

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,446

2

00:00:01,446 --> 00:00:06,470
(film slating)

3

00:00:06,470 --> 00:00:09,140
Dr. Stephen Wise,
as you know, was

4

00:00:09,140 --> 00:00:12,290
the president of the
World Jewish Congress,

5

00:00:12,290 --> 00:00:15,100
and a very influential man.

6

00:00:15,100 --> 00:00:17,900
He received, Rabbi
Weissmandel very friendly,

7

00:00:17,900 --> 00:00:19,760
they had a very friendly talk.

8

00:00:19,760 --> 00:00:21,080
Talking about Budapest.

9

00:00:21,080 --> 00:00:23,330
He was born in Budapest.

10

00:00:23,330 --> 00:00:27,110
And talking about old times.

11

00:00:27,110 --> 00:00:29,810
Rabbi Weissmandel,
at that time, started

12

00:00:29,810 --> 00:00:33,410
to build up the yeshiva.

13

00:00:33,410 --> 00:00:39,650

And he talked to about
it to Rabbi Wise.

14

00:00:39,650 --> 00:00:48,620

And with the secret hope that
perhaps he might do something

15

00:00:48,620 --> 00:00:51,800

for his project, yes.

16

00:00:51,800 --> 00:00:54,050

But he didn't
especially ask him.

17

00:00:54,050 --> 00:00:56,420

He talked about it.

18

00:00:56,420 --> 00:01:01,040

And he was perhaps
secretly hoping

19

00:01:01,040 --> 00:01:08,240

Wise might be helpful with a
certain feeling of atonement.

20

00:01:08,240 --> 00:01:15,440

Because Wise knew what he did,
what could have been done.

21

00:01:15,440 --> 00:01:18,570

I'm sure he realized
it afterwards.

22

00:01:18,570 --> 00:01:23,180

So perhaps
Weissmandel was hoping

23

00:01:23,180 --> 00:01:28,460

that Dr. Wise might be somehow
cooperative for his work.

24

00:01:28,460 --> 00:01:29,930

I'm not really sure of it.

25

00:01:29,930 --> 00:01:31,560

This is my estimation.

26

00:01:31,560 --> 00:01:33,470

That is my guess.

27

00:01:33,470 --> 00:01:34,760

Anyway--

28

00:01:34,760 --> 00:01:36,470

What was the conversation?

29

00:01:36,470 --> 00:01:37,580

What was the talk?

30

00:01:37,580 --> 00:01:43,140

Did Weissmandel came to
him and start to accuse?

31

00:01:43,140 --> 00:01:45,470

No, no, no, by no means.

32

00:01:45,470 --> 00:01:48,260

Weissmandel was
much too smart, much

33

00:01:48,260 --> 00:01:53,090

too smart to enter with Dr.
Wise into a conversation

34

00:01:53,090 --> 00:01:58,250

about the real matter.

35

00:01:58,250 --> 00:01:59,390

They didn't talk about it.

36

00:01:59,390 --> 00:02:01,820

No, they didn't talk about that.

37

00:02:01,820 --> 00:02:02,540
Not at all.

38
00:02:02,540 --> 00:02:03,860
Not at all.

39
00:02:03,860 --> 00:02:09,050
As I said, it was plain
curiosity of Weissmandel

40
00:02:09,050 --> 00:02:10,280
to know the man.

41
00:02:10,280 --> 00:02:12,470
What kind of man is that?

42
00:02:12,470 --> 00:02:16,400
To whom did I send my letters?

43
00:02:16,400 --> 00:02:18,260
And what did he say afterwards?

44
00:02:18,260 --> 00:02:19,610
After the meeting with Wise?

45
00:02:19,610 --> 00:02:22,700
After the meeting he
said nothing to me.

46
00:02:22,700 --> 00:02:25,760
He was just, he
was smiling at me.

47
00:02:25,760 --> 00:02:26,600
Did you see?

48
00:02:26,600 --> 00:02:30,170
He said to me, did
you see the man?

49
00:02:30,170 --> 00:02:30,890
That's all.

50
00:02:30,890 --> 00:02:32,990
We understood each other.

51
00:02:32,990 --> 00:02:36,500
He didn't have to
tell me anything.

52
00:02:36,500 --> 00:02:38,060
But he didn't say anything.

53
00:02:38,060 --> 00:02:40,790
But what did he think,
in your opinion?

54
00:02:40,790 --> 00:02:43,040
What did he think?

55
00:02:43,040 --> 00:02:49,010
The impression of the man,
probably, confirmed his opinion

56
00:02:49,010 --> 00:02:54,710
about an assimilationist
Jew, which he always had.

57
00:02:54,710 --> 00:02:59,120
Rabbi Weissmandel was very
distrustful and very critical

58
00:02:59,120 --> 00:03:03,590
about non-authentic Jews.

59
00:03:03,590 --> 00:03:05,420
Non-authentic Jews.

60
00:03:05,420 --> 00:03:09,050
You see, you know,
perhaps, about Solly Meyer,

61
00:03:09,050 --> 00:03:12,800
the representative of the

Joint Distribution Committee.

62
00:03:12,800 --> 00:03:13,580
In Switzerland?

63
00:03:13,580 --> 00:03:15,860
In Switzerland,
who was approached.

64
00:03:15,860 --> 00:03:22,800
And he met with a Nazi
representative on a bridge--

65
00:03:22,800 --> 00:03:23,300
I know.

66
00:03:23,300 --> 00:03:24,350
--to Switzerland.

67
00:03:24,350 --> 00:03:25,340
With [? Pescher. ?]

68
00:03:25,340 --> 00:03:31,580
Yes and Solly Meyer, who was
a very important man, first

69
00:03:31,580 --> 00:03:33,920
of all, he did not
believe the whole story.

70
00:03:33,920 --> 00:03:36,680
In the beginning, he did
not believe it at all.

71
00:03:36,680 --> 00:03:38,930
These are Ostjuden you know.

72
00:03:38,930 --> 00:03:46,520
Ostjuden means Eastern Jews,
upon whom he looked down.

73
00:03:46,520 --> 00:03:51,080

The Western Jew,
the educated man,

74
00:03:51,080 --> 00:03:57,950
who separated himself from
the bulk of the Jewish masses.

