

# International Intelligence

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## **Frame-up victim goes to trial in Israel**

John Demjanjuk, the retired Cleveland autoworker who was stripped of his naturalized American citizenship and deported from the United States to Israel a year ago, goes on trial for his life Feb. 16 in Tel Aviv, on trumped-up charges of having been "Ivan the Terrible," a guard at Treblinka, a World War II Nazi concentration camp in Poland.

What Reuter wire service describes as a "gory 24-page indictment" charges that Demjanjuk, as "Ivan," whipped, tortured, and gassed hundreds of Jewish prisoners at Treblinka during the war.

*EIR* has documented that the frame-up against Demjanjuk is based on forged and otherwise tainted documents passed by the Soviet Union's Justice Ministry to the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, which is properly considered nothing but an arm of the KGB in the U.S. government.

Numerous eyewitness accounts, from Jewish survivors of Treblinka, indicate that the real "Ivan the Terrible" was killed at Treblinka by the inmates.

Demjanjuk's lawyer, Mark O'Connor, asserts that "guilt or innocence will not be the issue here. The man depicted in the indictment may well have committed the unspeakable brutalities attributed to him. That man, however, is not before this court."

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## **Venezuelan lawmakers agree to hide corruption**

The presidents of all eight political parties represented in the Venezuelan Congress signed an agreement Feb. 11 to "reaffirm democracy" by stopping accusations against various congressmen for involvement with drug-running and other corruption.

"We exhort Venezuelans to keep their faith in the democratic system and defense of the constitutional regime," they said in a

document that calls for "unity of all sectors of Venezuelan society in the face of a possible threat of anti-democratic and therefore anti-historic and regressionist maneuvers"—i.e., a military coup. The Communist Party and the New Alternative party refused to sign on grounds that corruption is only a problem of the "dominant parties."

Former dictator Perez Jimenez had been quoted in the Caracas daily *El Mundo* a day earlier saying that Venezuela is the most corrupt country on Earth, and that he is the world's best administrator and wants to return to power.

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## **West Germany's Genscher starts arming Khomeini**

Are the West German weapons now aboard a ship bound for Iran the first installment on the price for the release of German hostages in Lebanon? Few observers think Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is above this sort of thing—despite the scandal created in the United States.

Two German hostages, Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, are being held in Beirut, and Genscher's representatives have met with Iranian officials and Iranian-controlled Shi'ites in Lebanon, in an effort to secure the hostages' release.

The West German freighter *Gretl* left the Portuguese port of Setubal Feb. 6 with a big load of guns, ammunition, and ground-to-air missiles for the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. The load was stored away in sealed boxes that were shipped directly from West Germany to Portugal.

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## **Alarm in Italy over Soviet military moves**

There is growing concern in Italy over Soviet military deployments in the Mediterranean region.

Two Soviet TU-95 "Bear" reconnaissance planes approached Italy's Adriatic

Coast Feb. 11, stopping just short of violating Italian air space. After the Soviet aircraft were intercepted by Italian Air Force fighters, they turned around and flew east across the Mediterranean.

Then, on Feb. 17, *Corriere della Sera* carried a front-page report on the movement of a Soviet naval unit in the Mediterranean. The newspaper commented: "The Soviet Union is letting us know, it has its eyes wide on the waters of southern Europe."

The unit consists of a Kiev-class ship, plus two escort ships. They entered the Adriatic Feb. 16, heading toward Yugoslavia. This unit normally only conducts maneuvers in the North Sea. It unexpectedly entered the waters of the Mediterranean through the Straits of Gibraltar on Jan. 16.

The Italian Defense Ministry announced that Italian ships were moving into the area to observe the Soviet ships' movement, and "if necessary," reconnaissance jets would be flown in.

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## **Mexico concert celebrates encyclical**

The Schiller Institute in Mexico surprised and pleased an audience of 1,500 on Feb. 13 at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Mexico City—the nation's largest and most important—with a concert of classical choral/orchestral works dedicated to celebrating the 20th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's famous encyclical, *Populorum Progressio*, known in English as *The Development of Peoples*.

As Mexican Schiller Institute Vice-President Marivilia Carrasco explained in her introductory remarks, the idea planted by the encyclical, that "peace equals development, pertains not only to the economic realm, as epitomized by the courageous actions of Peru's President Alan Garcia on the debt question; but also to the realm of creating a renaissance in classical culture, in order to develop citizens who are morally capable of fighting against the genocidal policies of the International Monetary Fund and related supranational institutions.

