

More proof the OSI must be shut down

EIR was forwarded a photo-reproduction of a May 30, 1986 letter which offers fresh evidence of the reasons why the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations (OSI) must be shut down, as a hotbed of KGB-run treason against the United States. The letter is from former OSI director Allan Ryan to Soviet Procurator General Alexandr Rekunkov. Mr. Ryan, now legal counsel for Harvard University, acknowledged sending a letter to Rekunkov on that date, but refused to either confirm or deny the accuracy of the contents of the letter, reproduced below.

As the reader can judge for himself, the letter illustrates the degree of frank cooperation between the OSI and the Soviet Procurator General's Office, in conduiting Soviet "evidence" into the U.S. legal system, for use against U.S. citizens. In most cases, these Americans, usually former citizens of nations now suffering Russian occupation, were only targeted by the OSI after previously being labeled "fascists" and "CIA agents of imperialism," in Soviet propaganda outlets.

The Demjanjuk case cited by Ryan is typical. The sole "evidence" submitted against John Demjanjuk, a former Cleveland autoworker, was a purported ID card drawn from Soviet military intelligence archives. The accusations against Demjanjuk by the OSI originated only after Demjanjuk was labeled a "fascist," and "war criminal" in a Ukrainian Communist Party newspaper. Demjanjuk was subsequently railroaded to Israel, where he is now the victim of a show trial. The clear intent of Ryan's letter was to secure use of this card in Demjanjuk's ongoing trial. It was later flown to Israel, on a plane of U.S.-based Soviet agent Armand Hammer.

The background to the Demjanjuk case, and the Fedorenko and Linnas cases referred to by Ryan, is a complex deal struck between the KGB, the Israeli Mossad, and the OSI in 1980. The deal provides for shipping batches of Soviet Jews to Israel, in exchange for OSI and Mossad compliance in targeting U.S. and other nationals under the pretext of alleged war crimes. The latest example of this treasonous coopera-

tion is the OSI targeting of Austrian President Kurt Waldheim as a "Nazi," to aid Soviet destabilization of central Europe.

[On June 8, the sole Spanish survivor of Treblinka, Joachim García Ribes, gave sworn testimony in the trial that John Demjanjuk is not the "Ivan the Terrible" death-camp guard. García Ribes said that the original "Ivan" had a much smaller head than Demjanjuk, and was much older, in 1943, than Demjanjuk would have been then. García Ribes also testified that he believes the original "Ivan" was killed by camp inmates, in 1943.]

Perhaps the most revealing feature of Ryan's letter is its servile tone and its adoption of Soviet propaganda terminology. Ryan typifies those Justice Department operatives who hope to legitimize the Soviet "legal system" by terming Soviet murderers, such as Rekunkov, "fellow prosecutors" and "colleagues." The text of the letter follows:

Dear Mr. Rekunkov:

You will recall that in February of 1980 I met with you and with then-Procurator General of the U.S.S.R. Rudenko to request, on behalf of the United States Government, the assistance of the Soviet Union in the search for Hitlerite criminals living in the United States. Through your help, the Soviet Union provided great assistance and as a result the Office of Special Investigations of the Justice Department was able to proceed successfully against a number of former Soviet citizens who had managed to escape to the United States after the war.

I left the Department of Justice in 1983 and I wrote a book entitled *Quiet Neighbors: Prosecuting Nazi War Criminals in America*, of which perhaps you have been informed. I described the unselfish cooperation of the Soviet side and you personally in our efforts. It has always been a source of great satisfaction to me that, whatever differences may have existed between our governments during those years, the Department of Justice and the Procuracy worked closely and on friendly terms against the criminals of fascism.

One of our most important cases was that against Ivan (John) Demjanjuk, born in the Ukrainian S.S.R., the man who operated the gas chamber at the death camp Treblinka. A crucial piece of evidence in that case was the identification card from the training camp Trawinki, which was held in Soviet archives. Although the Soviet Union had provided an official copy of that card to us prior to the trial, we requested that the original document be made available temporarily in order to refute the false claim of Demjanjuk that he was innocent and the identification card was a forgery.

Due to the cooperation of the Soviet authorities, the original card was forwarded to the Embassy of the Soviet Union in Washington, where it was examined by the prosecution and defense lawyers. Mr. Vadim Kuznetsov of the Embassy brought the document to the trial in Cleveland, where it was examined by the judge. As a result of this evidence, the judge ruled that Demjanjuk was a fascist criminal and he ordered

that Demjanjuk's naturalized citizenship be revoked. That verdict was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. I have no doubt that the original identification card from the Archives of the U.S.S.R. was the most important document against Demjanjuk and the judge's inspection of it led directly to the successful verdict.

In 1986, after further proceedings, Demjanjuk was extradited pursuant to the formal request of Israel and he is now imprisoned and facing trial. As we are both prosecutors, I am sure you will recognize that the case against Demjanjuk would be strengthened if the original Soviet document could be made available to the judge in that case. I personally and respectfully request that you exercise your authority to make available to the Israeli court the original Trawinki identification card that was made available to the courts of the U.S.

I make this request in the spirit invoked by General Rudenko in our 1980 discussions, when he vouched that those who fought against fascism are allies still in that fight. While Demjanjuk was not victorious in the United States case, he now has a second chance in Israel. If he should succeed there, it will be a defeat for anti-fascist allies everywhere.

I fear that an acquittal of Demjanjuk could arouse public sentiment in the United States to discontinue the trials against fascist criminals there and could jeopardize the deportation to the Soviet Union of those criminals who have been found guilty and whose appeals are nearing a conclusion. You are perhaps aware that the Ukrainian criminal Fedorenko has already been deported to the Soviet Union. Also, the Estonian Linnas has been ordered deported to the Soviet Union and has nearly exhausted his appeals.

If on the other hand, Demjanjuk is convicted and sentenced for his crimes, it will be a sign to all the world that Hitlerite crimes cannot be forgotten and that the fight against fascism cannot be allowed to subside. In my opinion, such a verdict would strengthen the support of the American people for the prosecutions and deportations that are being conducted here.

I trust you will agree when I suggest to you that any victory for Hitlerite criminals, anywhere in the world, is a defeat for those who oppose fascism. Demjanjuk is only one man, but he has come to symbolize the efforts of anti-fascist peoples to bring Hitlerite criminals to justice. Those efforts continue today between the United States and the Soviet Union in the spirit that you and General Rudenko expressed so eloquently to me in 1980, but we are not the only ones who have attempted to do justice. I respectfully appeal to you to extend the same hand of cooperation to our colleagues anywhere in the world who share our concerns. Today, the greatest need for that cooperation is in the trial of Demjanjuk.

I thank you for your consideration of my request, and I extend to you my sincere and personal wishes of friendship and collegiality.

Yours very truly,
Allan Ryan

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