

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,970

2

00:00:04,970 --> 00:00:22,150

(film slating)

3

00:00:22,150 --> 00:00:26,150

Well, I see that

you have everything.

4

00:00:26,150 --> 00:00:28,430

What?

5

00:00:28,430 --> 00:00:31,460

[INAUDIBLE] get out my notes.

6

00:00:31,460 --> 00:00:33,040

[INAUDIBLE]

7

00:00:33,040 --> 00:00:34,560

All right.

8

00:00:34,560 --> 00:00:37,660

Let's start with

the very beginning.

9

00:00:37,660 --> 00:00:41,260

I would like to know, what

were your first missions?

10

00:00:41,260 --> 00:00:46,460

You were a courier of the Polish
government in exile after the--

11

00:00:46,460 --> 00:00:49,570

Yes, most of the war.

12

00:00:49,570 --> 00:00:55,960

I was a liaison officer

between the leadership

13

00:00:55,960 --> 00:01:01,270
of various segments of
the Polish Underground,

14

00:01:01,270 --> 00:01:08,830
and then a courier between
political parties--

15

00:01:08,830 --> 00:01:11,110
from time to time,
the home army,

16

00:01:11,110 --> 00:01:15,380
delegate of the government, and
the Polish government in exile.

17

00:01:15,380 --> 00:01:18,270

18

00:01:18,270 --> 00:01:28,620
In this capacity, first, I was
sent to [INAUDIBLE], France,

19

00:01:28,620 --> 00:01:32,220
in November 1940.

20

00:01:32,220 --> 00:01:33,430
From Warsaw?

21

00:01:33,430 --> 00:01:33,980
From Warsaw.

22

00:01:33,980 --> 00:01:36,280
From Warsaw.

23

00:01:36,280 --> 00:01:39,150
Carrying the messages
to the Polish--

24

00:01:39,150 --> 00:01:57,800

25

00:01:57,800 --> 00:01:59,240
(film slating)

26

00:01:59,240 --> 00:02:03,600

27

00:02:03,600 --> 00:02:06,720
Well, Presov was a
little hole in Slovakia,

28

00:02:06,720 --> 00:02:11,039
and their methods
of interrogation

29

00:02:11,039 --> 00:02:13,080
were rather primitive--

30

00:02:13,080 --> 00:02:15,480
beating, beating, beating.

31

00:02:15,480 --> 00:02:17,700
SS men interrogated me.

32

00:02:17,700 --> 00:02:20,730
I was supposed to
look at him, answer

33

00:02:20,730 --> 00:02:23,850
his question without any delay.

34

00:02:23,850 --> 00:02:28,230
And then, behind me, if I
stopped, if I tried to think,

35

00:02:28,230 --> 00:02:29,940
they would hit me here.

36

00:02:29,940 --> 00:02:32,760
Apparently, this
is a painful place.

37

00:02:32,760 --> 00:02:36,490

38

00:02:36,490 --> 00:02:38,050

And your teeth?

39

00:02:38,050 --> 00:02:40,190

And then, they were beating me.

40

00:02:40,190 --> 00:02:41,620

They broke my teeth.

41

00:02:41,620 --> 00:02:44,440

They broke my jaw.

42

00:02:44,440 --> 00:02:47,710

They broke my ribs.

43

00:02:47,710 --> 00:02:49,930

I couldn't take it anymore.

44

00:02:49,930 --> 00:02:56,230

My bad luck was
that they had Leica.

45

00:02:56,230 --> 00:03:02,410

They knew that I was, from their
standpoint, evidently a spy.

46

00:03:02,410 --> 00:03:07,420

I was sure that it
was developed totally.

47

00:03:07,420 --> 00:03:09,640

It wasn't.

48

00:03:09,640 --> 00:03:12,340

Mainly, apparently,
water did not

49

00:03:12,340 --> 00:03:18,520

come to the end, and some

last four or five squares--

50

00:03:18,520 --> 00:03:22,810

Leica had
38-or-something squares.

51

00:03:22,810 --> 00:03:31,420

At a certain point, the SS
officer brings it, and he says,

52

00:03:31,420 --> 00:03:33,610

what is this?

53

00:03:33,610 --> 00:03:39,550

Now, thinking that
everything was destroyed,

54

00:03:39,550 --> 00:03:43,930

my explanation was, I am
not concerned with the war.

55

00:03:43,930 --> 00:03:45,910

I have a girlfriend
in Switzerland.

