

EIRFeature

Probe DOJ unit: 'Nazi hunters'— or KGB liars?

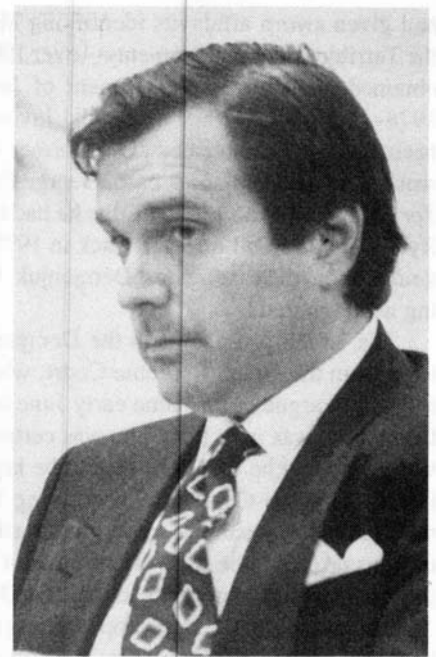
by Jeffrey Steinberg

The U.S. Department of Justice's self-described "Nazi-hunting" unit is at long last being broadly exposed for its own persistent use of Nazi "Big Lie" methods and its criminal collusion with two foreign secret intelligence agencies, the Soviet KGB and the Israeli Mossad.

The Office of Special Investigations (OSI), established by an act of Congress in 1979, is the subject of an inquiry by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati, Ohio and a separate internal Department of Justice (DOJ) probe by the Office of Professional Responsibility. The unit, including its current and former directors, is accused of withholding critical evidence in capital cases, committing perjury, peddling forged documents, and other crimes in partnership with the KGB and the Mossad.

As the consequence of these acts, during the 1980s, a number of naturalized American citizens were stripped of their rights, deported to Israel or the Soviet bloc, and put on trial for war crimes. Several OSI victims, like Karl Linnas, died in Soviet bloc prisons and gulags. One leading German-American scientist, Dr. Arthur Rudolph, who played an important role in the American scientific establishment throughout the Cold War and who worked on the Strategic Defense Initiative (and was therefore a priority target of Soviet intelligence), was driven to renounce his citizenship and leave his adopted country, even though a three-year probe by West German officials exonerated him of all the crimes the OSI had manufactured against him. Others, like Tscherim Soobzokov, successfully proved their innocence, only to be assassinated by Israeli killer squads who somehow managed to slip through the fingers of U.S. federal investigators and to this day have never faced arrest and trial.

In 1989, Zionist gangster Edgar Bronfman negotiated a secret arrangement with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov to provide grain and other consumer goods to the Soviets, in return for the free passage of hundreds of thousands of



Armand Hammer (left): the “red billionaire” who supplied Soviet forged documents to Israel to convict John Demjanjuk. Richard Thornburgh (center): As U.S. Attorney General, he set up regular channels of collaboration with the Soviet “justice” system. OSI director Neal Sher (right): He defends the defamation campaign against Austrian President Kurt Waldheim as “the accomplishment of which I am most proud.”

Soviet Jews to Israel, where they were to be settled into armed camps in the Occupied Territories.

The OSI gave crucial assistance by launching a witchhunt against Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, branding him as a top wartime Nazi. The purpose of the campaign against Waldheim, the former secretary general of the United Nations, was to shut the Austrian door through which Soviet Jews had traditionally gained passage to the West, free to settle in the country of their choice. By declaring Waldheim a *persona non grata* in the United States, the OSI shut off neutral Austria to emigrating Russian Jews, forcing them to pass directly to Israel, as Bronfman and his Israeli associates demanded.

The Demjanjuk case

The case that has at long last brought this sordid story to broad public light is that of 72-year-old retired Cleveland auto worker John Demjanjuk. In the mid-1970s, a Ukrainian-American newspaper tied to the Communist Party, U.S.A. fraudulently charged that Demjanjuk was the Treblinka concentration camp guard and mass murderer known as “Ivan the Terrible.” In 1981, the OSI stripped Demjanjuk of his American citizenship without due process. In 1986, it deported him to Israel to stand trial on the charges of war crimes.

It was a show trial second only to the prosecution of Adolf Eichmann. But in the Demjanjuk case, the evidence presented at the 14-month trial was allphony. Documenta-

tion only now coming to light proves beyond a doubt that OSI officials, the U.S. State Department, the Israeli prosecutors, and senior communist officials in the Soviet Union and Poland all knew that they had the wrong man. The late “Red Billionaire” Armand Hammer personally flew forged Soviet documents from Moscow to Israel to help convict Demjanjuk, at the point when it appeared that some of the real evidence might surface at the trial.

In 1988, Demjanjuk was found guilty by an Israeli court and sentenced to death. The chief prosecution witness against Demjanjuk, a Treblinka concentration camp survivor, had in 1945 signed a sworn statement that he had personally participated in the murder of “Ivan the Terrible” two years earlier. Yet in 1988, before the Israeli court, the witness, Eliyahu Rosenberg, recanted that sworn statement and claimed he was certain that Demjanjuk was “Ivan.”

Four years after his conviction and death sentence, John Demjanjuk may at last be on the verge of being freed from the nightmare.

