

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:13,480

2

00:00:13,480 --> 00:00:18,650

Do you remember the day when  
you moved inside the ghetto?

3

00:00:18,650 --> 00:00:19,610

No.

4

00:00:19,610 --> 00:00:21,100

Do you remember this?

5

00:00:21,100 --> 00:00:21,840

Pardon?

6

00:00:21,840 --> 00:00:23,970

Do you remember how it went--

7

00:00:23,970 --> 00:00:25,370

They gave up--

8

00:00:25,370 --> 00:00:25,870

--When you--

9

00:00:25,870 --> 00:00:26,990

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

10

00:00:26,990 --> 00:00:27,590

--yes.

11

00:00:27,590 --> 00:00:29,060

A month time.

12

00:00:29,060 --> 00:00:29,990

A month's time?

13

00:00:29,990 --> 00:00:32,060

A month's time.

14

00:00:32,060 --> 00:00:37,220

And they told us  
that you are entitled

15

00:00:37,220 --> 00:00:40,150

to take our belongings.

16

00:00:40,150 --> 00:00:43,560

So we sorted to arrange it.

17

00:00:43,560 --> 00:00:47,210

They were not interested.

18

00:00:47,210 --> 00:00:53,510

In order that they could  
[INAUDIBLE] already

19

00:00:53,510 --> 00:00:57,522

in the ghetto, to find  
out to take [INAUDIBLE]..

20

00:00:57,522 --> 00:00:58,022

Yes.

21

00:00:58,022 --> 00:01:00,820

22

00:01:00,820 --> 00:01:06,640

And it was a difficult  
operation to move 30,000 people?

23

00:01:06,640 --> 00:01:08,200

Oh, yes.

24

00:01:08,200 --> 00:01:17,590

It was a very difficult because  
the civilian population,

25

00:01:17,590 --> 00:01:21,330

they exploited the situation.

26

00:01:21,330 --> 00:01:24,090

27

00:01:24,090 --> 00:01:34,230

First of all, they went  
in Jewish apartments

28

00:01:34,230 --> 00:01:38,070

and take the [INAUDIBLE] out.

29

00:01:38,070 --> 00:01:40,650

And take what they wanted.

30

00:01:40,650 --> 00:01:46,950

Then it was necessary  
to pay them money

31

00:01:46,950 --> 00:01:50,880

to the [NON-ENGLISH].

32

00:01:50,880 --> 00:01:53,170

So the people with the cars?

33

00:01:53,170 --> 00:01:53,670

Cars?

34

00:01:53,670 --> 00:01:54,310

To transport.

35

00:01:54,310 --> 00:01:57,570

To transport.

36

00:01:57,570 --> 00:02:03,690

And [? home, ?] it was very  
difficult what could we take

37

00:02:03,690 --> 00:02:04,920

with us?

38

00:02:04,920 --> 00:02:06,120

[INAUDIBLE]

39

00:02:06,120 --> 00:02:07,920

But [? still. ?]

40

00:02:07,920 --> 00:02:10,380

What could you take?

41

00:02:10,380 --> 00:02:13,510

Of course, very little.

42

00:02:13,510 --> 00:02:17,520

But just clothes.

43

00:02:17,520 --> 00:02:18,420

Yes.

44

00:02:18,420 --> 00:02:21,360

Clothes could take.

45

00:02:21,360 --> 00:02:24,450

The Jewish took very much books.

46

00:02:24,450 --> 00:02:25,650

The Jews took books?

47

00:02:25,650 --> 00:02:28,340

Yes, books.

48

00:02:28,340 --> 00:02:28,840

With--

49

00:02:28,840 --> 00:02:30,310

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

50

00:02:30,310 --> 00:02:31,710

Yes.

51

00:02:31,710 --> 00:02:38,100

We'll take also blankets,  
and what was possible.

52

00:02:38,100 --> 00:02:39,570  
And the furniture?

53  
00:02:39,570 --> 00:02:42,360  
Furniture also was possible.

54  
00:02:42,360 --> 00:02:48,520  
But there was no  
place on these carts.

