

**DEMJanJUK CONVICTED OF WAR CRIMES;
'IVAN THE TERRIBLE' IDENTITY UPHELD**
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) -- John Demjanjuk was found guilty Monday of war crimes, including the murder of some 800,000 Jews who died in the Treblinka gas chambers.

The verdict was announced just before 8 p.m. local time, 11 hours after the three-judge panel that heard the case finished reading extracts from their ponderous 450-page judgment.

The conclusion was that the 69-year-old retired automobile worker is indeed the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible," who brutalized Jews even as he herded them into the gas chambers that he operated.

Demjanjuk's Israeli defense attorney, Yoram Sheftel, had conceded defeat hours before the announcement of the verdict. He said that although he continued to believe in his client's innocence, he had informed the family over the weekend that the defendant would likely be convicted.

The court stressed its "meticulous consideration of all the evidence" and said that while no single identification of the accused by a Treblinka survivor was sufficient to convict him, the cumulative identifications were overwhelming.

The court conceded that memory of events that occurred decades ago can be blurred. But the judges also noted that the experiences the survivors had undergone undoubtedly were seared into their minds for eternity.

Demjanjuk was not able to produce a single witness to support his alibi that he was a prisoner of war of the Germans during the time he allegedly served as a guard at Treblinka. The court upheld the authenticity of an SS identification card issued to Demjanjuk as a voluntary trainee for duty at the death camp.

The Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk was charged with crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes against the Jewish people, murder and a string of other offenses.

Could Face Death Penalty

Under the 1950 Nazi and Nazi Collaborators Law, he could face the death penalty. Only one person has been executed under the law -- Adolf Eichmann, who was hanged here in 1962.

Legal experts say, however, that capital punishment is not mandatory and the court has discretion. Arguments over the sentence will be heard at a later date. Demjanjuk has the right of appeal to Israel's Supreme Court.

Demjanjuk, who lived in Cleveland, Ohio, before he was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1985, became the first accused war criminal extradited to Israel. His trial began in Jerusalem district court in February 1987 and went through 106 sessions. The prosecution presented 21 witnesses and the defense 31.

The court was headed by Justice Dov Levin, on leave from Israel's Supreme Court. His colleagues were district court Judges Zvi Tal and Dalia Dornier.

The reading of the judgment occupied most of the day, because it included a detailed recapitulation of the history of the Holocaust, which

Levin considered necessary to put the case in its proper context.

The courtroom was packed with many of the witnesses who had testified against Demjanjuk. There was a momentary disturbance when Levin called out the condemnatory sentence. But after calling the court to order, the judge resumed reading the opinion in a flat monotone.

Demjanjuk was not present during the reading. He complained of a back injury. While doctors found nothing wrong, the judge agreed he could remain in his cell near the courtroom.

In New York, Demjanjuk's conviction was welcomed by Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, who said the verdict "sends the world a signal that Nazi war criminals cannot escape."

"Justice has finally caught up with John Demjanjuk," she said in a statement released to the news media.

Holtzman is the author of federal legislation enabling the United States to deport convicted Nazi war criminals. The legislation, which she introduced as a member of Congress, also bans those linked to Nazi atrocities from entering the United States. Demjanjuk was the first suspected war criminal extradited to Israel under the law.

Holtzman has criticized the U.S. government in recent years for not moving more quickly to prosecute hundreds of suspected Nazi war criminals living in the United States. She sounded a similar theme in her statement Monday.

"The U.S. must not only continue to aggressively pursue and expel the hundreds of Nazi war criminals living here, it must also make it easier to do so. Time is running out," she said.

"We cannot stop our efforts until every Nazi war criminal is expelled from the United States and brought to justice," the district attorney added.

**JACKSON MEETS WITH JEWISH LEADERS
AS CONTEST FOR N.Y. VOTE ENDS**
By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA) -- While his Democratic rivals marched in New York's "Salute to Israel" parade Sunday, the Rev. Jesse Jackson attended a luncheon meeting with selected Jewish leaders.

The meeting was arranged by R. Peter Straus, a communications executive, along with Barry Feinstein, an official of the Teamsters union, and Theodore Kheel, a labor mediator.

Jackson had previously declined invitations to meet with Jewish leaders prior to Tuesday's New York primaries from both the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York.

Officials from neither organization were present at the noon meeting, which included 50 community leaders who were described by one participant as "uncommitted."

Most were Jewish. Prominent among them were political activist Mark Green; Rabbi Daniel Syme, vice president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; and Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, president of the Synagogue Council of America, the rabbinic umbrella organization.

According to Green, president of the Democ-

racy Project think tank in New York, the meeting was "honest, blunt, conciliatory."

