John Demjanjuk was free — up to a point. On March 13, the end of the long war of words, charges, and countercharges was at hand. At Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, his lawyer, Olin Sotka, and a U.S. marshal and no fewer than five Cleveland police officers awaited him. He was whisked to an undisclosed location. He was never charged.

Evidence made public after the breakup of the Soviet Union had shown that "Ivan the Terrible," who tortured Jews before leading them to the gas chamber, was a man named John Demjanjuk. In March 1995, a German court found Demjanjuk guilty of war crimes.

The trial lasted 11 months, and the ultimate outcome was not an accurate reflection of the complexity of this issue. The case has been the subject of much debate and controversy since its beginning.

Demjanjuk's defense attorney, Olin Sotka, said his client was "a man of the people," who had been a member of the Nazi Party and had served in the Waffen-SS. He also argued that Demjanjuk had been a "perpetrator" of crimes against humanity, and that he had been a "witness to the crimes of others." The defense also presented evidence showing that Demjanjuk had been in Ukraine during the war, and that he had not been in Auschwitz.

The prosecution, on the other hand, argued that Demjanjuk had been a member of the SS and had committed war crimes. They also presented evidence showing that Demjanjuk had been in Auschwitz and had personally participated in the killing of Jews.

The case has been the subject of much debate and controversy since its beginning. Many people have argued that Demjanjuk's conviction was not based on strong evidence, and that he was wrongfully convicted. Others have argued that the conviction was justified, and that Demjanjuk was guilty of war crimes.

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