55  
00:02:48,520 --> 00:02:53,040  
But still took a lot of things.

56  
00:02:53,040 --> 00:02:58,170  
Of course, later on they  
confiscated this later.

57  
00:02:58,170 --> 00:03:02,190  
But you took them their money.

58  
00:03:02,190 --> 00:03:05,808  
And then [NON-ENGLISH].

59  
00:03:05,808 --> 00:03:09,120

60  
00:03:09,120 --> 00:03:10,350  
Valuables.

61  
00:03:10,350 --> 00:03:12,000  
Valuables.

62  
00:03:12,000 --> 00:03:17,426  
All what took and here  
is also a picture of--

63  
00:03:17,426 --> 00:03:19,220  
Of the transport.

64  
00:03:19,220 --> 00:03:20,260  
Of the transport.

65

00:03:20,260 --> 00:03:23,430

The transport and  
burned the [INAUDIBLE]..

66

00:03:23,430 --> 00:03:25,130

They burned them all.

67

00:03:25,130 --> 00:03:25,980

Yes.

68

00:03:25,980 --> 00:03:33,060

In Vienna, they were given I  
think two days with transport.

69

00:03:33,060 --> 00:03:37,920

And that was much more  
difficult [INAUDIBLE]??

70

00:03:37,920 --> 00:03:44,010

They this not because  
of love of the Jews.

71

00:03:44,010 --> 00:03:46,620

They always  
[INAUDIBLE] in ghetto.

72

00:03:46,620 --> 00:03:49,740

And from the ghetto,  
they were [INAUDIBLE]..

73

00:03:49,740 --> 00:03:52,090

You mean that it was not clever?

74

00:03:52,090 --> 00:03:54,643

It was better for them  
to gather all the Jews--

75

00:03:54,643 --> 00:03:55,410

Of course.

76

00:03:55,410 --> 00:03:55,590

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

77  
00:03:55,590 --> 00:03:56,400  
--In one place?

78  
00:03:56,400 --> 00:03:57,675  
Of course.

79  
00:03:57,675 --> 00:03:58,350  
Yes.

80  
00:03:58,350 --> 00:03:59,183  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

81  
00:03:59,183 --> 00:04:03,900  
But it was because then it is  
much better for their liking

82  
00:04:03,900 --> 00:04:05,340  
a [NON-ENGLISH].

83  
00:04:05,340 --> 00:04:11,320

84  
00:04:11,320 --> 00:04:12,595  
And the chickens.

85  
00:04:12,595 --> 00:04:19,360  
And chickens, [? yeah? ?] It was  
very easy to come into ghetto.

86  
00:04:19,360 --> 00:04:23,930  
They called it-- it  
was called the aktion.

87  
00:04:23,930 --> 00:04:27,160  
The aktion of [NON-ENGLISH].

88  
00:04:27,160 --> 00:04:28,620  
Now you see.

89  
00:04:28,620 --> 00:04:32,610

During the aktion, also  
some Jews were killed.

90  
00:04:32,610 --> 00:04:39,792  
And amongst a lot of  
things were taken.

91  
00:04:39,792 --> 00:04:45,570  
Still they were not satisfied.

92  
00:04:45,570 --> 00:04:49,260  
And Jordan invited us.

93  
00:04:49,260 --> 00:04:51,570  
Jordan was a [NON-ENGLISH].

94  
00:04:51,570 --> 00:04:53,010  
[NON-ENGLISH].

95  
00:04:53,010 --> 00:04:58,200  
He was not-- he was in  
charge of the Jewish--

96  
00:04:58,200 --> 00:05:00,060  
Jewish [? ghetto ?] Judenrat.

97  
00:05:00,060 --> 00:05:02,790  
Judenrat, he was.

98  
00:05:02,790 --> 00:05:08,440  
And yes, he was  
very [? single ?]

99  
00:05:08,440 --> 00:05:14,640  
and very brutal  
[INAUDIBLE] to the Jews

100  
00:05:14,640 --> 00:05:17,796  
have deceived the Germans.