75
00:03:57,950 --> 00:04:00,950
He looked down at them.

76
00:04:00,950 --> 00:04:06,030
And he didn't take seriously
all these communications.

77
00:04:06,030 --> 00:04:11,030
Finally, he was persuaded to
meet with a representative.

78
00:04:11,030 --> 00:04:16,590
And he was very
negative about it.

79
00:04:16,590 --> 00:04:17,090
Yes.

80
00:04:17,090 --> 00:04:18,050
This is another story.

81
00:04:18,050 --> 00:04:19,940
It's another story.

82
00:04:19,940 --> 00:04:24,680
I mention it to draw a parallel
between the attitude of Solly

83
00:04:24,680 --> 00:04:27,260
Meyer and that of Stephen Wise.

84
00:04:27,260 --> 00:04:29,840
The common denominator
between the two of them

85

00:04:29,840 --> 00:04:33,440
is that both were
assimilationist Jews.

86
00:04:33,440 --> 00:04:37,910
And for Stephen Wise,
the favor of Roosevelt,

87
00:04:37,910 --> 00:04:40,820
and to be in good
graces with Roosevelt,

88
00:04:40,820 --> 00:04:45,560
and not to disturb him, and not
to arouse his indignation was

89
00:04:45,560 --> 00:04:50,930
much more important to Dr.
Wise than all those cries

90
00:04:50,930 --> 00:04:53,160
which came to him, you see.

91
00:04:53,160 --> 00:04:54,290
Yes.

92
00:04:54,290 --> 00:04:56,300
It's very severe what you say.

93
00:04:56,300 --> 00:04:57,680
Yes, it is.

94
00:04:57,680 --> 00:05:07,280

95
00:05:07,280 --> 00:05:09,910
Yes, please go.

96
00:05:09,910 --> 00:05:11,970
What else shall I tell you?

97
00:05:11,970 --> 00:05:14,420

No, no, because it is
a very important point.

98
00:05:14,420 --> 00:05:18,170
It's a very important
description.

99
00:05:18,170 --> 00:05:22,760
Yes, you mean my
description of the attitude

100
00:05:22,760 --> 00:05:24,740
of assimilationist Jews?

101
00:05:24,740 --> 00:05:28,090
Yes, how would you
characterize this?

102
00:05:28,090 --> 00:05:31,400
For these Jews,
these American Jews?

103
00:05:31,400 --> 00:05:33,920
Because in one way, they
tried to do something.

104
00:05:33,920 --> 00:05:35,750
Of course they tried.

105
00:05:35,750 --> 00:05:38,180
They were not fully aware.

106
00:05:38,180 --> 00:05:41,210
And the fact that they
were not fully aware

107
00:05:41,210 --> 00:05:47,720
is also to be booked on
the account of people

108
00:05:47,720 --> 00:05:49,850
like Stephen Wise,
who did not want

109

00:05:49,850 --> 00:05:53,480
them to become fully aware.

110

00:05:53,480 --> 00:05:58,040
Because, you see,
the general policy

111

00:05:58,040 --> 00:06:00,680
of the Allied governments was--

112

00:06:00,680 --> 00:06:03,020
we are engaged in a war.

113

00:06:03,020 --> 00:06:07,430
And we cannot pay special
attention to the Jews.

114

00:06:07,430 --> 00:06:12,320
Because then we will
be declared as people

115

00:06:12,320 --> 00:06:13,490
who fight for the Jews.

116

00:06:13,490 --> 00:06:15,110
It's a Jewish war.

117

00:06:15,110 --> 00:06:17,300
We don't want it
to be like that.

118

00:06:17,300 --> 00:06:20,420
We will leave the
reckoning after the war.

119

00:06:20,420 --> 00:06:23,630
That in the meantime, millions
of people were killed,

120

00:06:23,630 --> 00:06:26,030
that was very unfortunate.

121
00:06:26,030 --> 00:06:29,510
But during the war,
the whole attention

122
00:06:29,510 --> 00:06:33,850
has to be directed
towards winning the war.

123
00:06:33,850 --> 00:06:38,240
And that attitude was
explained to those Jews,

124
00:06:38,240 --> 00:06:41,150
to those influential Jews,
and they agreed with it.

125
00:06:41,150 --> 00:06:42,230
They agreed with it.

126
00:06:42,230 --> 00:06:44,180
And you think that they agreed?

127
00:06:44,180 --> 00:06:44,690
What?

128
00:06:44,690 --> 00:06:46,400
You think that they
agreed, basically.

129
00:06:46,400 --> 00:06:48,110
I think that they
agreed with it.

130
00:06:48,110 --> 00:06:50,780
Because there is another thing.

131
00:06:50,780 --> 00:06:59,210
The idea of clandestine dealings
was foreign to these people.

132
00:06:59,210 --> 00:07:03,680

Because they are, after
all, ethical people.

133

00:07:03,680 --> 00:07:09,260
People who live, members of the
society, anything clandestine,

134

00:07:09,260 --> 00:07:11,930
anything which is against
the law, for instance,

135

00:07:11,930 --> 00:07:16,250
send money on secret ways,
this is against the law.

136

00:07:16,250 --> 00:07:19,400
And they are
law-abiding citizens.

137

00:07:19,400 --> 00:07:21,710
Law-abiding citizens, you see.

138

00:07:21,710 --> 00:07:27,740
So that is another point
which stood in the way.

139

00:07:27,740 --> 00:07:30,290
Because what Rabbi
Weissmandel wanted,

140

00:07:30,290 --> 00:07:32,090
he wanted to transgress the law.

141

00:07:32,090 --> 00:07:36,530
He said, send me money
whatever way you can.

142

00:07:36,530 --> 00:07:39,500
And even if you have to
smuggle the money, do it.

143

00:07:39,500 --> 00:07:44,700
But that idea was abhorrent

to good citizens in the West,

144

00:07:44,700 --> 00:07:45,200
you see.

145

00:07:45,200 --> 00:07:48,070

146

00:07:48,070 --> 00:07:48,760
Yes.

147

00:07:48,760 --> 00:07:50,380
I think it is really the point.

148

00:07:50,380 --> 00:07:52,630
Because these people
were first Americans.

