

## By Harry Ring

The revelations of crimes committed against the Jewish people in the Soviet Union have had a major impact on the members of the Communist Party. With the re-

port of J. B. Salsberg on the current status of Soviet Jewry, published in the February issue of Jewish Life, the concern has grown deeper. This wide-spread grown deeper. This wide-spread troubled sentiment is given par-tial expression in the resolution on The Jewish Question in the USSR adopted by the recent state convention of the Commun-ist Party in New York. The resolution entitlement

The resolution criticizes the Soviet government for failing to out its pledge to restore carry Jewish cultural and educational facilities and presses for a pub-lic statement by the government spelling out its attitude and inspelling out its attitude and in tentions on the Jewish quesion.

## RECORDS CRIMES

In an April 8 editorial, the aily Worker hails the resolu-Daily tion as "a milestone in American on Communist treatment this question." 'Relative to past perquestion." 'Relative to past per-formance, the resolution is a step forward. (A similar resolution rever got to the floor of the Party's recent national conven-tion.) Study of the present res-olution, however, shows that a good deal more frank and unam-biguous talk is required before the "milestone" that the mem-bershin is looking for is actually bership is looking for is actually

reached. The resolution records the crimes committed against Soviet Jewry under Stalin, including the closing down of the Jewish cultural institutions and the execution of leading Jewish litera-ry figures. But it does not anathe verified reports, such lyze as Salsberg's, of continuing anti-Jewish practices. Instead it ex-presses confidence that "the Soviet Party . . . will, in the proc-ess it has begun of examining the Jewish question and the Leninist solution to it, give expres-sion to the cultural needs and de-

sires of the Jewish people." We are further informed by the resolution that. "Heartening amidst the agony caused by the revelations of the 20th Congress was the fact that the CPSU it-self had uncovered the errors and crimes, branded them as vi-clations of socialism, and rescived to return to the Leninist policy on all questions, including the National question."

The confidence thus expressed in Khrushchev and Co. is certainin Khrushchev and Co. is certain-ly not heartening. After all, it was no special trick for Khru-shchev to "uncover" the crimes he recited at the 20th Congress considering that he knew of considering that he knew of them as an accomplice in Stalin's Furthermore, bloody misdeeds. there is not a shred of evidence to substantiate the claim that the Jewish question is now being examined with a view to a "Leninist solution."

## SILENT ON JEWS



with Tabitha Petran of the Nawith Tabitha Petran of the Na-tional Guardian, Ekaterina Furt-seva, a leading Moscow function-ary, declared that she was posi-tive that if the Folksstimme rev-elations were true, "we would have published them." Mrs. Furt-seva also "denied emphatically also "denied emphatically seva that there ever has been any sup-ression of Jewish culture or reression of fewish cuture of re-pression of the Jewish people." (Guardian, June 25, 1956.) But the incontestable fact is

that discrimination against Jews was and still is being practiced. Both Furtseva and Khrushchev have conceded and attempted to justify the use of restrictive quotas on Jews in government office Passmorts and personal cffice. Passports and personal papers are still stamped "Jew." It is precisely such practices that have compelled J. B. Salsberg to brand present Soviet treatment of Jewish citizens as "in com-plete contradiction with the plete contradiction with the elementary concepts of socialist equality."

## WHITEWASH JOB

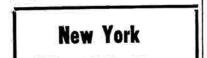
However, the convention res-clution assures us, the present course is one of "steadily correcting the errors of the Stalinist period," and this offers "basic guarantees" of a return to the Leninist position on the Jewish question.

If these indeed were simply "errors" and they were in fact being "steadily corrected" ther a better attitude on the Jewish question might be hoped for. But it is nothing less than white wash to characterize as "errors" the factions of the Krembir accurate the Soviet Jews and the the actions of the Kremlin against the Soviet Jews and the entire Soviet people. The most fundamental of Marxist principles were scrapped and betrayed The deeds committed were crimes, not errors — and on the Jewish question, Khrushchev and Company have even refused to admit their crimes.

One of the most disquieting features of the 20th Congress was precisely the fact that while catalogued many Khrushchev cther vile crimes, he deliberate-ly omitted any mention of the crimes committed against Jews. Most revealing on this count was his detailed discussion of the infamous "Doctors' case," in which he managed to avoid any reference to the anti-Semitic character of that particular frame-up.

The revelations about the Soiet Jews did not come from the soviet government — either before, during, or after the 20th Congress. They were made, on April 4, by the Warsaw Jewishlanguage paper, Folksstimme. Since then there has been, to our knowledge, but one public refer-ence to the Folksstimme expo-sure by a high Soviet official.

In her notorious interview



But most decisive is the fact that Moscow has already re-versed the course it charted at the 20th Congress. That congress signified a decision by the Kremlin rulers to grant concessions to cope with the growing pres-sure of the Soviet people for a new deal. But since the upsurge of the Polish working class and in the revolutionary uprising Hungary, the Kremlin has been backtracking. Its present attitude was perhaps most shamefully expressed in Khrushchev's re-cent boast: "I am a Stalinist!"

This reactionary turn is de-cisive for the Soviet people in general and the Jewish people in particular. Salsberg correctly re-lates the two problems when he observes that "the rise and fall of Jewish cultural and communal life coincides with the rise and fall of democracy in the . . . USSR."

Right now the graph is swing-ing sharply downward. This fact must be bluntly stated if effec-tive aid is to be given to the struggle for the revival of Len-inist democracy in the USSR.