

times a week, established contact with Jewish communities in other countries, arranged patriotic rallies in Yiddish, etc. Its propaganda to the Russian Jews appealed to their Jewish pride as well as to their

Soviet loyalty. Jews were called on to prove themselves worthy descendants of the Maccabees and Bar Kochba, to avenge the death of the millions of Jews and to redeem the honor of the Jewish

heroes and martyrs. There is no question that for many Jews this appeal proved to be a long-awaited opportunity to reassert their identification with klal Yisroel. Nor was Stalin to forget this assertion of identity when the time came for him to settle his war-time grudges.

As soon as the Soviet military fortunes took a turn for the better, the Anti-Fascist Committee dropped the subject of Jewish unity and turned to the question of "Jewish Fascists."

This was the beginning of the end; it remained only for the war to be finished for Stalin to resume his former policies with a new vengeance.

In September 1948 Ilya Ehrenburg published an article in Pravda that was the opening shot in as vicious an anti-Semitic campaign as Russian Jews had had to endure since the days of the Czars. There was nothing spectacularly new in the ideas Ehrenburg now expounded: he merely rehearsed the old line about Jews not being a people and having nothing in common with Jews in other lands. But the timing of the article was portentous. It was unequivocal notice that the spiritual genocide of Russian Jewry was about to be completed.

The end came two months later. In November 1948 the Jewish Anti-

Fascist Committee was dissolved. Einikeit, the last remaining Yiddish paper, was suspended and the only Jewish printing plant padlocked. The Yiddish theatres were closed. The leading Jewish writers, artists and intellectuals vanished—some were summarily shot, others were exiled and many died in prisons.

The New York office of the Yiddish Cultural Congress recently compiled a list of 450 Jewish journalists, novelists, poets, playwrights, scholars, teachers and actors who disappeared after 1948 and whose whereabouts are still unknown. But though the facts are now admitted in the Communist press in

Poland and elsewhere outside the Soviet Union, the Soviet government has never made any statement or offered any explanation regarding this cultural assassination of a whole people.

The spiritual pogrom was accompanied by the persecution of individual Jews, particularly those in the arts, sciences and professions. They were officially branded as "passportless" and "homeless cosmopolitans" intent on corrupting intellectual life in the Soviet Union by smuggling in foreign capitalist and bourgeois-nationalist influences.

Every charge ever hurled against Zionism was hauled out and lived up, and something new was added. In addition to everything else, Zionism was now an international conspiracy engaged in perpetrating murder, espionage and acts of sabotage for the purpose of restoring capitalism in the Soviet Union and in the "People's Democracies." And to insure that no distinction was to be made between Zionists and all other Jews, such institutions as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the American Jewish Committee were also dragged in. An article in the Feb. 24, 1953, issue of Literaturnaya Gazeta, the organ of the Soviet intelligentsia, introduced the J.D.C. to its readers in the following words: "The ringleaders of Joint are

also the leaders of the American Jewish Committee. They belong to the richest families in the United States. . . . The Rockefeller, the Kuhn, Loeb Co., the Warburgs, Lehmanns and Fords rule the roost in Joint. . . . It remains only to add that the house of Morgan is no less interested in Joint."

Stalin's last infamy, and one that probably would have led to physical pogroms had he not died soon after, was the arrest of a group of doctors, including many Jews, on charges of poisoning Soviet leaders and plotting to poison others at orders from "Joint." The doctors' arrest was announced in an official communique of January 13, 1953. By way of comment on the announcement, Pravda said: "Most of the members of the terrorist group . . . were bought by the American intelligence service. They were recruited by a

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There was only one more touch to the magazine's story: despite the fact that "Joint" was an agency of the American government, it collaborated with Hitler's Gestapo during World War III

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