56

00:03:45,910 --> 00:03:49,540

I lived in Switzerland
before, which was true.

57

00:03:49,540 --> 00:03:54,400

I gave the correct name,
street, whatsoever.

58

00:03:54,400 --> 00:03:57,410

I wanted to escape from
Poland, live in Switzerland,

59

00:03:57,410 --> 00:03:58,810

to get out of this mess.

60

00:03:58,810 --> 00:04:00,580

I have nothing against Germans.

61

00:04:00,580 --> 00:04:02,260

I don't want to live in Poland.

62

00:04:02,260 --> 00:04:04,090

I've had enough of it.

63

00:04:04,090 --> 00:04:11,230

I found a man who told me,
give it in Geneva to somebody.

64

00:04:11,230 --> 00:04:13,810

I gave the name, fictional now.

65

00:04:13,810 --> 00:04:14,920

What is inside?

66

00:04:14,920 --> 00:04:16,420

I asked him.

67

00:04:16,420 --> 00:04:20,170

Pictures of the ruins of Warsaw.

68

00:04:20,170 --> 00:04:23,290

There is nothing
else in this film.

69

00:04:23,290 --> 00:04:28,720

For this, he gave me
money and promised me

70

00:04:28,720 --> 00:04:33,160

that his friend in Switzerland
will pay me for it.

71

00:04:33,160 --> 00:04:36,520

This is why I have this film.

72

00:04:36,520 --> 00:04:41,770

SS man now takes
it from his drawer,

73

00:04:41,770 --> 00:04:49,150
stretches, gives me a
magnifying glass, says, read it.

74
00:04:49,150 --> 00:04:55,900
And then, to my horror, I see
the last four or five squares--

75
00:04:55,900 --> 00:05:03,760
not even coded-- pure
clear text of some report,

76
00:05:03,760 --> 00:05:06,580
which was insignificant.

77
00:05:06,580 --> 00:05:11,020
Names only-- first, letters.

78
00:05:11,020 --> 00:05:13,930
And then, he says,
you are lying.

79
00:05:13,930 --> 00:05:16,390
So then, beating,
beating, beating.

80
00:05:16,390 --> 00:05:18,730
You must tell us who you are.

81
00:05:18,730 --> 00:05:22,090
Who sent you?

82
00:05:22,090 --> 00:05:26,050
He was a rather cultured man, as
a matter of fact-- a young man,

83
00:05:26,050 --> 00:05:30,070
good-looking,
efficient, whatsoever.

84
00:05:30,070 --> 00:05:35,740
His point was, you are in
the Polish Underground.

85

00:05:35,740 --> 00:05:41,350

We want to get in touch
with your leaders.

86

00:05:41,350 --> 00:05:43,900

We want to have some settlement.

87

00:05:43,900 --> 00:05:46,180

We are not interested
in killing the Poles.

88

00:05:46,180 --> 00:05:51,160

We are not interested in
destroying your elite.

89

00:05:51,160 --> 00:05:56,380

We must find some accommodation,
so that the Poles will not

90

00:05:56,380 --> 00:05:57,700

fight us anymore.

91

00:05:57,700 --> 00:06:00,400

Well, the war is
practically over.

92

00:06:00,400 --> 00:06:02,560

It doesn't make any sense.

93

00:06:02,560 --> 00:06:05,800

For this, you must
enable us to get

94

00:06:05,800 --> 00:06:07,600

in touch with your authorities.

95

00:06:07,600 --> 00:06:09,190

Of course, I was
playing that role.

96

00:06:09,190 --> 00:06:10,040

I am stupid.

97

00:06:10,040 --> 00:06:12,760

I don't know
anything, et cetera.

98

00:06:12,760 --> 00:06:16,600

Beating-- well, I
couldn't take it anymore.

99

00:06:16,600 --> 00:06:22,480

Now, in my shoe, I had a blade,
very primitive at that time.

100

00:06:22,480 --> 00:06:28,110

I cut both hands,
succeeded in cutting--

101

00:06:28,110 --> 00:06:29,080

Your veins?

102

00:06:29,080 --> 00:06:32,590

Now, I had-- but this is
after cosmetic operation,

103

00:06:32,590 --> 00:06:35,950

eventually in 1943.

104

00:06:35,950 --> 00:06:37,990

So at that time,
it was [INAUDIBLE]..

105

00:06:37,990 --> 00:06:40,360

They saved me.