149

00:07:52,630 --> 00:07:55,630
They were first Americans.

150

00:07:55,630 --> 00:07:57,690
Or Swiss citizens.

151

00:07:57,690 --> 00:07:58,630
Yes.

152

00:07:58,630 --> 00:08:03,280
And for people like Weissmandel
or the religious Jews

153

00:08:03,280 --> 00:08:08,170
in general, I mean, the first
priority was to save Jews.

154

00:08:08,170 --> 00:08:09,070
To save life.

155

00:08:09,070 --> 00:08:10,080
At any price.

156

00:08:10,080 --> 00:08:11,650

That's right, that's right.

157

00:08:11,650 --> 00:08:16,410

158

00:08:16,410 --> 00:08:23,777

And Weissmandel was completely
on this way of clandestine--

159

00:08:23,777 --> 00:08:24,360

Yes, he says--

160

00:08:24,360 --> 00:08:25,200

--dealings.

161

00:08:25,200 --> 00:08:32,460

--he says, what do I
care about man-made laws?

162

00:08:32,460 --> 00:08:33,530

What do I care?

163

00:08:33,530 --> 00:08:36,750

I have to save Jewish lives.

164

00:08:36,750 --> 00:08:41,370

And any means is
good enough for that.

165

00:08:41,370 --> 00:08:48,780

And even if someone would
be imprisoned, or punished,

166

00:08:48,780 --> 00:08:52,020

or fined for transgressing
the law, what does

167

00:08:52,020 --> 00:08:55,890

it mean when I
will get the money

168

00:08:55,890 --> 00:08:58,005
and I will succeed
in saving lives?

169
00:08:58,005 --> 00:09:00,810

170
00:09:00,810 --> 00:09:03,000
Yes.

171
00:09:03,000 --> 00:09:07,600
Saving lives is a
divine commandment.

172
00:09:07,600 --> 00:09:15,930
And the law, the civil
law, is a human-made thing.

173
00:09:15,930 --> 00:09:17,880
So how could you
compare the two?

174
00:09:17,880 --> 00:09:21,300
No, I mean, the real
discrepancy for that

175
00:09:21,300 --> 00:09:25,200
people like Weissmandel
were completely conscious

176
00:09:25,200 --> 00:09:28,440
that it was a very specific
and unique tragedy--

177
00:09:28,440 --> 00:09:29,620
It was a unique tragedy.

178
00:09:29,620 --> 00:09:31,260
--what happened to
the Jewish people.

179
00:09:31,260 --> 00:09:33,320
Right.

180

00:09:33,320 --> 00:09:38,910

See, when I went around with
the committee to collect money,

181

00:09:38,910 --> 00:09:45,200

I went to various Jewish
synagogues, communities.

182

00:09:45,200 --> 00:09:50,690

We spoke to the
[HEBREW],, to the people

183

00:09:50,690 --> 00:09:52,790

in charge of the synagogue.

184

00:09:52,790 --> 00:09:59,090

And we wanted them to collect
money within their community.

185

00:09:59,090 --> 00:10:00,260

I was astonished.

186

00:10:00,260 --> 00:10:02,420

People didn't believe it.

187

00:10:02,420 --> 00:10:05,330

People didn't believe it.

188

00:10:05,330 --> 00:10:06,530

They didn't believe what?

189

00:10:06,530 --> 00:10:09,020

They didn't believe
what we told them.

190

00:10:09,020 --> 00:10:11,390

We told them about the
letters of Weissmandel.

191

00:10:11,390 --> 00:10:16,100

We told them about what's

going on in Europe.

192
00:10:16,100 --> 00:10:19,340
First of all, I went
with another man

193
00:10:19,340 --> 00:10:20,630
and we didn't look like--

194
00:10:20,630 --> 00:10:24,260
I suppose we didn't look
like swindlers and liars.

195
00:10:24,260 --> 00:10:26,510
So they half believed.

196
00:10:26,510 --> 00:10:28,880
Because in our
faces, they must have

197
00:10:28,880 --> 00:10:30,950
seen that we really mean it.

198
00:10:30,950 --> 00:10:33,140
And the other hand,
intellectually, they

199
00:10:33,140 --> 00:10:36,200
couldn't imagine these things.

200
00:10:36,200 --> 00:10:38,600
They thought that these
are exaggerations,

201
00:10:38,600 --> 00:10:41,060
this cannot be true.

202
00:10:41,060 --> 00:10:44,240
Because they were
living in an order.

203
00:10:44,240 --> 00:10:48,050

And they couldn't
conceive something which

204
00:10:48,050 --> 00:10:52,380
is completely out of order.

205
00:10:52,380 --> 00:10:55,970

206
00:10:55,970 --> 00:11:01,850
So the information trickled
through very, very slowly

207
00:11:01,850 --> 00:11:09,590
and became part of the
consciousness, you see.

208
00:11:09,590 --> 00:11:12,530
But the authorities--

209
00:11:12,530 --> 00:11:15,590

210
00:11:15,590 --> 00:11:17,480
New York (film slating)

211
00:11:17,480 --> 00:11:17,980
OK.

212
00:11:17,980 --> 00:11:22,805

213
00:11:22,805 --> 00:11:27,220
As it was the case,
European Jews were trapped.

214
00:11:27,220 --> 00:11:29,680
Completely trapped.

215
00:11:29,680 --> 00:11:31,750
There was no exit.

216

00:11:31,750 --> 00:11:37,450

The only exit out of the
catastrophic situation

217

00:11:37,450 --> 00:11:41,470

was the way of money.

218

00:11:41,470 --> 00:11:45,250

Money, in Rabbi
Weissmandel's eyes

219

00:11:45,250 --> 00:11:51,010

was the only possibility
to provide a rescue.

220

00:11:51,010 --> 00:11:54,040

Because, you know,
we Jews, we are

221

00:11:54,040 --> 00:11:57,940

an eminently historical people.

222

00:11:57,940 --> 00:12:04,030

And Weissmandel was
penetrated by Jewish history.

223

00:12:04,030 --> 00:12:08,800

And Jewish history has proven
that Jews saved their lives

224

00:12:08,800 --> 00:12:11,270

with money all the time.

225

00:12:11,270 --> 00:12:14,140

So that was the central idea.

