MR. BLIT REPLIES:

The basic point in my short review of Professor Fiszman's book is that he treated the Poles as though they were the Frenchmen of three quarters of a century ago fighting the battle of progress ("Revolution") against Reactionary Clericalism. If he had chosen his Polish collaborators less one-sidedly (see list on page xiii), they might have helped him to comprehend the bitter struggle which takes place in Communist-ruled Poland between the official establishment, which tries in vain to create the "New Marxist-Leninist Socialist Man," and the bulk of the Poles who are fighting for their cultural values, which were for a thousand years deeply influenced by Western, especially Latin European, traditions. Professor Fiszman does not indicate in his long letter that he even now recognizes this basic problem, and the objectives of his collaborators in helping him to prepare his book.

TO THE EDITOR:

I am taken aback by the tone of George Alexander Lensen's review of John Sweet's book *Ukrains'ko-iapons'ki vzaiemyny, 1903–1945* (*Ukrainian-Japanese Relations, 1903–1945*) in the March 1974 issue (pp. 140–41). Mr. Sweet's book deals with the attempts of Ukrainians in the Far East to gain support from the Japanese for the establishment of an independent Ukrainian state and the cultural and regional autonomy of the large Ukrainian settlements in Siberia. In concluding his review, Mr. Lensen states: "I wonder, furthermore, whether the publication of this book in New York in Ukrainian is worth the price—its restriction to a very limited readership. On the other hand, who but a Ukrainian nationalist would take pride in its content?" These are hardly statements appropriate to a scholarly review.

Rather than describing historical events and political movements as objects of "pride" (or, implicitly, "shame"), the reviewer might better have evaluated the book's contribution to an understanding of the problem. Mr. Lensen seemingly is more interested in the correctness of political stances and in discussing relative degrees of "patriotism" of Russian and Ukrainian émigrés.

Even from the technical standpoint, the review can hardly be labeled informative. Were it not for the curious statement on language, one would assume that the book was in English, since instead of citing the Ukrainian title page of the Ukrainian book, Mr. Lensen cites the English facing title page. In fact, Mr. Lensen's one attempt at transliteration is hardly acceptable—his rendition of *"Man'dzhurskii Vistnik"* for the newspaper *Man'dzhurs'kyi Vistnyk* represents no system for the transliteration of Ukrainian that I know.

While I am not qualified to evaluate Mr. Sweet's work, I question the appropriateness of Mr. Lensen's methods of reviewing.

FRANK SYSYN
Harvard University

TO THE EDITOR:

I have read Professor George Alexander Lensen's review of J. V. Sweet's book and also Sweet's study. There are, indeed, some shortcomings, as there are in other monographs; however, to conclude that only "a Ukrainian nationalist would take