106

00:06:40,360 --> 00:06:46,240

Now, apparently, they considered
that Presov is not safe for me.

107

00:06:46,240 --> 00:06:53,320

They send me back to Poland by
car with two Gestapo with me.

108

00:06:53,320 --> 00:06:55,090

Now, I had good luck.

109

00:06:55,090 --> 00:06:59,590

They send me to Nowy Sacz,
from which I departed,

110

00:06:59,590 --> 00:07:03,160

and where I had a
liaison girl who

111

00:07:03,160 --> 00:07:06,040

was responsible for my trip.

112

00:07:06,040 --> 00:07:10,330

They sent me to a prison
hospital, public hospital.

113

00:07:10,330 --> 00:07:14,530

Only in my room, the Gestapo--

114

00:07:14,530 --> 00:07:17,830

every eight hours, they were
changing and treating me.

115

00:07:17,830 --> 00:07:19,060

I was badly hurt.

116

00:07:19,060 --> 00:07:22,180

My hands were this.

117

00:07:22,180 --> 00:07:25,190

You were very
important for them.

118

00:07:25,190 --> 00:07:25,690

Yes.

119

00:07:25,690 --> 00:07:29,980

They wanted to save me,
apparently, for confrontations.

120

00:07:29,980 --> 00:07:33,730

And now, so my point was, I
learned this is Nowy Sacz.

121

00:07:33,730 --> 00:07:37,020

How to establish
contact with the girl?

122

00:07:37,020 --> 00:07:40,530

I succeeded, mainly first.

123

00:07:40,530 --> 00:07:42,180

There was a doctor.

124

00:07:42,180 --> 00:07:44,040

His name is [INAUDIBLE].

125

00:07:44,040 --> 00:07:45,570

He still lives in Poland.

126

00:07:45,570 --> 00:07:47,730

I saw him after the war.

127

00:07:47,730 --> 00:07:54,060

When he treated my hands,
he just whispered to me,

128

00:07:54,060 --> 00:07:57,240

you are very sick.

129

00:07:57,240 --> 00:08:00,180

Simulate that you are very sick.

130

00:08:00,180 --> 00:08:04,900

Try to stay in the hospital
as long as possible.

131

00:08:04,900 --> 00:08:06,120

We will do something.

132

00:08:06,120 --> 00:08:07,020

You are sick.

133
00:08:07,020 --> 00:08:08,010
So I understood.

134
00:08:08,010 --> 00:08:11,960
I was mortally
sick all the time.

135
00:08:11,960 --> 00:08:16,140
Then, I want to
go to confession.

136
00:08:16,140 --> 00:08:19,170
I committed a mortal sin.

137
00:08:19,170 --> 00:08:20,760
I want to go to confession.

138
00:08:20,760 --> 00:08:23,490
In that hospital,
there was a chapel.

139
00:08:23,490 --> 00:08:25,170
Gestapo agreed.

140
00:08:25,170 --> 00:08:29,550
So on the wheels,
I went to mass.

141
00:08:29,550 --> 00:08:32,490
I went to confession.

142
00:08:32,490 --> 00:08:36,210
And then, I played luck.

143
00:08:36,210 --> 00:08:41,820
A priest-- whatever
I say is safe.

144
00:08:41,820 --> 00:08:49,170
I confessed, got

absolution, and then I stay.

145
00:08:49,170 --> 00:08:52,110
Slovak language is
very similar to Polish.

146
00:08:52,110 --> 00:08:53,250
I don't know Slovak.

147
00:08:53,250 --> 00:08:58,600
In Polish, I whispered,
Father, I have more to say.

148
00:08:58,600 --> 00:08:59,100
What?

149
00:08:59,100 --> 00:09:02,310

150
00:09:02,310 --> 00:09:06,130
Somebody has to go.

151
00:09:06,130 --> 00:09:08,010
Such is the name.

152
00:09:08,010 --> 00:09:11,465
Such is the address.

153
00:09:11,465 --> 00:09:15,200
There will be a young lady.

154
00:09:15,200 --> 00:09:17,390
And tell her what happens here.

155
00:09:17,390 --> 00:09:19,430
I am Witold.

156
00:09:19,430 --> 00:09:20,240
Tell her.

157
00:09:20,240 --> 00:09:21,920

Witold is here.

158

00:09:21,920 --> 00:09:23,030

Witold was your code name?