226

00:12:14,140 --> 00:12:24,040

And he was right, insofar
that avenues opened itself up

227

00:12:24,040 --> 00:12:25,790

for dealings with money.

228
00:12:25,790 --> 00:12:30,040
He conceived the
so-called Europa plan,

229
00:12:30,040 --> 00:12:32,440
which was his idea.

230
00:12:32,440 --> 00:12:35,860
Can you explain this
better, the Europa plan?

231
00:12:35,860 --> 00:12:36,910
Europa plan.

232
00:12:36,910 --> 00:12:42,730
Europa plan was a grandiose
idea to save not only

233
00:12:42,730 --> 00:12:47,950
Jews of Slovakia and Hungary,
but to save all European

234
00:12:47,950 --> 00:12:51,130
Jews, all for money.

235
00:12:51,130 --> 00:12:52,942
All European Jews
who were trapped?

236
00:12:52,942 --> 00:12:54,400
All European Jews
who were trapped.

237
00:12:54,400 --> 00:12:57,970
Because as a matter of fact,
all European Jews were trapped.

238
00:12:57,970 --> 00:13:03,250
The Jews in France, and in
Belgium, and in Holland,

239

00:13:03,250 --> 00:13:07,690
and those who were still in
Germany, they were all trapped.

240
00:13:07,690 --> 00:13:13,240
So since Rabbi
Weissmandel saw and felt

241
00:13:13,240 --> 00:13:21,070
that there is a receptivity,
a possibility that money could

242
00:13:21,070 --> 00:13:25,030
do something, he
widened his plan

243
00:13:25,030 --> 00:13:28,300
to rescue them from
rescuing just Slovakian

244
00:13:28,300 --> 00:13:31,690
or Hungarian Jews to
a much bigger plan

245
00:13:31,690 --> 00:13:33,140
to rescue all European Jews.

246
00:13:33,140 --> 00:13:33,640
Yes.

247
00:13:33,640 --> 00:13:37,090
Because at the beginning, he
tried to deal with the Nazis

248
00:13:37,090 --> 00:13:39,400
in order to rescue
the Slovakian Jews.

249
00:13:39,400 --> 00:13:42,880
And he thought that it worked.

250
00:13:42,880 --> 00:13:43,690
Yes.

251
00:13:43,690 --> 00:13:47,440
He submitted this
plan to Wisliceny.

252
00:13:47,440 --> 00:13:51,040
Wisliceny was very skeptical.

253
00:13:51,040 --> 00:13:53,920
Not only skeptical, he laughed
at it, because he said,

254
00:13:53,920 --> 00:13:57,010
we don't even have the money
to rescue the Slovakian Jews.

255
00:13:57,010 --> 00:14:00,370
How could you conceive the
idea to rescue European Jews?

256
00:14:00,370 --> 00:14:03,370
You will need a vast, a
bigger amount of money.

257
00:14:03,370 --> 00:14:08,020
But nevertheless, Wisliceny
channeled this plan

258
00:14:08,020 --> 00:14:11,200
to the higher authorities,
I think to Kaltenbrunner.

259
00:14:11,200 --> 00:14:12,130
To Himmler.

260
00:14:12,130 --> 00:14:14,560
And to Himmler himself.

261
00:14:14,560 --> 00:14:16,210
But nothing came of it.

262
00:14:16,210 --> 00:14:20,920

Because at that stage
of the war, you know,

263

00:14:20,920 --> 00:14:26,620
they were not so much interested
in doing something for the Jews

264

00:14:26,620 --> 00:14:29,205
in order to win the
favor of the Allies.

265

00:14:29,205 --> 00:14:30,580
Because they were
still convinced

266

00:14:30,580 --> 00:14:31,930
they will win the war.

267

00:14:31,930 --> 00:14:36,580
Only at a later stage, when they
were doubtful about victory,

268

00:14:36,580 --> 00:14:40,240
then they were trying,
then if that European plan

269

00:14:40,240 --> 00:14:42,678
could have been realized
later, later they

270

00:14:42,678 --> 00:14:43,970
would have been more receptive.

271

00:14:43,970 --> 00:14:45,262
But there were no Jews anymore.

272

00:14:45,262 --> 00:14:46,000
Yes, of course.

273

00:14:46,000 --> 00:14:46,810
You see.

274

00:14:46,810 --> 00:14:47,310

Yes.

275

00:14:47,310 --> 00:14:53,970

276

00:14:53,970 --> 00:14:55,380

Yes, all right.

277

00:14:55,380 --> 00:14:59,960

But Weissmandel conceived
this Europa plan

278

00:14:59,960 --> 00:15:01,890

and thought, OK, I need money.

279

00:15:01,890 --> 00:15:04,580

Money is my bitter enemy, no?

280

00:15:04,580 --> 00:15:05,730

Right.

281

00:15:05,730 --> 00:15:09,920

He conceived this plan because
he saw there is an opening.

282

00:15:09,920 --> 00:15:11,330

He saw it.

283

00:15:11,330 --> 00:15:16,940

The best proof of that is that
he stopped the transportation

284

00:15:16,940 --> 00:15:18,410

for many months.

285

00:15:18,410 --> 00:15:19,190

In Slovakia?

286

00:15:19,190 --> 00:15:21,110

In Slovakia, you see.

287

00:15:21,110 --> 00:15:25,850

So that gave him
obvious proof that they

288

00:15:25,850 --> 00:15:28,110

are receptive for money.

289

00:15:28,110 --> 00:15:31,260

At that time, the question
was only about \$50,000.

290

00:15:31,260 --> 00:15:32,760

And you think that
the deportations

291

00:15:32,760 --> 00:15:36,240

were stopped because of
the action of Weissmandel

292

00:15:36,240 --> 00:15:37,350

only for this reason.

293

00:15:37,350 --> 00:15:38,460

Of course, of course.

294

00:15:38,460 --> 00:15:41,190

That was the matter
with this fake letter,

295

00:15:41,190 --> 00:15:44,790

with this fake letter
of Ferdinand Roth.

296

00:15:44,790 --> 00:15:51,450

Weissmandel faked a letter
of an imaginary person

297

00:15:51,450 --> 00:15:55,290

who is the representative
of international Jewry.

