

Law by EIR Staff

Demjanjuk fraud further exposed

The French daily Le Monde has published new evidence that the Cleveland autoworker was framed by the KGB.

New and explosive charges about the Soviet KGB's concoction of the "Ivan the Terrible" Treblinka concentration camp hoax were published in the French daily *Le Monde* on March 27. This includes never-before-published comments of the lawyer of accused defendant John Demjanjuk, Mark O'Connor, about how the Soviet Embassy in Washington, the KGB, and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations have worked together to "trick the American courts."

Demjanjuk, a Cleveland autoworker, was stripped of his citizenship and deported to Israel to be tried for war crimes, after a U.S. court identified him as the murderous concentration camp guard "Ivan" of Treblinka.

Le Monde says that "several pieces of evidence recently provided to the dossier lend weight to Demjanjuk's protestations of innocence." The paper notes the testimony of Barcelona-based Treblinka survivor Joaquín García Ribes, who has provided evidence that the real "Ivan the Terrible" was murdered in Treblinka, and who has now come forward "to be in peace with his conscience." Also, *Le Monde* reports that on March 19, Radio Israel published the words of someone who corroborated García Ribes's account, who reported the words of a Treblinka inmate: "We tore down the fence. Another group ran into the gas chambers, killed Ivan the Terrible and his lackey, and threw them into a fire." The author of this account died one year ago, but

his testimony is contained in the archives of the Center for Documentation on the Holocaust of the University of Bar-Illan in Tel-Aviv.

A third witness, Elias Rosenberg, had provided testimony in December 1947, affirming that "the prisoners killed the Ukrainian Ivan the Terrible, by strokes of a shovel, while he was sleeping." That information had been provided to Tuvia Friedman, then head of the Center of Jewish Documentation in Vienna, and now director of a center for historical studies in Haifa, who has just "exhumed" this testimony from the archives. *Le Monde* reports that Rosenberg's deposition was utilized in 1963, during a trial in Dusseldorf, West Germany, against eight German war criminals who had worked in Treblinka.

Under the heading, "The Hand of the Soviets," *Le Monde* reports charges by Demjanjuk's lawyer, O'Connor, now in Israel:

"The Office of Special Investigations of the U.S. Justice Department and the KGB have tricked the American tribunals. The only document provided to prove the presence of Demjanjuk in an SS training camp in 1941, was transmitted to the United States by the Soviet Union in 1976. But this identity card is a giant fraud. The photo of Demjanjuk has not been taken in profile, as was the rule, but full face. It had been retouched. The information carried on the card, is in Slavic, and not in German.

"Valery Kubanov, first secretary of the Embassy of the Soviet Union in

Washington at the time, and the district judge Frank Battisti, have admitted in my presence that they were aware of the deception of the document, which, nonetheless, was allowed, in 1981, to deprive Demjanjuk of his American citizenship."

Asked about Soviet motives in such an affair, O'Connor responds: "It is the epoch where Moscow was expressing its concern to cooperate with Washington in the hunt for ex-Nazis. Demjanjuk was an easy prey. Captured in 1941 by the Germans, he had failed in his orders, not to let himself be captured alive. Prisoner of war transferred from camp to camp in Poland, he fought from 1943 on as a simple soldier in a Ukrainian division of the Vlasov [Russian pro-Nazi general] army. He lived in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1945 to 1952, the year in which he emigrated to the United States. He became a naturalized American citizen in 1958.

"It was an article in a Soviet review published in English—*The Soviet Way*—which, in 1975, drew attention to Demjanjuk. The Russians had a dossier on him, since his wife, who had gone to the Soviet Union two times to visit her parents, had given news on Demjanjuk." O'Connor labeled Demjanjuk a "scapegoat of a cooperation between the two superpowers in the search for ex-Nazis."

Le Monde itself comments that a heavy weight is now falling on the state of Israel. If convincing evidence is not provided about his identity, it could lead to a "no-decision" verdict at the trial. O'Connor, meanwhile, believes that more truth on the real "Ivan the Terrible" can be gleaned from the villages near Treblinka, and is now departing, by prior agreement with the Israelis, to "travel in Europe," to see if he can enrich his dossier.