159

00:09:23,030 --> 00:09:26,360

My pseudonym at that time.

160

00:09:26,360 --> 00:09:29,120

Amusing story, Father answered.

161

00:09:29,120 --> 00:09:32,990

My son, this is confession.

162

00:09:32,990 --> 00:09:35,510

This is not politics.

163

00:09:35,510 --> 00:09:40,220

You have no right
to ask me for this.

164

00:09:40,220 --> 00:09:46,790

But then, he said, well,
I will think about it.

165

00:09:46,790 --> 00:09:51,440

Two or three days
later, a nun comes.

166

00:09:51,440 --> 00:09:53,900

They were allowed to serve.

167

00:09:53,900 --> 00:09:55,520

He approached my bed.

168

00:09:55,520 --> 00:10:08,100

169

00:10:08,100 --> 00:10:12,820

(film slating)

170

00:10:12,820 --> 00:10:18,100
Well, the two or three days
later, a nun enters my room.

171
00:10:18,100 --> 00:10:21,880
They were allowed to
serve in the hospital.

172
00:10:21,880 --> 00:10:25,240
She brought me some
apples, some cookie.

173
00:10:25,240 --> 00:10:27,250
She approaches my bed.

174
00:10:27,250 --> 00:10:28,780
I recognized her.

175
00:10:28,780 --> 00:10:31,840
It was my liaison girl.

176
00:10:31,840 --> 00:10:33,670
She put everything.

177
00:10:33,670 --> 00:10:39,620
She whispered to
me, Jozef notified.

178
00:10:39,620 --> 00:10:46,480
Jozef was at that time the most
prominent socialist leader.

179
00:10:46,480 --> 00:10:49,210
Jozef Cyrankiewicz.

180
00:10:49,210 --> 00:10:53,290
After the war, he
served for 18 years

181
00:10:53,290 --> 00:10:55,610
as the prime minister of Poland.

182

00:10:55,610 --> 00:10:57,460
And he was in Auschwitz, too.

183
00:10:57,460 --> 00:10:59,230
Yes, the same one.

184
00:10:59,230 --> 00:11:03,280
He organized my escape.

185
00:11:03,280 --> 00:11:04,120
Yes.

186
00:11:04,120 --> 00:11:12,790
Now, I whispered now to the
nun, to the liaison girl, do

187
00:11:12,790 --> 00:11:16,420
everything, whatever they want.

188
00:11:16,420 --> 00:11:19,720
I cannot go back to Gestapo.

189
00:11:19,720 --> 00:11:23,440
I cannot take
torture any longer.

190
00:11:23,440 --> 00:11:28,330
Either let them save me, or
let them give me cyanide.

191
00:11:28,330 --> 00:11:30,370
I cannot take it.

192
00:11:30,370 --> 00:11:31,120
Cyanide?

193
00:11:31,120 --> 00:11:31,720
Cyanide.

194
00:11:31,720 --> 00:11:32,260
Poison?

195

00:11:32,260 --> 00:11:32,760

Poison.

196

00:11:32,760 --> 00:11:35,180

197

00:11:35,180 --> 00:11:38,300

She returned again.

198

00:11:38,300 --> 00:11:40,100

Two days, whatever it is.

199

00:11:40,100 --> 00:11:43,070

200

00:11:43,070 --> 00:11:49,700

Brought me some fruits, puts
her hand under a pillow.

201

00:11:49,700 --> 00:11:52,760

This is cyanide.

202

00:11:52,760 --> 00:11:54,170

Very well, organized.

203

00:11:54,170 --> 00:11:56,090

This is a pill.

204

00:11:56,090 --> 00:11:58,340

Put it.

205

00:11:58,340 --> 00:12:05,270

It is well-adapted on a
tape with hair around it.

206

00:12:05,270 --> 00:12:08,915

Whispers to me, put
it under your groins.

207

00:12:08,915 --> 00:12:11,450

208
00:12:11,450 --> 00:12:14,320
Don't use it.

209
00:12:14,320 --> 00:12:18,970
Jozef told me they
will try to save you.

210
00:12:18,970 --> 00:12:23,220
Only in extreme, take it.

211
00:12:23,220 --> 00:12:26,310
He saved me, very simply.

212
00:12:26,310 --> 00:12:29,010
Apparently, what
I learned later--

213
00:12:29,010 --> 00:12:32,970
one of the Gestapo men was
so-called volksdeutsche.