101  
00:05:17,796 --> 00:05:21,270  
That who have not delivered.



102  
00:05:21,270 --> 00:05:25,290  
That who will  
[? delivered ?] [INAUDIBLE]..

103  
00:05:25,290 --> 00:05:33,420  
So he gave us two days time.

104  
00:05:33,420 --> 00:05:37,620  
We could deliver.

105  
00:05:37,620 --> 00:05:44,100  
And after two days, they  
will search all the Jews

106  
00:05:44,100 --> 00:05:46,950  
in the ghetto.

107  
00:05:46,950 --> 00:05:54,250  
And for every [INAUDIBLE] you  
see, 100 Jews will be shot.

108  
00:05:54,250 --> 00:06:01,350  
So it was also very  
dramatic [INAUDIBLE]..

109  
00:06:01,350 --> 00:06:05,642  
And also, you have a  
choice between valuables

110  
00:06:05,642 --> 00:06:08,300  
and your life.

111  
00:06:08,300 --> 00:06:11,870  
And must prefer the life.

112  
00:06:11,870 --> 00:06:21,510  
And a lot of things they brought  
by the Jews [INAUDIBLE] during

113  
00:06:21,510 --> 00:06:22,010  
this--

114  
00:06:22,010 --> 00:06:23,950  
Know not to give  
them to the Germans?

115  
00:06:23,950 --> 00:06:25,630  
Perhaps.

116  
00:06:25,630 --> 00:06:32,830  
During the time, many  
Gestapo people came to see,

117  
00:06:32,830 --> 00:06:37,420  
and they have taken  
for themselves.

118  
00:06:37,420 --> 00:06:39,800  
What kind of things?

119  
00:06:39,800 --> 00:06:45,170  
Things just rings.

120  
00:06:45,170 --> 00:06:46,570  
Watches.

121  
00:06:46,570 --> 00:06:53,270  
Watches, diamonds, it was,  
of course, they [INAUDIBLE]..

122  
00:06:53,270 --> 00:06:53,770  
Stealing?

123  
00:06:53,770 --> 00:06:55,300  
Stealing.

124  
00:06:55,300 --> 00:07:03,760  
But still a mountain a lot  
of things they brought.

125  
00:07:03,760 --> 00:07:07,660  
And even then, what  
[? happened, ?] of course,

126  
00:07:07,660 --> 00:07:09,790  
it was illegal.

127  
00:07:09,790 --> 00:07:14,430

128  
00:07:14,430 --> 00:07:22,090  
A possibility to hold all  
this [INAUDIBLE] together.

129  
00:07:22,090 --> 00:07:24,130  
Yes.

130  
00:07:24,130 --> 00:07:27,050  
And the people were  
giving their things--

131  
00:07:27,050 --> 00:07:27,550  
Yeah.

132  
00:07:27,550 --> 00:07:28,383  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

133  
00:07:28,383 --> 00:07:31,940  
Give willingly, of  
course, there were some.

134  
00:07:31,940 --> 00:07:38,200  
But even then, he'd  
just hated this.

135  
00:07:38,200 --> 00:07:44,100  
But most [INAUDIBLE] hang on.

136  
00:07:44,100 --> 00:07:52,722

137  
00:07:52,722 --> 00:07:53,690  
[NON-ENGLISH].

138

00:07:53,690 --> 00:08:01,640

139

00:08:01,640 --> 00:08:03,481

Maybe you read it?

140

00:08:03,481 --> 00:08:09,410

141

00:08:09,410 --> 00:08:09,910

[INAUDIBLE]?

142

00:08:09,910 --> 00:08:10,410

Yes.

143

00:08:10,410 --> 00:08:13,180

144

00:08:13,180 --> 00:08:17,260

The property in which the Jews  
of the Kovno ghetto delivered

145

00:08:17,260 --> 00:08:21,490

to the Germans out of hope  
to buy the right to live

146

00:08:21,490 --> 00:08:23,890

was more than could be imagined.

147

00:08:23,890 --> 00:08:28,330

It was a property worth  
50 million marks at least.