298

00:15:55,290 --> 00:15:59,310

Because you see, the Nazis
were obsessed by the idea

299
00:15:59,310 --> 00:16:02,160
that there is
international Jewry,

300
00:16:02,160 --> 00:16:03,930
very powerful organization.

301
00:16:03,930 --> 00:16:06,390
Of course, this
idea came to them

302
00:16:06,390 --> 00:16:10,230
from that book,
the Elders of Zion,

303
00:16:10,230 --> 00:16:15,870
which appeared in the turn of
the century, which established

304
00:16:15,870 --> 00:16:20,850
the idea that there is a secret,
powerful organization called

305
00:16:20,850 --> 00:16:21,720
the Elders of Zion.

306
00:16:21,720 --> 00:16:26,980
And they command all
Jews of the world.

307
00:16:26,980 --> 00:16:29,760
So there is something like
international Jewry, which

308
00:16:29,760 --> 00:16:32,670
have all these threats
in their hands, you know.

309
00:16:32,670 --> 00:16:35,070
So international Jewry

is very powerful.

310

00:16:35,070 --> 00:16:37,590

And where international
Jewry has the money, too.

311

00:16:37,590 --> 00:16:39,660

And it has the money, of course.

312

00:16:39,660 --> 00:16:42,750

They are the capitalists, they
have the money, all the money.

313

00:16:42,750 --> 00:16:49,740

So therefore, this idea
of sending an emissary who

314

00:16:49,740 --> 00:16:54,630

will deal with the heads of
the international Jewry, that

315

00:16:54,630 --> 00:16:56,100

was believed.

316

00:16:56,100 --> 00:17:00,980

So Weissmandel, in
faking this letter

317

00:17:00,980 --> 00:17:03,000

and making up the
whole story that he

318

00:17:03,000 --> 00:17:05,280

will contact
international Jewry,

319

00:17:05,280 --> 00:17:08,369

that fell on a fruitful ground.

320

00:17:08,369 --> 00:17:11,369

Yes, but excuse me, but
this was the real tragedy.

321

00:17:11,369 --> 00:17:14,640

Because Weissmandel
tried to trap the Nazis

322

00:17:14,640 --> 00:17:16,839

at their own game.

323

00:17:16,839 --> 00:17:18,660

Right.

324

00:17:18,660 --> 00:17:21,873

He said, OK, the Nazi believe
in international Jewry.

325

00:17:21,873 --> 00:17:24,040

I will act as there would
be an international Jewry.

326

00:17:24,040 --> 00:17:26,332

As if there would be an
international Jewry, of course.

327

00:17:26,332 --> 00:17:26,832

Of course.

328

00:17:26,832 --> 00:17:27,599

That was the idea.

329

00:17:27,599 --> 00:17:29,520

And you say--

330

00:17:29,520 --> 00:17:34,950

He used their own fantasy,
their own imagination,

331

00:17:34,950 --> 00:17:41,010

and wanted to gain something
from that by telling them,

332

00:17:41,010 --> 00:17:42,570

I will contact
international Jewry.

333
00:17:42,570 --> 00:17:43,680
I will get the money.

334
00:17:43,680 --> 00:17:44,940
Yes, but what happened?

335
00:17:44,940 --> 00:17:47,075
International Jewry
didn't answer.

336
00:17:47,075 --> 00:17:48,450
International
Jewry didn't answer

337
00:17:48,450 --> 00:17:49,530
because it doesn't exist.

338
00:17:49,530 --> 00:17:50,030
Exactly.

339
00:17:50,030 --> 00:17:55,060

340
00:17:55,060 --> 00:17:55,990
Yes.

341
00:17:55,990 --> 00:17:58,990
OK, now explain this
story of Ferdinand Roth.

342
00:17:58,990 --> 00:18:02,320
Because he went on.

343
00:18:02,320 --> 00:18:08,680
He faked a letter that
Ferdinand Roth, the intermediary

344
00:18:08,680 --> 00:18:12,940
between Weissmandel and
international Jewry,

345

00:18:12,940 --> 00:18:14,840
he is in Switzerland.

346

00:18:14,840 --> 00:18:19,180
And he is acting
to get the money.

347

00:18:19,180 --> 00:18:21,790
And of course, since
the money didn't come,

348

00:18:21,790 --> 00:18:27,400
he faked another letter, telling
that that person with whom

349

00:18:27,400 --> 00:18:30,550
Ferdinand is dealing is
ill, he's in the hospital.

350

00:18:30,550 --> 00:18:35,050
He should wait for another two
or three weeks or four weeks

351

00:18:35,050 --> 00:18:36,610
and the money will come.

352

00:18:36,610 --> 00:18:39,560
And Weissmandel,
in his desperation,

353

00:18:39,560 --> 00:18:40,990
he didn't know what will happen.

354

00:18:40,990 --> 00:18:44,980
But he was hoping for some
miracle that in the meantime,

355

00:18:44,980 --> 00:18:50,110
he will in clandestine
ways, arouse Jews

356

00:18:50,110 --> 00:18:54,910

in America and in Switzerland
to provide the money.

357
00:18:54,910 --> 00:18:56,080
You know.

358
00:18:56,080 --> 00:18:58,630
But he was not
successful in that.

359
00:18:58,630 --> 00:18:59,590
He was not successful.

360
00:18:59,590 --> 00:19:03,610
So finally, finally,
Wisliceny, who was waiting,

361
00:19:03,610 --> 00:19:06,290
and he was believing
this fake letter.

362
00:19:06,290 --> 00:19:10,270
And he postponed the deadline.

363
00:19:10,270 --> 00:19:14,360
Finally, he saw that
nothing came of it.

364
00:19:14,360 --> 00:19:17,530
So did the trains
began to roll again.

365
00:19:17,530 --> 00:19:19,660
Yeah, but this is
an absolute tragedy

366
00:19:19,660 --> 00:19:24,670
that he had to invent a--

367
00:19:24,670 --> 00:19:26,530
he had to invent
international Jewry,

368

00:19:26,530 --> 00:19:31,030

you know an international
Jewry didn't exist, as you say.

369

00:19:31,030 --> 00:19:35,010

Did not exist, yes.

370

00:19:35,010 --> 00:19:39,030

This is one of the most
tragic points, in my opinion.