214
00:12:32,970 --> 00:12:34,380
They bought him.

215
00:12:34,380 --> 00:12:38,640
They gave him some false
documents, money, [INAUDIBLE]

216
00:12:38,640 --> 00:12:39,780
also.

217
00:12:39,780 --> 00:12:46,110
He did not see that
some few nights,

218
00:12:46,110 --> 00:12:51,780
on some signal from
Dr. [INAUDIBLE],,

219
00:12:51,780 --> 00:12:58,560
I had to take all my clothes,

naked, get out of my room,

220

00:12:58,560 --> 00:13:02,350

cross the corridor,
approach a window,

221

00:13:02,350 --> 00:13:05,780

the window would be
open, and jumped,

222

00:13:05,780 --> 00:13:09,240

without thinking
about anything else.

223

00:13:09,240 --> 00:13:10,260

Completely naked.

224

00:13:10,260 --> 00:13:14,130

Completely naked, I jumped down.

225

00:13:14,130 --> 00:13:18,970

And some [INAUDIBLE] it was,
I believe, the second floor

226

00:13:18,970 --> 00:13:19,470

thing.

227

00:13:19,470 --> 00:13:25,680

Not [INAUDIBLE] some
clothes, took me.

228

00:13:25,680 --> 00:13:30,150

There is some river,
to a river, to a boat.

229

00:13:30,150 --> 00:13:34,980

I thanked them profusely
for saving my life.

230

00:13:34,980 --> 00:13:38,290

231

00:13:38,290 --> 00:13:43,580

The guy who later
became my friend said,

232

00:13:43,580 --> 00:13:45,190

well, don't thank us too much.

233

00:13:45,190 --> 00:13:49,360

We had two orders to
save you, if there would

234

00:13:49,360 --> 00:13:53,086

be complications, to shoot you.

235

00:13:53,086 --> 00:13:54,550

He says, that's all right.

236

00:13:54,550 --> 00:13:56,740

We were lucky you were lucky.

237

00:13:56,740 --> 00:13:59,290

Took me to some estate,
a little estate,

238

00:13:59,290 --> 00:14:02,950

which the Germans
allowed to function.

239

00:14:02,950 --> 00:14:08,680

And I spent there some three
months, first to recover.

240

00:14:08,680 --> 00:14:13,120

Secondly, we had a rule
in the Underground.

241

00:14:13,120 --> 00:14:19,900

Once you were arrested by
Gestapo, and then you escaped,

242

00:14:19,900 --> 00:14:26,470

we called it, you had to pass
through quarantine period.

243

00:14:26,470 --> 00:14:30,160

You are not kosher, you know.

244

00:14:30,160 --> 00:14:33,850

And we have to check, are you
observed, are you followed,

245

00:14:33,850 --> 00:14:38,240

or perhaps you are a
double agent, whatsoever.

246

00:14:38,240 --> 00:14:40,540

So three months passed.

247

00:14:40,540 --> 00:14:42,160

I recovered completely.

248

00:14:42,160 --> 00:14:43,450

I wanted to go back.

249

00:14:43,450 --> 00:14:48,160

Still they kept me over there,
and then they said, all right.

250

00:14:48,160 --> 00:14:55,150

I went back to Kraków, spent in
Kraków some four, five months.

251

00:14:55,150 --> 00:14:58,910

This is now-- we are in 1940.

252

00:14:58,910 --> 00:15:02,350

Then in Kraków,
arrests took place.

253

00:15:02,350 --> 00:15:04,360

As a matter of
fact, at that time,

254

00:15:04,360 --> 00:15:10,600

commander of Kraków [INAUDIBLE]

was Bor-Komorowski, who--

255

00:15:10,600 --> 00:15:14,560
so he left Kraków,
went to Warsaw,

256

00:15:14,560 --> 00:15:17,590
became the deputy
commander-in-chief.

257

00:15:17,590 --> 00:15:26,470
And eventually, when Rowecki
was arrested in July 1943,

258

00:15:26,470 --> 00:15:28,690
he became commander-in-chief.

259

00:15:28,690 --> 00:15:31,630
He writes about me
in his book here--

260

00:15:31,630 --> 00:15:32,890
all this mission.

261

00:15:32,890 --> 00:15:37,990
And he left Kraków.

262

00:15:37,990 --> 00:15:40,690
I left Kraków as well.

263

00:15:40,690 --> 00:15:43,540
Then came Cyrankiewicz, mainly.