148

00:08:28,330 --> 00:08:32,260

The Germans themselves were  
surprised from the results

149

00:08:32,260 --> 00:08:34,840

of this contribution.

150

00:08:34,840 --> 00:08:38,090

The searches, which made the

life in the ghetto difficult

151

00:08:38,090 --> 00:08:41,039

so much was stopped.

152

00:08:41,039 --> 00:08:43,630

A time of peace and quiet  
came into the ghetto,

153

00:08:43,630 --> 00:08:49,120

but only for a few days, because  
the beast, the Nazi beast,

154

00:08:49,120 --> 00:08:52,970

was already preparing  
new diabolic things.

155

00:08:52,970 --> 00:08:54,370

Yes.

156

00:08:54,370 --> 00:08:58,780

You write that the Jews were  
buying the right to the--

157

00:08:58,780 --> 00:08:59,500

In hope.

158

00:08:59,500 --> 00:09:01,510

To learn to be--

159

00:09:01,510 --> 00:09:02,597

To be alive.

160

00:09:02,597 --> 00:09:03,910

Being alive.

161

00:09:03,910 --> 00:09:05,830

And then--

162

00:09:05,830 --> 00:09:08,200

--They thought that it  
was possible with money,

163  
00:09:08,200 --> 00:09:09,010  
with gold --

164  
00:09:09,010 --> 00:09:09,843  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

165  
00:09:09,843 --> 00:09:11,270  
Everything.

166  
00:09:11,270 --> 00:09:17,890  
Of course, and this was  
sent to Germany of course.

167  
00:09:17,890 --> 00:09:28,150  
And then Jordan told us  
that he gives two days.

168  
00:09:28,150 --> 00:09:37,420  
Dr. Elkes [? initiative ?]  
what is a lot of the 500 people

169  
00:09:37,420 --> 00:09:40,150  
delegates.

170  
00:09:40,150 --> 00:09:41,730  
What happened to them?

171  
00:09:41,730 --> 00:09:43,180  
What was their fate?

172  
00:09:43,180 --> 00:09:45,010  
Where are they?

173  
00:09:45,010 --> 00:09:56,680  
Because all the time,  
the Germans [NON-ENGLISH]

174  
00:09:56,680 --> 00:10:00,070  
to deceive us, they are alive.

175

00:10:00,070 --> 00:10:06,750

They were taken to  
Prussia already for work,

176

00:10:06,750 --> 00:10:08,200

for [INAUDIBLE].

177

00:10:08,200 --> 00:10:10,990

178

00:10:10,990 --> 00:10:13,070

Intellectuals,  
because they worked?

179

00:10:13,070 --> 00:10:13,570

Huh?

180

00:10:13,570 --> 00:10:15,340

They were intellectuals,  
these people?

181

00:10:15,340 --> 00:10:16,660

No.

182

00:10:16,660 --> 00:10:18,160

Yes.

183

00:10:18,160 --> 00:10:20,350

But what kind of profession?

184

00:10:20,350 --> 00:10:21,280

What kind of work?

185

00:10:21,280 --> 00:10:26,530

All directors, engineers.

186

00:10:26,530 --> 00:10:27,460

Teachers?

187

00:10:27,460 --> 00:10:34,870

Teachers, and Rabbis  
also, a pupils [INAUDIBLE]

188  
00:10:34,870 --> 00:10:43,600  
all [? them. ?] And most of  
them went possibly [INAUDIBLE],,

189  
00:10:43,600 --> 00:10:47,380  
because it was said  
to the 500 people,

190  
00:10:47,380 --> 00:10:51,610  
you have to bring  
in order archives.

191  
00:10:51,610 --> 00:10:52,674  
Yes?

192  
00:10:52,674 --> 00:10:53,395  
Archives.

193  
00:10:53,395 --> 00:10:53,895  
Archives.

194  
00:10:53,895 --> 00:10:54,550  
Archives?

195  
00:10:54,550 --> 00:10:55,120  
Yes.

196  
00:10:55,120 --> 00:10:56,120  
You said the archives.