371

00:19:39,030 --> 00:19:40,560

It is, it certainly is.

372

00:19:40,560 --> 00:19:43,590

It certainly is.

373

00:19:43,590 --> 00:19:46,710

But did he talk to you
later on about this?

374

00:19:46,710 --> 00:19:50,310

Because this fantastic
idea of the Europa plan,

375

00:19:50,310 --> 00:19:53,400

because it's a complete
insane idea in one way.

376

00:19:53,400 --> 00:19:56,300

It is a complete insane idea.

377

00:19:56,300 --> 00:20:01,080

And on the other hand, it
was a very realistic idea.

378

00:20:01,080 --> 00:20:05,820

Because after all, you
put yourself in his shoes.

379

00:20:05,820 --> 00:20:07,990

The man was desperate.

380
00:20:07,990 --> 00:20:10,050
Well, desperate is
an understatement.

381
00:20:10,050 --> 00:20:15,270
He was he was
completely frantic.

382
00:20:15,270 --> 00:20:20,190
And he saw a small opening.

383
00:20:20,190 --> 00:20:22,470
A small opening, money.

384
00:20:22,470 --> 00:20:27,150
Because when he
suggested to Wisliceny

385
00:20:27,150 --> 00:20:30,510
that he will give
him money, Wisliceny

386
00:20:30,510 --> 00:20:34,590
did not hit him in his face.

387
00:20:34,590 --> 00:20:36,250
He was listening to him.

388
00:20:36,250 --> 00:20:39,390
And as a matter of fact, he
started the deportations.

389
00:20:39,390 --> 00:20:43,470
So he saw money is an agent.

390
00:20:43,470 --> 00:20:44,890
Money is important.

391
00:20:44,890 --> 00:20:49,320
So why shouldn't he have
thought on a bigger scale?

392
00:20:49,320 --> 00:20:50,250
Why shouldn't he?

393
00:20:50,250 --> 00:20:51,510
It was natural for him.

394
00:20:51,510 --> 00:20:54,540
He says, if money
can do something,

395
00:20:54,540 --> 00:20:59,310
why can't money be working, not
only for the Slovakian Jews?

396
00:20:59,310 --> 00:21:01,530
Money could work
for European Jews.

397
00:21:01,530 --> 00:21:05,100
He was a man of thinking big.

398
00:21:05,100 --> 00:21:06,180
Yes.

399
00:21:06,180 --> 00:21:08,850
So it was not quite so
insane as you think.

400
00:21:08,850 --> 00:21:10,920
And did he believe
it completely?

401
00:21:10,920 --> 00:21:14,040
I mean, I think that the act of
asking, that's what is meaning.

402
00:21:14,040 --> 00:21:19,410
A man in desperation
believes that

403
00:21:19,410 --> 00:21:23,190

what he has to believe
in order to hold himself.

404
00:21:23,190 --> 00:21:27,330

405
00:21:27,330 --> 00:21:34,080
You cannot use a measurement,
the measurement of cool logic

406
00:21:34,080 --> 00:21:40,980
to use in a man who is
confronted with a situation

407
00:21:40,980 --> 00:21:42,240
which is beyond logic.

408
00:21:42,240 --> 00:21:44,800

409
00:21:44,800 --> 00:21:46,840
Yes.

410
00:21:46,840 --> 00:21:50,710
He has to operate with means
with which are illogical.

411
00:21:50,710 --> 00:21:54,210
Because the whole
situation was illogical.

412
00:21:54,210 --> 00:21:56,800
Yes, and the people
who answered him,

413
00:21:56,800 --> 00:21:59,290
I think they asked him for
reports, for budgets, as so on.

414
00:21:59,290 --> 00:22:03,820
Oh, they were very
logical people, you see.

415

00:22:03,820 --> 00:22:05,770
They were very orderly people.

416

00:22:05,770 --> 00:22:09,370
They wanted for him
in a complete report.

417

00:22:09,370 --> 00:22:11,440
You need money?

418

00:22:11,440 --> 00:22:12,100
For what?

419

00:22:12,100 --> 00:22:13,780
How much money did you spend?

420

00:22:13,780 --> 00:22:16,450
For what will you spend it?

421

00:22:16,450 --> 00:22:19,390
So how could he act like that?

422

00:22:19,390 --> 00:22:21,820
He answered them, I
can't give you a report.

423

00:22:21,820 --> 00:22:23,140
I can't do it.

424

00:22:23,140 --> 00:22:27,764
I am in a situation beyond.

425

00:22:27,764 --> 00:22:32,230
(film slating)

426

00:22:32,230 --> 00:22:34,220
About reports.

427

00:22:34,220 --> 00:22:44,240
Weissmandel needed big sums to
send to the diplomatic people,

428
00:22:44,240 --> 00:22:47,780
to send his messages in
the diplomatic pouch.

429
00:22:47,780 --> 00:22:53,780
To the Vatican, to Switzerland,
to Turkey, wherever

430
00:22:53,780 --> 00:22:57,860
there were Jews or non-Jews.

431
00:22:57,860 --> 00:23:00,530
In the free countries,
he contacted them.

432
00:23:00,530 --> 00:23:05,690
He had to bribe these
diplomatic emissaries

433
00:23:05,690 --> 00:23:07,370
to take his messages.

434
00:23:07,370 --> 00:23:10,250
And he paid them
good money for that.

435
00:23:10,250 --> 00:23:14,300
Well, how could that
appear in a report?

436
00:23:14,300 --> 00:23:16,550
He couldn't talk
about these things.

437
00:23:16,550 --> 00:23:21,050
And many, many other
amounts here and there

438
00:23:21,050 --> 00:23:25,380
which helped about
small situations--

439

00:23:25,380 --> 00:23:32,300

these are not matters in a
regular accounting, you see.

440

00:23:32,300 --> 00:23:39,470

But the people who were
sitting in an orderly society,

441

00:23:39,470 --> 00:23:41,720

they couldn't-- if
they gave money,

442

00:23:41,720 --> 00:23:43,610

they wanted to know
what is it for?

443

00:23:43,610 --> 00:23:46,070

I want to know exactly, you see.

444

00:23:46,070 --> 00:23:49,310

So two worlds were clashing
against each other.