264

00:15:43,540 --> 00:15:49,285
In April, I remember, Easter
time, Cyrankiewicz arrested.

265

00:15:49,285 --> 00:15:52,000

266

00:15:52,000 --> 00:15:55,690
I had highest

admiration for him.

267

00:15:55,690 --> 00:15:57,700

He saved my life.

268

00:15:57,700 --> 00:15:59,590

As a matter of
fact, I volunteered

269

00:15:59,590 --> 00:16:02,080

to the Polish Socialist Party.

270

00:16:02,080 --> 00:16:05,590

If there is some rescue
squad, I must be in it.

271

00:16:05,590 --> 00:16:06,770

He saved my life.

272

00:16:06,770 --> 00:16:09,520

I want to contribute
now something for him.

273

00:16:09,520 --> 00:16:10,720

They rejected this.

274

00:16:10,720 --> 00:16:13,330

They said you are
intelligentsia,

275

00:16:13,330 --> 00:16:16,760

and this is a rough, tough job.

276

00:16:16,760 --> 00:16:20,025

You are not good for
this kind of things.

277

00:16:20,025 --> 00:16:20,525

OK.

278

00:16:20,525 --> 00:16:36,720

279
00:16:36,720 --> 00:16:38,480
(film slating)

280
00:16:38,480 --> 00:16:42,280

281
00:16:42,280 --> 00:16:48,760
Well, somewhat in the
middle of 1942, first,

282
00:16:48,760 --> 00:16:55,780
I was thinking about continuing
my service as a courier.

283
00:16:55,780 --> 00:16:58,750
Among others, I
approached the delegates

284
00:16:58,750 --> 00:17:02,380
of the Polish government
in the Underground.

285
00:17:02,380 --> 00:17:05,515
At the time, it was a certain
professor [INAUDIBLE]..

286
00:17:05,515 --> 00:17:08,970

287
00:17:08,970 --> 00:17:13,349
He said, yes, if you want to
go, it is a little dangerous,

288
00:17:13,349 --> 00:17:15,740
because you are marked.

289
00:17:15,740 --> 00:17:18,990
You have still-- your
wrists are recognizable.

290
00:17:18,990 --> 00:17:23,940

And of course, the Gestapo
knows that you escaped.

291
00:17:23,940 --> 00:17:26,730
But perhaps, it will work.

292
00:17:26,730 --> 00:17:30,630
As a matter of fact,
the socialist leader,

293
00:17:30,630 --> 00:17:35,250
PuÅ¼ak he was against sending me.

294
00:17:35,250 --> 00:17:37,500
But I insisted.

295
00:17:37,500 --> 00:17:39,570
They agreed to do it.

296
00:17:39,570 --> 00:17:43,260
So now, I went in
the same character,

297
00:17:43,260 --> 00:17:48,600
approaching the leadership of
every political major party--

298
00:17:48,600 --> 00:17:52,170
peasant party, socialist
party, nationalist party,

299
00:17:52,170 --> 00:17:56,580
Christian Labor Party with
the messages from the delegate

300
00:17:56,580 --> 00:17:58,860
of the government.

301
00:17:58,860 --> 00:18:02,340
And everyone had
the right to ask

302

00:18:02,340 --> 00:18:07,320
me to deliver their messages
either to their groups

303
00:18:07,320 --> 00:18:11,250
in London or even
to the individuals.

304
00:18:11,250 --> 00:18:15,390
They trusted my memory, and
they trusted my honesty.

305
00:18:15,390 --> 00:18:17,520
I will not make any intrigues.

306
00:18:17,520 --> 00:18:19,320
You didn't take
any kind of notes?

307
00:18:19,320 --> 00:18:21,630
None, whatsoever.

308
00:18:21,630 --> 00:18:22,860
Everything was memorized?

309
00:18:22,860 --> 00:18:25,470
Purely everything
was in my head--

310
00:18:25,470 --> 00:18:30,300
nothing except the one thing.

311
00:18:30,300 --> 00:18:34,200
This is now-- we are in 1942.

312
00:18:34,200 --> 00:18:37,560
Already, our
equipment is better.

313
00:18:37,560 --> 00:18:41,400
Already, Americans and
British supplied us.

314

00:18:41,400 --> 00:18:47,580

Yes, I did take
mainly microfilm.

315

00:18:47,580 --> 00:18:53,490

The size of it was
like American matches,

316

00:18:53,490 --> 00:18:57,810

some three matches
put together, rolled.

