

FREIHEIT HITS TRAGIC RUIN OF SOVIET JEWISH CULTURE

The Morning Freiheit, progressive Jewish newspaper, yesterday condemned the vandalistic destruction of Jewish culture by the Beria band in the Soviet Union. In an editorial entitled, "Our Anguish and Our Consolation," the Freiheit discusses the terrible facts revealed by a Polish Jewish newspaper, *Folksstimme*, concerning the murder of some of the most prominent Soviet Jewish writers and poets by the Beria gang.

"The anguish will be felt," the Freiheit wrote, "with particular impact by the builders of Jewish culture, by those who have always cherished and continue to cherish the spiritual creations of the murderously annihilated writers, the best and the most glorious that Soviet Jewish culture possessed."

The "*Folksstimme*" article described how when Leninist national principles flourished in the USSR there were Jewish papers, magazines, books, theatres, schools and autonomous Jewish regions. "This entire structure," the Freiheit editorial declares, "was crushed in a veritable vandalistic manner, almost wiped out as a result of the monstrous crippling and horrible deeds of the conspirators—all of which was made possible, as the (*Folksstimme* article) states, under the harmful influence of the personality cult." The lat-

ter is a reference to Stalin's one-man leadership.

The Freiheit notes that repeated inquiries about the fate of the Soviet Jewish writers "brought no results." The reference to "our consolation," the Freiheit points out, concerns new steps being taken to rehabilitate Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. But the editorial says "we now have only a beginning," adding:

"The Jewish masses will await impatiently new developments which should prove that the structure of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union is being rebuilt and that along with the return to Leninist practice in all realms in the Soviet Union there is also such a return in the realm of Jewish culture"

The Freiheit editorial demanded that all the guilty will be punished and says that Jews and non-Jews "await more detailed authoritative statements which should reveal how the conspirators perpetrated their deeds and what measures have been taken to avoid repetition of such horrible deeds."