

US team says IND 'Ivan' not 24.1.91 Demjanjuk

KIEV — An investigating team from the United States announced here yesterday that the Soviet authorities have a file proving that John Demjanjuk, extradited from the US and sentenced to death for war crimes by the Israelis in 1988, is not the Nazi concentration camp guard "Ivan the Terrible", writes Susan Viets.

The file contains depositions from the 1986 Soviet trial of Feodor Fedorenko, another guard at the Treblinka camp in Poland, who was executed in 1987.

A congressional aide, Edward Nishnic, said one-third of the file was reviewed last summer by the head of Ukraine's Human Rights Committee before it was reclaimed and forwarded by Soviet officials to Moscow for review by the Israeli prosecution.

A number of witnesses identified Ivan Marczenko, a Ukrainian captured by the Germans, as "Ivan the Terrible". Mr Nishnic quoted one statement describing the guard as "tall, [of] straight stature, wide shoulders, dark complexion, round face, long nose", and said this physical description did not fit that of Mr Demjanjuk.

The congressional delegation appealed this week to the Soviet Union to hand over the file, as it might provide sufficient evidence to overturn Mr Demjanjuk's death sentence. He is now in the Ayalon Prison near Tel Aviv following a 13-year investigation.

"We haven't had an answer yet . . . They will probably be willing to help us at some stage . . . It would look very bad in history if an innocent man who could be exonerated is executed," said Mr Nishnic.

Mr Demjanjuk's son, John Demjanjuk Jnr, accompanied the team to the Ukraine.

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24 January 1991