

## Editorial

### *The Demjanjuk travesty*

The arrogance and savage cruelty of the unjust death-sentence on former U.S. citizen John Demjanjuk in Israel on April 25, could not have come at a worse time for Israel itself.

The evidence submitted in the case shows that the charges against the defendant were fabricated by the Soviet government, that the Israeli court knew the evidence was falsified, and yet not only convicted him, but exhibited monstrous brutality in the statement accompanying the delivery of the death-sentence.

Admittedly, in truth, the U.S. government should bear most of the blame. This miscarriage of justice began with an agreement struck between the Soviet dictatorship and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. Kissinger arranged to have evidence against U.S. citizens, fabricated by Soviet intelligence services, treated by U.S. law as if Soviet KGB indictments had been findings of fact by U.S. federal due process.

Then, with the aid of the newly-established Office of Special Investigations in the Justice Department's Criminal Division, those accused were railroaded out of their citizenship by special procedures denying them all rights of due process, and either exiled, as in the forged Soviet charges against U.S. leading rocket-scientist Arthur Rudolph, or sent to their deaths abroad, as in the cases of Karl Linnas and, probably, now, John Demjanjuk.

As with the case of Karl Linnas, it has been proven that the principal evidence claiming to identify the retired auto worker John Demjanjuk as the notorious Treblinka death-camp figure, "Ivan the Terrible," was forged. Indeed, the key witness accusing him of being that "Ivan the Terrible" had earlier claimed, in his own handwritten diary, to have killed "Ivan the Terrible" personally.

The Department of Justice already knew the dubious nature of the accusations against Demjanjuk, but proceeded against him nonetheless, ripping up the U.S. Constitution left and right, while denying him all rights of due process. Then, that Justice Department dumped

him into Israel, and virtually forced Israel to set up a political show-trial.

They did so for the sake of rotten, back-room deals with the Soviet dictatorship. Ever since Henry Kissinger echoed John J. McCloy's Willy Brandt, in establishing "détente" with Moscow, the Soviet dictatorship has been conceded increasing rights to intervene in the sovereign internal affairs of the United States, to the point of having the U.S. Department of Justice deliver the bloody scalps of U.S. citizens, on the basis of Moscow's mere indication of its making those scalps a part of some regional matters, summitry, or other diplomatic package being negotiated with the State Department or through Armand Hammer's back-channels.

One is impelled to point the accusing finger at the Reagan-Bush administration, and say: "What about old-fashioned U.S. justice, you miserable wretches!"

For years, one U.S. administration after another has demanded support for brave, anti-Soviet freedom fighters in Afghanistan, and has praised the anti-Soviet resistance of forces inside the captive nations of Eastern Europe. We have howled about Soviet anti-Semitism. Then, what happens when a U.S. citizen, a veteran of the wartime resistance to Soviet aggression and terror, is accused of fighting against Soviet terror during that period, or in the postwar resistance often used by U.S. intelligence services? What American is there, who, faced with the facts, will not come near to vomiting over this sentencing?

Certainly, the Reagan-Bush administration shares the far greater ration of guilt in the premeditated judicial murder of John Demjanjuk. However, by adopting the injustice already done by the U.S. government, Israel brings the blame upon itself: To whom will Israel appeal against the injustice of being viewed, now, as the sole culprit in this atrocity? Israel has no prudent option but to reverse its court's abominable actions, and to do this quickly, before waves of revulsion over the court's conduct lead to results, the limits of whose possible consequences can not be calculated.