of a glorification of Jewish life in pogrom-ridden Russia under Tsarism, where the Jewish people were confined to ghettos, deprived of any human rights, terrorized and murdered by the Tsarist black hundreds.

To those of us who come from old Russia and have tasted of this "rich" life under Tsarism, this will hardly seem credible, but here are the facts.

The April 27 issue of the Jewish Forward carries an article by H. Lang about a school against Communism in Los Angeles for leaders in Jewish public life. "We began," writes Lang, "with Jewish life as it existed in Russia before the advent of Bolshevism. Jews, Jewish faith, Jewish ideas, the Jews as a people with their own way of life and freedom existed regardless of Tsarism. There was a broad deep Jewish culture created in Jewish, Hebrew and Russian; there were Jewish seminars (Yeshivas) and student group, the world of Rabbis, the intellectuals, the force of Jewish thought and Jewish life; religious organizations, Socialism; Zionism and contact with the entire Jewish people, literature and the rising labor movement, the struggle for Jewish and human rights, an improvement even in economic life which somehow nullified even the Tsarist edicts—all of this together constituted a many-sided, creative civilization.

"The Communists found all

this as well as the ideals of full freedom and equality which the Revolution proclaimed before Bolshevism poisoned the revolution."

How Lang thirsts for the return of the Tsarist paradise.

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ON APRIL 1 the Forward printed an editorial entitled "We and They," dealing with the standard of living. "In the lands of Communist dictatorship," says the editorial, "the standard of living is much lower than before the war . . . especially in Soviet Russia, the standard of living is much lower than it was before the Bolshevik Revolution." that is, under Tsarism. This sudden nostalgia for the good old Tsarist days is in full harmony with the propaganda line of the Wall Street Journal, which in its March 16 issue wrote that Tsarism was no despotism and that the masses lived better materially and had more culture than today. (Note Wall Street's great concern over Soviet culture.)

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RAPHAEL ABRAMOVITCH, an old hand at counter-revolution, thinks that this sort of open Tsarist propaganda is a bit too crude. In an article on March 20 he takes his colleagues to task. He chides them for their enthusiasm for the immigrant Boldarf of the Russian quasi-fascist group, Solidarists, which served as Hitler's anti-Semite group during the war. This Boldarf recently boasted of his revolutionary groups in Russia, and offered to make a revolution there for the paltry sum of \$100,000.

Abramovitch is a little more subtle. He offers his own program to the State Department for winning the Soviet people.

"The question of utmost importance for the Russian people, especially for the national minorities in the Soviet Union," writes Abramovich on March 26, "is what will victorious America do with them, what kind of future will they have under American rule?"

Further, "we must through official and fiery programs of the American government and highest institutions . . . declare . . . that neither America nor its allies have any harmful inten-

(Continued on Page 8)

The 'Forward'

(Continued from Page 7)

tions with regard to the territories or independence of the Russian countries. This would be given emphasis and, so to say, a moral guarantee if native Russian people, especially such whose names are known in Russia as ideological fighters against Stalin . . . such names as Kerensky, Victor Chernov, or Tsere-telli. . . or the daughter of Count Leo Tolsoy, etc." and of course Abramovitch (all of whom have been thrown on the rubbish heap of history) will be placed at the helm.

This glorification of Tsarism, the propaganda of the Social-Democrats for the restoration of capitalism under the leadership of the Kerenskys is no new phenomenon in the ranks of the Social-Democrats. It is the logical development of their association and support of the Vlossofs (Russian Nazis), the Chernovs (who worked with the Ukrainian fascists in America) their sponsorship of the White Guardist General Denekin during his visit to the United States, Dubinsky's audience with the Pope, as well as their association with the reactionaries and anti-Semites in our own country, such as the Brooklyn Tablet and reactionary Catholic forces in the labor movement.

Honest thinking Jewish people, no matter what their political opinions will emphatically reject and repudiate these treacherous activities of the so-called Jewish labor leaders.

The fate of the Jewish people is unalterably bound up with all freedom and peace-loving people at whose head stands the Soviet Union and the New Democracies. Any association with reactionaries, anti-Sovieteers, no matter what reason may be given can lead only to disaster for our people. Our fate, our future, can be guaranteed only in a peaceful world.