

# REDS NAME JEWS PURGED BY SOVIET

Warsaw Yiddish Newspaper  
Confirms Execution Under  
Stalin—Blames Beria

By HARRISON E. SALISBURY

Polish Communist sources have confirmed that Soviet authorities liquidated a large number of Jews prominent in literary, cultural and political fields in the years before Stalin's death in 1953.

A similar purge was carried out during the Nineteen Thirties.

The description of the anti-Semitic excesses was given by the Warsaw Yiddish-language newspaper, *Folksstime*, in its edition of April 4, which has just reached New York. *Folksstime* is a Communist organ.

The Warsaw newspaper provided the first Communist confirmation of accounts previously published by *The New York Times* and *The Jewish Daily Forward* of New York.

The picture painted by the Warsaw report was one of excesses even more extensive than previously rumored. The list of Jewish victims published in Warsaw was longer than any that had been published by anti-Communist groups.

Publication of the Polish newspaper's account increased speculation that Moscow might be preparing to announce that the execution of the Polish Jewish labor leaders, Victor Alter and Henryk Erlich, carried out in December, 1942, was a result of charges that were without foundation in fact.

Mr. Alter and Mr. Erlich were arrested by the Russians when Poland was partitioned by the Soviet Union and Germany in

1939. According to the Soviet version the men were convicted of treason and executed.

The Polish account attributed the anti-Semitic outrages to Lavrenti P. Beria, former Soviet secret police chief, executed in December, 1953. In fact the Jewish liquidations of the Nineteen Thirties occurred before Stalin brought Beria from Georgia to head the police apparatus in 1938.

Among those listed by *Folksstime* as victims of the later Jewish purge of 1948-52 were the writers Itsik Feffer, David Bergelson, Perets Markish, Leib Kvitko, David Hofshstein, Isaac Nusinov, Elijah Spivak, Froyim Kahanovitch, S. Persov and Benjamin Suskin.

Only the first five of these writers had previously positively been known to have been executed in the purge.

The newspaper said that the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee in Moscow had "suddenly withdrawn why or wherefore been liquidated and its leaders sentenced to destruction."

The committee was headed by the prominent Yiddish actor Solomon Mikhoels, whose death previously had been officially attributed to an "automobile accident." The newspaper account suggested that Mr. Mikhoels also was one of the victims of the anti-Semitic campaign.

Mr. Feffer, a poet loyal to the Stalin regime and a Red Army colonel during World War II, was one of the Anti-Fascist Committee leaders. He and Mr. Mikhoels toured the United States in behalf of the Soviet war effort during World War II.

## Victims of Thirties

Among the Jewish victims of the Nineteen Thirties purges were listed S. Dimanshtein, Ester Frumkin, Rachmael Weinshtein, Moishe Litvakov, Izi Kharik, Moishe Kulbak, H. Duriets, Mikhail Levitan, Yan-  
kel Levin, Hershel Brill, Max Erik and Yasha Bronshtein.

Mr. Weinshtein and Mr. Levin were leaders of the Bund, a

organ. An extensive account was also published by the Jewish Daily Forward, strongly anti-Communist newspaper, which has long waged a campaign exposing the anti-Semitic excesses in the Soviet Union. The Forward published the confirmation of its charges with the comment "Communists in Warsaw and New York finally tell about Soviet pogrom on Yiddish writers."

Jewish Social Democratic organization. Mr. Litvakov was a critic and editor of the Moscow Yiddish newspaper *Emes* (Truth). Mr. Erik was a leading Yiddish scholar in Kiev.

The Warsaw newspaper also listed a number of other "masters of Yiddish literature" who had been victims of anti-Semitic drives. One of the authors on this list, Samuel Halkin, has been reported recently to be alive in a Leningrad sanatorium.

Among the names on this list were those of Aaron Kushnirov, Lipe Reznik, Ezra Finenberg, Hersh Orland, Noah Lurie, Itsik Kipnis, and Note Lurie.

The text of the *Folksstime* report was published by the New York Yiddish-language newspaper *Freiheit*, a Communist party