

Editorial

Investigate OSI's link to the KGB

The deportation of American citizen John Demjanjuk to Israel on the unsubstantiated allegation that he was the infamous concentration camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible," has been conclusively proven to have been based on a fraudulent concoction. Finally, on July 29, after an innocent man had already served five years in an Israeli prison under sentence of death, the Israeli Supreme Court acquitted him of the charges.

This naturalized former Ukrainian was stripped of his American citizenship and shipped to Israel, violating due process by American standards of justice. Indeed, a review of the case shows misconduct by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations (OSI), which was complicit in withholding exculpatory evidence from defense lawyers and is still arguing against Demjanjuk's right to return to the United States.

The OSI's police-state apparatus must be stopped. Clearly, the OSI would like to avoid an investigation of its behavior in this case, not least because of its close cooperation with the KGB over a period during which Demjanjuk was stalked as an accused Nazi war criminal by U.S., Soviet, and Israeli secret police. Despite the many contradictions in the case against him in the United States and in Israel, only the release of 15,000 pages of Soviet documents after the fall of that tyrannical regime forced reconsideration by the Israeli courts, and ultimate vindication of Demjanjuk.

Not only had the KGB withheld this evidence which would have exonerated Demjanjuk, but it forged a Nazi SS identification card with John Demjanjuk's signature and photograph, and this was given to U.S. and Israeli prosecutors. The trial of Demjanjuk in the United States, and later especially in Israel, was conducted in a climate of hysteria against Ukrainians and other eastern Europeans on the allegation that they had collaborated with the Nazis to exterminate Jews. This was in the interest of the KGB, which wished to prevent the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the liberation of the captive nations.

Now, the Soviet weekly magazine *New Times*, in a recent issue (No. 34), ran an article under the headline

"No Acquittal Possible for Ivan Demjanjuk." This is the same newspaper which ran a vicious slander against Lyndon LaRouche on Sept. 15, 1986. Just as tensions have been building between Ukraine and Russia, *New Times* is attempting to inflame Russian public opinion against Ukraine.

The article raises the demand that Demjanjuk not be released despite lack of evidence against him. It attributes the appearance of exonerating evidence to the Ukrainian Rukh, a political movement which played a key role in that nation's independence struggle. *New Times* writes that Demjanjuk's life was saved because of "documents received from the *currently independent* state of Ukraine. To be more exact, the Rukh movement had come to the aid of their ex-compatriot in the dock" (emphasis added).

Among other things, the *New Times* article contains a spirited denial that the KGB forged the spurious Demjanjuk identity card: "With all due respect to the professional skill of experts for the Criminal Political Department [of Germany's criminal police which discovered the forgery], it is hard to believe that the Soviet state security bodies could have forged this document. What for?" No doubt there are many victims of Soviet injustice who do not find the crimes of the KGB so incredible to conceive.

The article includes an explicit statement on the role of Soviet senior prosecutor Natalia Kolesnikova, who was active since at least 1976 in building the case against Demjanjuk. She worked directly with Neal Sher of the OSI. She is quoted calling for still another trial of Demjanjuk, rather than his immediate release as justice would require. Her justification for this scapegoating of a man now proven to be innocent is to preserve the memory of the Holocaust.

Similar reasoning has led these same networks to mis-characterize Lyndon H. LaRouche and his associates as Nazi sympathizers and anti-Semites for their opposition to KGB justice in the U.S. court system. If real justice is to be restored, there must be a thorough investigation of the OSI's sordid role in the Demjanjuk affair.