197  
00:10:56,120 --> 00:11:02,680  
So the civilian archives until  
this work will take some weeks.

198  
00:11:02,680 --> 00:11:06,620

199  
00:11:06,620 --> 00:11:09,074  
[INAUDIBLE]

200



00:11:09,074 --> 00:11:11,460  
(film slating)

201  
00:11:11,460 --> 00:11:12,870  
All right.

202  
00:11:12,870 --> 00:11:13,970  
[NON-ENGLISH].

203  
00:11:13,970 --> 00:11:19,330  
[INAUDIBLE] such as a bold  
election of Dr. Elkes.

204  
00:11:19,330 --> 00:11:23,510  
No, this we will talk about  
this [? approach ?] right now.

205  
00:11:23,510 --> 00:11:27,220  
But what was the answer of  
Jordan to the [INAUDIBLE]??

206  
00:11:27,220 --> 00:11:37,060  
That all these people were  
killed under the pretext that

207  
00:11:37,060 --> 00:11:42,910  
Jews who it was before it,  
the closing from the ghetto,

208  
00:11:42,910 --> 00:11:49,680  
have destroyed 50 [INAUDIBLE].

209  
00:11:49,680 --> 00:11:50,644  
Six.

210  
00:11:50,644 --> 00:12:01,340  
Six, 56 of sugar, and therefore,  
for every destroyed to say this

211  
00:12:01,340 --> 00:12:04,092  
was ordinate.

212

00:12:04,092 --> 00:12:05,030  
Ordinate?

213  
00:12:05,030 --> 00:12:07,960  
All the Jews  
ordinated by purpose.

214  
00:12:07,960 --> 00:12:08,850  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

215  
00:12:08,850 --> 00:12:09,620  
Ordinated.

216  
00:12:09,620 --> 00:12:10,965  
--Under bags of sugar?

217  
00:12:10,965 --> 00:12:12,390  
Of sugar.

218  
00:12:12,390 --> 00:12:19,160  
And for every  
[? strope ?] sack, he

219  
00:12:19,160 --> 00:12:22,370  
gave an order to kill 10 Jews.

220  
00:12:22,370 --> 00:12:25,050

221  
00:12:25,050 --> 00:12:28,744  
This was after the election  
of the Altestenrat?

222  
00:12:28,744 --> 00:12:29,530  
This [INAUDIBLE]?

223  
00:12:29,530 --> 00:12:31,110  
This was no, before.

224  
00:12:31,110 --> 00:12:32,610  
This was before?

225

00:12:32,610 --> 00:12:33,820

No, no, no, after.

226

00:12:33,820 --> 00:12:34,720

It was after?

227

00:12:34,720 --> 00:12:35,290

Yes.

228

00:12:35,290 --> 00:12:38,010

After, yes, yes.

229

00:12:38,010 --> 00:12:39,270

As a matter of fact--

230

00:12:39,270 --> 00:12:41,633

Why did they want-- they  
wanted to destroy the Jewish--

231

00:12:41,633 --> 00:12:42,466

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

232

00:12:42,466 --> 00:12:46,080

It was [INAUDIBLE] destroy  
the Jewish [INAUDIBLE]..

233

00:12:46,080 --> 00:12:49,920

It was all the [INAUDIBLE]  
sugar for their [? lives. ?]

234

00:12:49,920 --> 00:12:50,520

Yes.

235

00:12:50,520 --> 00:12:56,460

Absolutely, I must say that  
not 500 that they took,

236

00:12:56,460 --> 00:13:05,520

574 because when they  
came to get the people,

237

00:13:05,520 --> 00:13:08,520  
there were only 300.

238  
00:13:08,520 --> 00:13:14,970  
So they went in into  
ghetto and took 200.

239  
00:13:14,970 --> 00:13:19,530  
And in order to penalize--

240  
00:13:19,530 --> 00:13:25,270  
yes, to penalize-- the Jews,  
they took 34 people more.

241  
00:13:25,270 --> 00:13:27,900  
It was in a very  
simple form they took.