Green, who described himself as politically neutral, said Jackson was queried on a wide range of issues of concern to Jewish voters. "Jackson was very eloquent in describing how after his blunders of 1984 he's reached out a hand of friendship to the Jews."

When he last ran for president, in 1984, Jackson angered Jewish voters with an off-hand reference to New York as "Hymietown" and by refusing to repudiate Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, who has called Judaism a "gutter religion" and Adolf Hitler a "great" man.

Pressed About Farrakhan

Green said Jackson was pressed about Farrakhan, about whom the candidate has said that he disavows the sin, but not the sinner.

According to Green, Jackson said that if he did not believe in forgiveness, he could never get along in white America, where he has been called "nigger."

The candidate reiterated that he has had no recent contact with Farrakhan, and that only Farrakhan benefits whenever the subject is brought up.

Jackson also said, in response to a question by Green, that as president he would instruct his ambassador to the United Nations to vote against any resolution equating Zionism and racism.

Klaperman said he was not "completely satisfied" with Jackson's responses, particularly pertaining to the Middle East and his relationship with the Jewish community.

Jackson supports an international peace conference and embraced Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat in 1979. But in an April 10 appearance on the CBS News program "Face the Nation," he said he would not sit down with the PLO leader again.

'Not Getting The Right Advice'

Klaperman was particularly disappointed that Jackson did not meet with any major Jewish organization in New York. "I asked him if as president, would he only meet selected groups," said Klaperman. "I told him that I don't think he has the temperature of the Jewish community, and that he is not getting the right advice."

In a telephone interview Monday, Straus dismissed as "absolute baloney" the complaints of some Jewish leaders that the meeting had been purposely scheduled to conflict with the Israel parade.

"Four people who were either marshalls or were involved in the parade managed to fit it in," said Straus. He added that in a campaign, "there's always something going on."

Michael Miller, executive director of the JCRC, said Jackson "sidestepped" Jewish leadership while "siphoning off" some of those who would otherwise have attended the parade. Miller said that despite the meeting, Jackson continued to demonstrate his "unwillingness to meet with Jewish leaders."

The candidates wrapped up their final week-end of campaigning with appeals to ethnic groups around New York City. On Monday, Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis planned to stump in upstate New York, while Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee was scheduled for an afternoon appearance on the Phil Donahue show.

On Sunday night, Gore received a standing ovation from the 1,700 people attending the

National Council of Young Israel's 76th anniversary banquet.

Gore reminded members of the Modern Orthodox movement of his "100 percent voting record on Israel" as a senator and member of the House of Representatives, even when he represented a congressional district with a negligible Jewish population.

Addressing charges that he has been pandering to New York's Jewish community, Gore exclaimed, "Now that I'm here, in New York City, should I change my views? I will not."

As he has done repeatedly this week, Gore referred to what some Democrats, opposed to Jackson, are concerned will be a voting split between Democratic supporters of Dukakis, the clear front-runner going into Tuesday's primary, and Gore, who is a distant third behind Jackson.

"When given a choice between hope and fear, choose the path of hope," said Gore.

For Rabbi Joseph Rosenbluh of the Young Israel of Vanderveer Park synagogue in Brooklyn, who pressed through the crowd to pump the candidate's hand, "fear" clearly meant Dukakis, while Gore represented hope.

"Others may change their stands, but Gore has a history of supporting Jewish causes," said Rosenbluh.

SOVIETS TESTING ISRAELI REACTION TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY GORBACHEV By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 18 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union seems to be sounding out Israel's response to the conciliatory tone recently adopted by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Maariv reported Sunday that a ranking member of the Soviet delegation to the United Nations in New York asked a member of Israel's U.N. delegation whether Israel has been receiving Gorbachev's signals of a more flexible Soviet stance in the Middle East peace process.

He was referring to Gorbachev's remarks to Yasir Arafat in Moscow last week in which the Soviet leader told the visiting Palestine Liberation Organization chief that he should take Israel's security interests into account. The story was covered extensively by Tass, the Soviet news agency.

Tass also reported that Gorbachev is very much aware that the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council would have only an advisory role at the proposed international conference for Middle East peace.

When queried about these statements, the Israeli delegate replied that while Israel is aware of them, messages of that kind should be conveyed directly to Jerusalem, Maariv reported.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who favors the international peace conference as a means of launching Israeli-Arab negotiations, said that it is up to King Hussein of Jordan to select a negotiating partner.

Jordan can negotiate with Israel or with the PLO, Peres told the Commercial and Industrial Club last week. If Israel misses the opportunity for dialogue with Hussein, Arafat will become the only negotiating partner left to the king, Peres said.

But the PLO has presented tough terms for a settlement. It reportedly is demanding its own passports, currency, flag and diplomatic representation, as well as rotation of leadership of the planned federation with Jordan.