445

00:23:49,310 --> 00:23:50,660

Exactly.

446

00:23:50,660 --> 00:23:52,760

You see.

447

00:23:52,760 --> 00:23:54,440

And this is the main point.

448

00:23:54,440 --> 00:23:56,630

This is a very important point.

449

00:23:56,630 --> 00:24:03,860

It is a matter of
mentality, of approach, see.

450

00:24:03,860 --> 00:24:06,080

What is money?

451

00:24:06,080 --> 00:24:10,690

You see, to Weissmandel,
money meant nothing.

452

00:24:10,690 --> 00:24:14,540

He could give money
left and right.

453

00:24:14,540 --> 00:24:20,770

When it could indirectly
help, somehow, to pave a way,

454

00:24:20,770 --> 00:24:31,270

you know, in indirect ways to
get someone who knows someone,

455

00:24:31,270 --> 00:24:35,080

and he knows someone who
might be helpful, you know.

456

00:24:35,080 --> 00:24:40,600

So all these things are not
matters for an accounting.

457

00:24:40,600 --> 00:24:42,870

Yes, and though they were
answering with budgets

458

00:24:42,870 --> 00:24:43,787

and reports and so on.

459

00:24:43,787 --> 00:24:45,835

With budgets and--

460

00:24:45,835 --> 00:24:48,130

It was the real
clash of two worlds.

461

00:24:48,130 --> 00:24:49,180

A clash of two worlds.

462

00:24:49,180 --> 00:24:50,720

But it is a point.

463

00:24:50,720 --> 00:24:54,670

How is it possible to imagine
Treblinka from Washington

464

00:24:54,670 --> 00:24:55,580

or from New York?

465

00:24:55,580 --> 00:24:56,080

No.

466

00:24:56,080 --> 00:24:57,320

This is very difficult.

467

00:24:57,320 --> 00:24:57,820

No.

468

00:24:57,820 --> 00:25:04,840

But the fact is that the State
Department and the leading

469

00:25:04,840 --> 00:25:08,620

officials knew exactly
what was going on.

470

00:25:08,620 --> 00:25:09,250

All of them?

471

00:25:09,250 --> 00:25:10,990

All of them.

472

00:25:10,990 --> 00:25:11,590

All of them.

473

00:25:11,590 --> 00:25:13,540

And the leading Jews, too?

474

00:25:13,540 --> 00:25:14,950

And the leading Jews, too.

475

00:25:14,950 --> 00:25:16,600
The leading Jews, too.

476
00:25:16,600 --> 00:25:23,740
But they had more
relations with the Gentile,

477
00:25:23,740 --> 00:25:26,830
with the gentlemen in
the State Department.

478
00:25:26,830 --> 00:25:34,180
More affinity with him than with
those Orthodox bearded Jews,

479
00:25:34,180 --> 00:25:34,810
you know.

480
00:25:34,810 --> 00:25:38,920
This was a different world,
a different world, you see.

481
00:25:38,920 --> 00:25:44,320
And if that polished gentlemen
from the State Department

482
00:25:44,320 --> 00:25:48,070
explained to him, look we
can't do these things now.

483
00:25:48,070 --> 00:25:53,290
We have to wait after the war,
and don't disturb the public.

484
00:25:53,290 --> 00:25:58,900
And don't interfere with
the war effort, you see.

485
00:25:58,900 --> 00:26:03,728
He found an acceptable,
agreeable ear, you see.

486
00:26:03,728 --> 00:26:06,820

487
00:26:06,820 --> 00:26:11,020
And now, could you talk about
Weissmandel and the church?

488
00:26:11,020 --> 00:26:13,540
Well, Weissmandel
and the Church.

489
00:26:13,540 --> 00:26:18,580
This is a very,
very tragic chapter.

490
00:26:18,580 --> 00:26:22,240
You see, Weissmandel,
as a religious man, as

491
00:26:22,240 --> 00:26:26,060
a deeply, authentically
religious man,

492
00:26:26,060 --> 00:26:32,750
he had respect and affinity
to any religious person.

493
00:26:32,750 --> 00:26:34,060
Also to a Christian.

494
00:26:34,060 --> 00:26:37,780
He respected religion per se.

495
00:26:37,780 --> 00:26:38,560
Per se?

496
00:26:38,560 --> 00:26:40,660
Per se.

497
00:26:40,660 --> 00:26:44,230
And you see, this is
an interesting thing.

498

00:26:44,230 --> 00:26:48,460
Weissmandel was a very
clever man, very smart.

499
00:26:48,460 --> 00:26:51,910
At the same time, he was naive.

500
00:26:51,910 --> 00:26:56,650
He was naive in
so far to believe

501
00:26:56,650 --> 00:27:02,980
that a really religious man, a
Catholic in such a situation,

502
00:27:02,980 --> 00:27:05,350
how could he not be helpful?

503
00:27:05,350 --> 00:27:10,120
After all, the religion
says, Lord [INAUDIBLE],,

504
00:27:10,120 --> 00:27:11,830
thou shall not kill.

505
00:27:11,830 --> 00:27:15,940
This is a commandment
in the Ten Commandments.

506
00:27:15,940 --> 00:27:17,770
The Christians also
believe in that.

507
00:27:17,770 --> 00:27:23,830
Now, well, the Church
has shed a lot of blood

508
00:27:23,830 --> 00:27:26,170
they have killed Jews
in the Middle Ages.

509
00:27:26,170 --> 00:27:32,650
But those were

killings and cruelties

510
00:27:32,650 --> 00:27:36,250
under the veneer of religion.

511
00:27:36,250 --> 00:27:39,940
One religion against the other.

512
00:27:39,940 --> 00:27:41,530
All right.

513
00:27:41,530 --> 00:27:44,380
During the Crusades,
Jewish blood

514
00:27:44,380 --> 00:27:48,220
has been spilled so that
the Church has a lot

515
00:27:48,220 --> 00:27:50,230
to bear on their shoulders.

516
00:27:50,230 --> 00:27:55,060
But now, at this point,
there was no religious belief

517
00:27:55,060 --> 00:27:56,050
involved.

518
00:27:56,050 --> 00:27:59,050
That was not one religion
clashing against the other.