242  
00:13:27,900 --> 00:13:38,812

243  
00:13:38,812 --> 00:13:42,780  
(film slating)

244  
00:13:42,780 --> 00:13:53,730

245  
00:13:53,730 --> 00:13:57,322  
On the first day of  
August [INAUDIBLE]..

246  
00:13:57,322 --> 00:14:25,220

247  
00:14:25,220 --> 00:14:33,050  
[INAUDIBLE] [? ghetto. ?]

248  
00:14:33,050 --> 00:14:36,260  
[INAUDIBLE] it was  
really important.

249  
00:14:36,260 --> 00:14:37,804

That's the same thing.

250

00:14:37,804 --> 00:14:38,720

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

251

00:14:38,720 --> 00:14:39,680

Because--

252

00:14:39,680 --> 00:14:40,820

Same thing.

253

00:14:40,820 --> 00:14:42,030

The quarter of Kovno.

254

00:14:42,030 --> 00:14:44,970

255

00:14:44,970 --> 00:14:51,840

But that immediately a head  
a Oberjude has to be elected.

256

00:14:51,840 --> 00:14:54,480

And that this was a demand  
of the man in charge

257

00:14:54,480 --> 00:14:59,100

of the Jewish affairs in Kovno  
Haupt to improve a Jordan.

258

00:14:59,100 --> 00:15:04,680

Immediately, the Jews of Kovno  
faced a terrible problem.

259

00:15:04,680 --> 00:15:08,220

Who should be elected to  
this task which needed great

260

00:15:08,220 --> 00:15:11,220

responsibility, which  
cannot be imagined?

261

00:15:11,220 --> 00:15:15,570

And it is difficult and dangerous at the same time.

262

00:15:15,570 --> 00:15:20,340

For this purpose, the committee called a meeting of everybody

263

00:15:20,340 --> 00:15:25,230

who was in public affairs who were still in town.

264

00:15:25,230 --> 00:15:29,010

The meeting was held on August 5 in the offices

265

00:15:29,010 --> 00:15:30,450

of the committee.

266

00:15:30,450 --> 00:15:34,520

And about 30 people took part.

267

00:15:34,520 --> 00:15:36,960

This Jewish meeting, which was the last one

268

00:15:36,960 --> 00:15:40,020

in the town of Kovno before the Jews

269

00:15:40,020 --> 00:15:43,980

left it was exceptionally dramatic.

270

00:15:43,980 --> 00:15:46,910

[INAUDIBLE] that before the Jews left it for the ghetto?

271

00:15:46,910 --> 00:15:47,608

For the ghetto.

272

00:15:47,608 --> 00:15:52,000

273

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:55,690

All were conscious of the  
fact that the solution

274

00:15:55,690 --> 00:16:00,850

has to be found to the problem,  
which is a question of life.

275

00:16:00,850 --> 00:16:03,970

It would not be easy to  
find the right man for such

276

00:16:03,970 --> 00:16:06,310

an unusual task.

277

00:16:06,310 --> 00:16:10,840

It was necessary that the  
man will know the language so

278

00:16:10,840 --> 00:16:12,910

that he would be able  
to speak to the Germans,

279

00:16:12,910 --> 00:16:17,630

and that he'd be able to be  
a messenger of the ghetto.

280

00:16:17,630 --> 00:16:20,620

Even if it was  
known from the start

281

00:16:20,620 --> 00:16:25,900

that the elected man will  
only be the Oberjude only a

282

00:16:25,900 --> 00:16:29,830

humiliated representative  
of those damn Jews

283

00:16:29,830 --> 00:16:32,260

by the German terminology.

284

00:16:32,260 --> 00:16:35,020

Even though everybody  
understood that all

285

00:16:35,020 --> 00:16:38,050

has to be done so  
that the man elected

286

00:16:38,050 --> 00:16:40,180

will have also a  
kind of authority

287

00:16:40,180 --> 00:16:42,280

in the eyes of the  
Germans, so that they

288

00:16:42,280 --> 00:16:45,640

will consider his words.