The personnel and programming of the concert embodied this republican, ecumenical conception. The amateur Mexican Schiller Institute Chorus was joined by the professional Chamber Orchestra of Mexico City, and was guest-directed by John Sigerson, president of the Schiller Institute Research and Education Fund in the United States. Programming consisted of Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Johann Sebastian Bach's *Cantata No. 140*, "Sleepers Awake."

Carrasco said she plans in coming months to repeat the concert in smaller cathedrals throughout Mexico City.

## ***Czechoslovakia divided on Gorbachov reforms***

Some East bloc countries do not appear happy about the "reforms" initiated by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov. Some East bloc leaders' heads may start rolling. Among those rumored to be on a purge list are Czech leader Gustav Husak, East Germany's Erich Honecker, Bulgaria's Todor Zhivkov, and Romania's Nicolai Ceaucescu.

The Czechoslovak ambassador in Germany, Dusan Spacil, gave an unusual press conference in Bonn Feb. 16 to deny rumors about alleged discontent in Czechoslovakia over Gorbachov's "reform" policy. But he only confirmed the fact. Czechs, he said, support Gorbachov's policy "100%," but at the same time have to "adapt" those Soviet measures to "Czechoslovak conditions."

Swiss radio commented that there is a power struggle in Prague between a technocratic faction around President Svoboda and Foreign Minister Chnoupek, on the one side, and "orthodox neo-Stalinists" like Central Committee Secretary Vasil Bilak, on the other.

Bilak, the country's chief ideologue, insisted that there will be no "new policy" in Czechoslovakia. "There are some people at home who are trying to push for a 'new policy,'" he told the Party Ideology Commission Feb. 12. "Some people" are coming out against the 1970 Constitution, a docu-

ment drafted after the Red Army's "Prague Spring" invasion. "We know what it's all about. They would like to ape the changes in the U.S.S.R. so they can hide their anti-social and anti-socialist activities."

In early February, the East German government of Erich Honecker also expressed its displeasure with Gorbachov. When Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited East Berlin on Feb. 2, not a single German Politburo member was on hand at the airport to greet him.

## ***Government still blocking Palme probe***

Using harassment and attempted press censorship, the Swedish foreign ministry is trying to suppress certain aspects of the investigation into the murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme in February 1986, considered too sensitive for public consumption.

Among other items, the foreign ministry appears desperate to keep under wraps the fact that Palme had a love affair with Emma Rothschild, the daughter of Lord Victor Rothschild, whom some have charged is the "fifth man" in Britain's notorious Kim Philby Soviet spy ring.

Roy Carson, the Sweden-based Irish journalist who broke the story of Palme's love affair in London's *Daily Mail* on Dec. 4, 1986, is now being threatened with expulsion from the Swedish Foreign Press Association (FPA) on vague complaints. The socialist government is expressing discontent with Carson's reporting, notably his disclosures on Palme's private life.

Walter Rosboch, journalist for the Italian newspaper *La Stampa*, who had initially shown some support for Carson in a Swedish news agency interview, is now also facing trumped-up charges that he embezzled Swedish Foreign Press Association funds.

The attacks on Carson are occurring at a time when the lid is being torn off extensive Soviet operations in Sweden that may be linked to the assassination of the prime minister.

# Briefly

● **32 AIRFIELDS** are now under construction by the United States in Pakistan's Baluchistan province bordering Afghanistan. Other military facilities are being upgraded, announced the chairman of Pakistan's Joint Chiefs, Gen. Rahimuddin Khan.

● **NEW VIETNAMESE** Communist Party Secretary-General Nguyen van Linh called for a "complete and radical renovation" to eliminate "the bureaucratic and centralized mechanism" of state control, in an interview with the *Guardian* Feb. 13. It was his first interview with a Western paper since assuming leadership in December.

● **A VATICAN** delegation of cardinals and prelates will travel to Moscow to debate whether or not "God is dead," Italy's *Il Messaggero* reported Feb. 16. They will be led by Rev. Franc Rode of the Secretariat for Non-Believers. The Soviets suggested the topic. The Vatican suggested it be changed to "If God is truly." The Soviets accepted.

● **WALID JUMBLATT**, leader of Lebanon's Druze sect, has publicly asked the Shi'ite Hezbollah or Party of God to release British hostage negotiator, now hostage, Terry Waite. The request amounted to a public announcement that the Iran-controlled Hezbollah was responsible for Waite's disappearance.

● **ERICH HONECKER** got a green light from Gorbachov for a visit to Bonn, reported West Germany's *Bild am Sonntag* Feb. 16. The visit is to take place during the second half of 1987, and will include trips to the Karl Marx home in Trier, Honecker's hometown Neunkirchen, and to Munich, where he is expected to meet Franz-Josef Strauss, head of Bavaria's Christian Social Union.