In a hearing before the Israeli Supreme Court on June 9, 1992, Demjanjuk’s defense attorney Yoram Sheftel charged that the Soviet Union had known for 48 years that the real “Ivan the Terrible” was Ivan Marchenko—not John Demjanjuk; and that both the U.S. and Israeli governments knew at least 14 years ago that Demjanjuk was innocent.

Sheftel based his claims on newly obtained documents showing that at least 20 witnesses, mostly Treblinka guards,

had given sworn affidavits identifying Marchenko as “Ivan the Terrible.” Those documents—over 100 pages—had been obtained by the U.S. Department of Justice on Dec. 12, 1978—before the Office of Special Investigations had even been formally established. One former OSI attorney who worked on the Demjanjuk case, George Parker, told the *New York Times* on June 13, 1992 that he had told his boss, Allan Ryan (later the OSI director) back in 1978 that he had grave doubts about the case against Demjanjuk. His words of warning were ignored.

The Israeli prosecutor in the Demjanjuk case drew fire even from the Israeli Supreme Court, when he attempted to arrogantly argue at the same early June hearing that even if Demjanjuk was not “Ivan,” he was certainly guilty of *some* war crime and he therefore should be kept in custody. The Israeli Supreme Court justices hearing the appeal sharply rebuffed the prosecutor’s view, warning that if the Treblinka charges proved to be false on the basis of the new evidence, then there would be no basis for holding Demjanjuk in Israel.

It was against the backdrop of these dramatic events in Israel that the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court on June 5 ordered the Justice Department to produce all the evidence in its possession showing that Demjanjuk was innocent. It was a highly unusual move by the Sixth Circuit, which took it upon itself to review its own earlier decision upholding the denaturalization. The Justice Department has until July 15 to deliver the material. The court could overturn the original denaturalization and deportation order, demand Demjanjuk’s immediate release from Israeli prison, and restore his citizenship.

Rep. James Traficant (D-Ohio), a longstanding critic of the OSI, in a statement delivered on the floor of the House of Representatives the same day that the Sixth Circuit ordered the Justice Department documents, suggested that the Congress should take up the Demjanjuk case as well. “Today, finally, a federal appeals court has reopened the extradition case of John Demjanjuk . . . because of the fact that an Israeli prosecutor has admitted for the first time that there is some doubt as to who ‘Ivan’ really is. There is doubt all right. There’s enough doubt to drive a whole truck-load of U.S. Constitutions through. . . .

“The tragedy is that Congress did not have the guts to see the obvious as it remained afraid of the sensitivity of the case. When Congress will allow the rights of one American to be jeopardized, Congress ultimately endangers the rights of all American citizens. . . . It’s time for Congress to review this matter and right this great wrong.”

A ‘political police’ unit

If the Demjanjuk case were an aberration from the OSI’s normal practice, the scandal would still warrant criminal prosecution of all the government officials involved and the shutting down of the whole unit. But, in fact, as *EIR* has been exposing for over a decade, the Demjanjuk railroad

was a typical case of OSI venom and criminality. The entire history of the unit, as we document in the investigative report that follows, is one of perfidy and collusion with the KGB, the Mossad, and the gangster-run Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith (ADL). As the son of another OSI victim told *EIR* recently, the unit is the first “political crimes” division in the Justice Department.

It was through the OSI that Soviet-manufactured evidence was for the first time admitted into U.S. judicial proceedings—no questions asked. Patently phony documents, cranked out by the KGB and by its East German sister agency, the Stasi, were dutifully grabbed up by OSI prosecutors, often in league with so-called Nazi-hunting units of private Zionist lobby outfits like the ADL, the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles, the West German (Stasi-run) Alliance of Victims of the Nazi Regime (VVN) and Edgar Bronfman’s World Jewish Congress (WJC).

Once the precedent had been established for collusion among the Justice Department, the KGB, the Mossad and the international Zionist lobby, the floodgates were opened for far broader collusion, beyond just the stalking of World War II-era alleged war criminals.

The case of Lyndon LaRouche

The case of Lyndon LaRouche is exemplary. Beginning in early 1983, Soviet intelligence, in league with the ADL, began an enormous pressure campaign to get the U.S. Justice Department to railroad Lyndon LaRouche, the political economist and advocate of the Strategic Defense Initiative, on phony charges of financial wrongdoing. As in the OSI cases, perjured testimony was employed along with a flood of media bile branding LaRouche and his colleagues as “neo-Nazis” and “extremists.” In at least one known instance, a “former” senior KGB officer told U.S. government officials that LaRouche was “KGB,” despite the fact that at that very moment, the Soviet press was churning out a regular stream of attacks on LaRouche, at one point branding his SDI proposals a *casus belli*.

By the time Richard Thornburgh (an early advocate of the OSI) became Attorney General in 1988, U.S. Justice Department officials were regularly traveling to Moscow to extend the collaboration with their Soviet counterparts on an even broader range of issues.

Even with the collapse of the Soviet system and the ostensible breakup of the communist police apparatus, the methods employed by the KGB, the Stasi, and the OSI live on, as evidenced by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision sanctioning international kidnappings under the so-called Thornburgh-Barr Doctrine.

The exposé of the OSI and the prospect of wiping out this nest of criminality inside the DOJ is a long overdue first step toward cleaning out the U.S. judicial system. The criminality goes far beyond the case of John Demjanjuk, but justice for John Demjanjuk is an important first step.