289

00:16:45,640 --> 00:16:48,040

Everybody understood  
that the elected man

290

00:16:48,040 --> 00:16:50,350

has to have  
characteristics so that he

291

00:16:50,350 --> 00:16:54,250

would be able to influence the  
Germans to a certain extent.

292

00:16:54,250 --> 00:16:56,870

293

00:16:56,870 --> 00:16:59,270

It was also necessary  
that this man

294

00:16:59,270 --> 00:17:01,370

will be the head  
of the ghetto, will

295

00:17:01,370 --> 00:17:04,190



have a past in public  
affairs, that he

296  
00:17:04,190 --> 00:17:07,490  
would be a good Jew,  
and a good human being.

297  
00:17:07,490 --> 00:17:12,410  
A clever man, courageous,  
with a strong character

298  
00:17:12,410 --> 00:17:14,869  
so that he will not  
fall on his knees.

299  
00:17:14,869 --> 00:17:17,089  
Each time he will  
come to the Germans

300  
00:17:17,089 --> 00:17:21,180  
as a tragic messenger of  
this poor Jewish community.

301  
00:17:21,180 --> 00:17:23,930

302  
00:17:23,930 --> 00:17:29,000  
At the meeting, several  
representatives were suggested.

303  
00:17:29,000 --> 00:17:34,950  
But nobody could  
come to an agreement.

304  
00:17:34,950 --> 00:17:38,030  
In addition, all  
the people refused

305  
00:17:38,030 --> 00:17:41,760  
to take the task of themselves.

306  
00:17:41,760 --> 00:17:44,870  
There was a terrible mood of

depression in the meeting.

307

00:17:44,870 --> 00:17:47,750

After long  
discussions, Dr. Wolf.

308

00:17:47,750 --> 00:17:49,940

Who was chairman  
of this meeting,

309

00:17:49,940 --> 00:17:54,500

suggested Dr. Elkes who was a  
self-conscious Jew, a Zionist,

310

00:17:54,500 --> 00:17:57,920

and a very famous  
doctor in Kovno.

311

00:17:57,920 --> 00:18:00,920

The suggestion was immediately  
accepted by everybody

312

00:18:00,920 --> 00:18:02,930

with great enthusiasm.

313

00:18:02,930 --> 00:18:08,330

But also Dr. Elkes refused  
to take this upon himself.

314

00:18:08,330 --> 00:18:12,800

Again, there was a terrible  
atmosphere of embarrassment.

315

00:18:12,800 --> 00:18:17,000

And then Reb Schmukler  
got up and he

316

00:18:17,000 --> 00:18:22,250

held a passionate speech,  
which shocked everybody.

317

00:18:22,250 --> 00:18:26,720

He said, "How terrible is our

situation that we cannot offer

318

00:18:26,720 --> 00:18:31,220

Dr. Elkes the respected task  
of being the head of the Jewish

319

00:18:31,220 --> 00:18:32,870

community in Kovno?

320

00:18:32,870 --> 00:18:36,020

But that we offer him  
this humiliating task

321

00:18:36,020 --> 00:18:41,270

of being Oberjude the man who  
represents us at the Germans?

322

00:18:41,270 --> 00:18:43,340

But please, I want  
you to know, dear Dr.

323

00:18:43,340 --> 00:18:47,720

Elkes that only for the  
German murderers who

324

00:18:47,720 --> 00:18:50,960

will be an Oberjude  
In our eyes, you

325

00:18:50,960 --> 00:18:53,330

will be the head  
of our community

326

00:18:53,330 --> 00:18:55,610

who was elected in  
such a tragic hour

327

00:18:55,610 --> 00:18:59,930

to us all when we are all  
bleeding, and the sword,

328

00:18:59,930 --> 00:19:05,390

the murdering sword its

swinging over our heads.

329

00:19:05,390 --> 00:19:09,750

A duty has fallen in your path,  
which cannot be more difficult.

330

00:19:09,750 --> 00:19:13,970

But at the same time, it's  
also right and a great mitzvah.

331

00:19:13,970 --> 00:19:16,040

You cannot refuse.

332

00:19:16,040 --> 00:19:19,850

Please, be our  
leader, protect us.

