

Editorial

The Demjanjuk case

Five years after an Israeli court had sentenced retired Cleveland auto worker John Demjanjuk to death, for crimes against humanity and other crimes supposedly committed by him as the Treblinka concentration camp guard "Ivan the Terrible," the Israeli Supreme Court fully acquitted Demjanjuk on July 29. The Israeli Supreme Court ruled unanimously that there was "reasonable doubt" that Demjanjuk had been Ivan, and that the original trial against him had been "seriously flawed." The ruling concurs with the view *EIR* has sustained editorially for several years, as we repeatedly called for the liberation of the Cleveland man and exposed the abuse of judicial process in the United States that led to his deportation and trial.

The court cited new evidence recently provided by the Russians, showing that Demjanjuk was not "Ivan," and pointed to the unreliability of the identification of Demjanjuk as "Ivan" made by elderly Treblinka survivors. Supreme Court Justice Meir Shamgar said that the five justices had rejected the idea of holding a new trial for Demjanjuk, or of insisting that he be held on charges that he had been a guard at another concentration camp.

Even though acquitted, Demjanjuk is not yet free as of this writing. The Israeli authorities say they are, for the moment at least, holding him because there is a threat to his life from Israelis enraged by the acquittal. Also, while deportation papers are being drawn up, there is nowhere to deport him to, since he has been stripped of his U.S. citizenship and therefore can't go back to the United States. Expectations are that he will go to his native land, Ukraine.

The Demjanjuk prosecution has been one of the most celebrated cases of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), the supposed "Nazi-hunter" division that cooked up evidence against him in the 1980s, in collaboration with the KGB and Soviet judicial-legal apparatus. Former OSI chief Neal Sher was given an award in May 1990 by Edgar Bronfman's World Jewish Congress for his role in concocting the Demjanjuk case, at a time when Bronfman's own role in making shady East bloc deals was

being exposed by the German Jewish magazine *Semit*. In the 1988 Israeli court case, the crucial turning point was when an "identity card" ostensibly proving that Demjanjuk had been at Treblinka was provided by the late Armand Hammer, who had received it from Soviet KGB authorities. Experts have convincingly proven that card was a forgery.

The OSI complex in the Department of Justice (DOJ) includes numerous enemies of Lyndon LaRouche who were involved in LaRouche's frameup and jailing, such as senior DOJ figure Mark Richard. One outspoken opponent of DOJ-OSI malfeasance has been former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who defended the late Karl Linnas, a man who was summarily deported from the United States without due process and sent to die under mysterious circumstances in a Soviet jail, after having been fingered as a "Nazi criminal" by the OSI and the KGB. Observers around the world will be watching closely, to see if the U.S. legal authorities show the same good sense as shown by five Israeli Supreme Court justices, even at a time when Israel is carrying out its own ethnic cleansing in Lebanon.

The acquittal marks another reversal of judicial corruption which must be turned into a political avalanche. The objective must be freedom for political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche, and the implementation of his policies to reverse the slide into world war and a new Dark Age. That means drawing the lessons of this acquittal to bring to a rapid end the power and influence of the Anti-Defamation League, of B'nai B'rith (ADL) in American government and society.

The ADL had put itself but on a limb demanding that Demjanjuk not be set free. The ADL liaison to the OSI, Elliot Wells, had argued that Demjanjuk had to be guilty of some other crime, even if he were not "Ivan the Terrible," and should therefore be kept in jail.

The long-overdue Israeli decision should also give pause to many who not only promote the death penalty, but also urge that the avenues to appeal be shut down for death-row prisoners. Had such voices prevailed, an innocent man, John Demjanjuk, would not be alive today.