

Demjanjuk Trial Opens And Adjourns Til January 19

JERUSALEM (WNS) — The trial of alleged Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk was formally opened in Jerusalem District Court and, after a 40-minute hearing, was adjourned until January 19.

The Ukrainian-born former resident of Cleveland, Ohio, is charged with responsibility for the deaths of tens of thousands of Jews and others at the Treblinka death camp during World War II where he is alleged to have served as a guard, known to inmates as "Ivan the Terrible" because of his unmitigated brutality. According to the charges, he personally operated the gas chambers.

At this hearing, Demjanjuk and his American lawyer, Mark O'Connor, repeated the defense's contention of mistaken identity. "I am not Ivan the Terrible whom they want to hang," a visibly nervous Demjanjuk told the court.

The official charges against the accused are war crimes, crimes against humanity and

crimes against persecuted people." Asked how his client pleaded, O'Connor said "We

Moment Of Truth



Anxious Soviet Jewry activists surround 31-year-old Israeli biologist Mikhail Shirman, dying of leukemia, at a New York news conference, as he accepts a call relayed from Moscow telling whether his sister, who could provide life-saving bone marrow, would be permitted to leave the USSR. A few moments later, all were in smiles as it was confirmed that the Kremlin finally relented to an international pressure campaign. Sadly, the Soviets deliberately delayed the release of the sister, Inessa Flerov, so long that Shirman's chances of survival have now slipped below 15%, and the marrow transplant may no longer be possible.

cannot deny that such terrible things were done in the camps, and we would therefore be prepared to admit to many of the charges, but the accused is not the man to whom the charge sheet refers."

The small courtroom was filled mainly with Justice Ministry officials and the media.

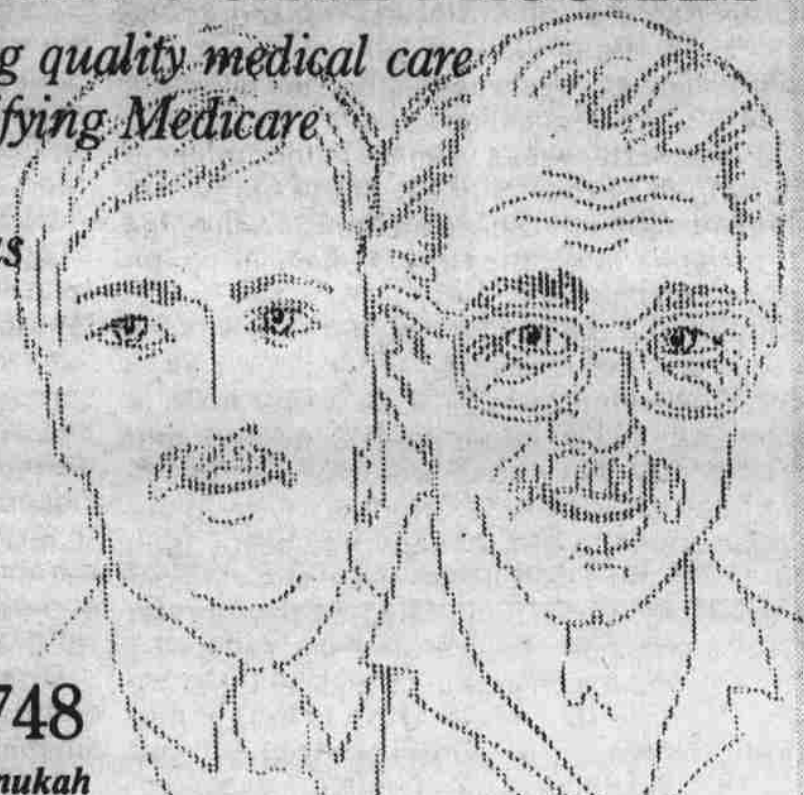
The prisoner spoke in his native Ukrainian, translated into Hebrew and English. An argument arose when the defense asked that the Ukrainian translator be replaced on grounds that he is to be a prosecution witness. Another person of Ukrainian origin took over the translation.

O'Connor's claim that his client was unfit to stand trial at this time because of an injury sustained when the prison van skidded on the way from Ramle prison to Jerusalem, was rejected by court President Judge Dov Levin. He said he was willing to hear Demjanjuk

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