

SOVIET ASSAILED ON YIDDISH CURB

Article in Daily Worker Says Bar to Cultural Revival Flouts Socialist Precepts

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

An article in The Daily Worker yesterday accused Soviet leaders of "a violation of the fundamental principles of socialism" in refusing to permit vigorous revival of Yiddish culture in the Soviet Union.

The writer, Chaim Suller, manager of The Morning Freiheit, local Yiddish Communist newspaper, declared that "the leaders of the Soviet Government and the Soviet Communist party still cling to an incorrect policy * * * that all the Jews in the Soviet Union are linguistically and culturally assimilated and have no need for separate institutions."

Mr. Suller said that when he visited the Soviet Union more than a year ago he was told of ambitious plans for the revival of Yiddish culture. He added that the plans still had not been realized to any significant extent.

Packed Concerts Cited

He expressed his disillusionment in these words:

"Why has nothing appeared yet in Yiddish? Not a newspaper, not a book, not a magazine! All the arguments we heard from certain Soviet leaders that the Jews themselves do not want Yiddish publications do not correspond with reality. If it were true that Jews do not want Yiddish, then the Yiddish concerts everywhere in the Soviet Union would not be packed to overflowing. My

own experience has convinced me that large masses of Jews in the Soviet Union are hungry for the Yiddish word."

Mr. Suller insisted that the failure to permit a vigorous revival of Yiddish culture among the 3,000,000 Soviet Jews could not be explained by any sort of "technical difficulties." He wrote:

"There has been enough time now to overcome these difficulties. One need not be an expert to understand that if the Soviet Government were convinced of these measures, they would be adopted with dispatch. Smaller states than the Soviet Union—Poland and Rumania—have Yiddish publishing houses, schools, theatres."

Anti-Semitism Denied

Mr. Suller denied that the Soviet leaders were motivated by anti-Semitism in their refusal to permit a wide revival of Yiddish culture. He pointed out that some limited progress toward reviving Yiddish culture in the Soviet Union had been permitted, citing the recording of Yiddish folk songs, the publication of some Yiddish works in Russian and English translation and the presentation of some concerts of Yiddish songs.

He implied there was a strong Zionist sentiment among Soviet Jews. He wrote of "nationalist tendencies" among Soviet Jews, adding: "I discovered that these tendencies were especially strengthened by the administrative shutting down of all Jewish cultural institutions."

Publication of Mr. Suller's article in The Daily Worker would appear to reflect in part also an act of defiance by The Daily Worker staff in the face of Soviet censure. Only a week ago it became known that the authoritative Soviet magazine Kommunist had denounced by name John Gates, editor of The Worker, as a spokesman for "revisionism."