519
00:27:59,050 --> 00:28:02,200
There was killing
for no purpose.

520
00:28:02,200 --> 00:28:07,210
So why shouldn't the Church
be helpful in that case?

521
00:28:07,210 --> 00:28:12,400

When the Nazis didn't kill the
Jews for a religious belief

522

00:28:12,400 --> 00:28:14,950
or for political
reasons, they kill Jews

523

00:28:14,950 --> 00:28:19,750
because just Jews
have to be eliminated.

524

00:28:19,750 --> 00:28:22,420
That was an obsession
of Hitler and the Nazis.

525

00:28:22,420 --> 00:28:25,600
Jews have to be, not
for religious reason.

526

00:28:25,600 --> 00:28:29,030
So the Church should be helpful.

527

00:28:29,030 --> 00:28:34,820
So Weissmandel, in this
naivete, approached the Vatican.

528

00:28:34,820 --> 00:28:38,170
He went to the bishop.

529

00:28:38,170 --> 00:28:40,030
His name was Kmetko.

530

00:28:40,030 --> 00:28:40,960
The bishop of Nitra?

531

00:28:40,960 --> 00:28:44,020
The bishop of Nitra,
his name was Kmetko.

532

00:28:44,020 --> 00:28:47,650
You see, the president of
the Czechoslovakian state

533

00:28:47,650 --> 00:28:50,170
was Monseigneur Tiso.

534

00:28:50,170 --> 00:28:55,060
He was once a secretary
to the bishop Kmetko.

535

00:28:55,060 --> 00:28:58,930
So Tiso himself was
not approachable.

536

00:28:58,930 --> 00:29:01,330
One could not go to Tiso.

537

00:29:01,330 --> 00:29:05,560
But Weissmandel thought,
if I go to the bishop, who

538

00:29:05,560 --> 00:29:10,240
is his superior in
the Church hierarchy,

539

00:29:10,240 --> 00:29:16,520
perhaps the bishop will
use his influence on Tiso.

540

00:29:16,520 --> 00:29:21,980
So that was a very great
mistake of Rabbi Weissmandel.

541

00:29:21,980 --> 00:29:26,690
Because the bishop, that's a
very well known fact, you see.

542

00:29:26,690 --> 00:29:32,600
Even when Weissmandel told
him about the deportations

543

00:29:32,600 --> 00:29:36,800
and the blood being
spilled, the bishop--

544

00:29:36,800 --> 00:29:40,520

I don't quite remember, was
it bishop Kmetko or was it

545

00:29:40,520 --> 00:29:41,660

the Papal Nuncio?

546

00:29:41,660 --> 00:29:43,910

Because he went also
to the Papal Nuncio.

547

00:29:43,910 --> 00:29:47,960

One of the two
said to him, there

548

00:29:47,960 --> 00:29:50,510

is no innocent Jewish blood.

549

00:29:50,510 --> 00:29:53,400

You are killers of Christ.

550

00:29:53,400 --> 00:29:55,490

So there are no innocent--

551

00:29:55,490 --> 00:29:58,130

because Weissmandel said,
there are innocent children--

552

00:29:58,130 --> 00:30:00,470

that there are no
innocent Jewish children.

553

00:30:00,470 --> 00:30:02,300

You are all guilty.

554

00:30:02,300 --> 00:30:05,840

And you will be
punished, you see.

555

00:30:05,840 --> 00:30:06,800

It was the bishop.

556

00:30:06,800 --> 00:30:09,080

It was the bishop, yes.

557

00:30:09,080 --> 00:30:12,140

I didn't quite remember
which of the two it was.

558

00:30:12,140 --> 00:30:17,630

But anyway, it comes from the
mouth of the church, you see.

559

00:30:17,630 --> 00:30:22,580

And of course, what the
reaction of the Vatican

560

00:30:22,580 --> 00:30:24,980

is also well-known.

561

00:30:24,980 --> 00:30:28,880

Because when you
see, Weissmandel

562

00:30:28,880 --> 00:30:36,170

bribed an official of the
Slovakian government, who

563

00:30:36,170 --> 00:30:41,870

was present at the
sessions of the ministers

564

00:30:41,870 --> 00:30:43,670

of the Council of Ministers.

565

00:30:43,670 --> 00:30:44,810

He was present there.

566

00:30:44,810 --> 00:30:46,920

He probably was a
secretary or something.

567

00:30:46,920 --> 00:30:52,730

And he told Weissmandel what
went on, what was discussed.

568
00:30:52,730 --> 00:30:57,020
And when a letter
from the Vatican

569
00:30:57,020 --> 00:31:01,860
came to the
Czechoslovakian government,

570
00:31:01,860 --> 00:31:05,120
and the letter was
read at a session,

571
00:31:05,120 --> 00:31:08,690
Weissmandel was told the
content of that letter.

572
00:31:08,690 --> 00:31:11,510
You see, Weissmandel
wrote to the Vatican

573
00:31:11,510 --> 00:31:14,990
that families are being
deported wholesale.

574
00:31:14,990 --> 00:31:17,550

575
00:31:17,550 --> 00:31:22,650
So the Vatican
and wrote a letter

576
00:31:22,650 --> 00:31:25,590
to the Czechoslovakian
government

577
00:31:25,590 --> 00:31:32,700
that baptized Jews should
not be deported together

578
00:31:32,700 --> 00:31:34,830
with authentic Jews.

579

00:31:34,830 --> 00:31:36,630

They should be separated.

580

00:31:36,630 --> 00:31:39,900

And families should
be kept together.

581

00:31:39,900 --> 00:31:42,690

Families should
not be torn apart.

582

00:31:42,690 --> 00:31:47,790

You see, that was the
concern of the Vatican.

583

00:31:47,790 --> 00:31:48,960

You see.

584

00:31:48,960 --> 00:31:55,410

That was their humanity,
their humanitarian instinct.

585

00:31:55,410 --> 00:32:02,490

Well, you cannot treat baptized
Jews the same as other Jews.

586

00:32:02,490 --> 00:32:05,770

You must deport them separately.

587

00:32:05,770 --> 00:32:06,390

You see.

588

00:32:06,390 --> 00:32:10,010

That, Weissmandel--

589

00:32:10,010 --> 00:32:17,000