333

00:19:19,850 --> 00:19:21,690

You will be with us.

334

00:19:21,690 --> 00:19:24,350

And we'll all be  
with you until we

335

00:19:24,350 --> 00:19:27,990

come to the great  
day of liberation."

336

00:19:27,990 --> 00:19:31,100

Reb Schmukler finished to  
talk and started weeping.

337

00:19:31,100 --> 00:19:32,660

And all the people  
in the meeting

338

00:19:32,660 --> 00:19:35,750

were working together with him.

339

00:19:35,750 --> 00:19:40,280

Dr. Elkes was standing pale  
without uttering a word.

340

00:19:40,280 --> 00:19:44,570

Everybody could see what was  
going on deep in his soul.

341

00:19:44,570 --> 00:19:47,570

And everybody was feeling  
that in these tragic moment,

342

00:19:47,570 --> 00:19:51,140

Dr. Elkes understood  
that it was his duty

343

00:19:51,140 --> 00:19:55,040

to bring this great sacrifice,  
which the cruel faith had

344

00:19:55,040 --> 00:19:57,740

demanded from him.

345

00:19:57,740 --> 00:20:01,190

A great feeling of  
relief came over all.

346

00:20:01,190 --> 00:20:04,940

And there was a ray of hope  
in the broken hearts of all

347

00:20:04,940 --> 00:20:07,256

the people present.

348

00:20:07,256 --> 00:20:09,620

Yeah.

349

00:20:09,620 --> 00:20:21,000

Somebody Dr. Elkes in the  
fullest meaning of the word

350

00:20:21,000 --> 00:20:24,620

was a saint man.

351

00:20:24,620 --> 00:20:25,205

A saint.

352  
00:20:25,205 --> 00:20:27,940

353  
00:20:27,940 --> 00:20:32,120  
It should be enough  
to illustrate

354  
00:20:32,120 --> 00:20:39,160  
that after the big aktion, it  
was 7 o'clock in the evening.

355  
00:20:39,160 --> 00:20:51,170  
56 Dr. Elkes managed to get  
from the Germans at least

356  
00:20:51,170 --> 00:20:54,170  
100 persons--

357  
00:20:54,170 --> 00:20:58,750  
intellectuals, and  
people who were necessary

358  
00:20:58,750 --> 00:21:01,180  
for the [? Germans. ?]

359  
00:21:01,180 --> 00:21:07,240  
And he got all the  
permission to enter

360  
00:21:07,240 --> 00:21:16,810  
the area of the so-called  
second ghetto, which

361  
00:21:16,810 --> 00:21:19,630  
were all destroyed.

362  
00:21:19,630 --> 00:21:26,355  
And to take from those people  
that were more than 11,000,

363  
00:21:26,355 --> 00:21:26,855

100 Jews.

364

00:21:26,855 --> 00:21:30,630

365

00:21:30,630 --> 00:21:38,870

And in the morning,  
we went to this place

366

00:21:38,870 --> 00:21:45,840

Where he was together  
with some Jewish polices

367

00:21:45,840 --> 00:21:49,530

to get these people.

368

00:21:49,530 --> 00:21:57,630

And many begin to cry,  
"Dr. Elkes save us.

369

00:21:57,630 --> 00:21:59,790

Save us."

370

00:21:59,790 --> 00:22:08,970

And it was such a  
[NON-ENGLISH] [INAUDIBLE] that

371

00:22:08,970 --> 00:22:20,080

the [? civilian ?] policies  
this his gun begin to beat Dr.

372

00:22:20,080 --> 00:22:28,290

Elkes Then the Jewish police,  
and he was very worried.

373

00:22:28,290 --> 00:22:36,264

They take out from there, so  
he's risked his life to save

374

00:22:36,264 --> 00:22:40,440

this 100 people and he couldn't.

375

00:22:40,440 --> 00:22:45,290

But the effect was  
that he wasn't that not

376

00:22:45,290 --> 00:22:52,830

a young man, went to the place  
where there were [INAUDIBLE]..

377

00:22:52,830 --> 00:22:54,000