317

00:18:57,810 --> 00:19:07,020

It was melted into a key, small
key, and then melted back.

318

00:19:07,020 --> 00:19:15,360

And my mission was to hold the
key, completely unrecognizable.

319

00:19:15,360 --> 00:19:18,040

This I succeeded
to carry with me.

320

00:19:18,040 --> 00:19:20,760

I was not arrested
during that time.

321

00:19:20,760 --> 00:19:25,830

Then in London, when they
developed that microfilm,

322

00:19:25,830 --> 00:19:30,630

it represented 400 typed pages.

323

00:19:30,630 --> 00:19:33,820

Such technique was
already developed.

324

00:19:33,820 --> 00:19:38,590

Americans entered the picture
and already helped us.

325

00:19:38,590 --> 00:19:40,780

So this was the
only message I had.

326

00:19:40,780 --> 00:19:41,280

327

00:19:41,280 --> 00:19:44,820

Of course, I had no slightest
idea what was in that key.

328

00:19:44,820 --> 00:19:47,220

Only hold this key.

329

00:19:47,220 --> 00:19:50,340

If there is a danger, of
course, throw it [INAUDIBLE]..

330

00:19:50,340 --> 00:19:53,250

Otherwise, everything
to my memory.

331

00:19:53,250 --> 00:19:57,930

Now, when I agreed and
started to circulate

332

00:19:57,930 --> 00:20:01,950

between political parties,
and then political counsel--

333

00:20:01,950 --> 00:20:05,040

we had a counsel of the
political parties attached

334

00:20:05,040 --> 00:20:07,560

to the delegate
of the government.

335

00:20:07,560 --> 00:20:13,800

Now, the Jewish leaders
learned about it--

336

00:20:13,800 --> 00:20:15,630
that the courier goes.

337
00:20:15,630 --> 00:20:18,240
Apparently, he's
reliable, et cetera.

338
00:20:18,240 --> 00:20:20,190
They learned about me.

339
00:20:20,190 --> 00:20:24,510
So now, the Jewish leaders--

340
00:20:24,510 --> 00:20:28,350
they had their own
underground movement.

341
00:20:28,350 --> 00:20:32,700
As you know, in Poland,
you had 100 types of Jews--

342
00:20:32,700 --> 00:20:38,520
assimilated, not
assimilated, organized--

343
00:20:38,520 --> 00:20:40,200
I presume you know.

344
00:20:40,200 --> 00:20:43,800
They had a multitude of
political parties, groups,

345
00:20:43,800 --> 00:20:48,180
orientations, et cetera.

346
00:20:48,180 --> 00:20:58,320
So now, the most important
groups were Bund and Zionists.

347
00:20:58,320 --> 00:21:03,780
Politically, both of them
already were, so to say,

348

00:21:03,780 --> 00:21:10,470

incorporated into the
apparatus of the delegate,

349

00:21:10,470 --> 00:21:11,920

but they were separate.

350

00:21:11,920 --> 00:21:16,510

They had their own organization.

351

00:21:16,510 --> 00:21:17,825

(film slating)

352

00:21:17,825 --> 00:21:23,890

353

00:21:23,890 --> 00:21:28,420

Well, at a certain
point, the information

354

00:21:28,420 --> 00:21:33,040

came from the delegates
of the government

355

00:21:33,040 --> 00:21:38,320

that Jewish leaders want to see.

356

00:21:38,320 --> 00:21:41,860

Apparently, they want
to use your services.

357

00:21:41,860 --> 00:21:43,690

Do you want to see them?

358

00:21:43,690 --> 00:21:45,880

Yes, I would.

359

00:21:45,880 --> 00:21:54,460

Meetings arranged--
I met them twice.

360

00:21:54,460 --> 00:21:57,790
When was it?

361
00:21:57,790 --> 00:22:07,180
This was in October
1942, at the beginning.

362
00:22:07,180 --> 00:22:12,790
At the time, the situation
of the Jews of Warsaw

363
00:22:12,790 --> 00:22:16,130
was catastrophic.

364
00:22:16,130 --> 00:22:19,000
Yes.

365
00:22:19,000 --> 00:22:22,780
In October-- at the beginning
of October, of course--

366
00:22:22,780 --> 00:22:26,590
end of September, possibly.

367
00:22:26,590 --> 00:22:31,390
By that time, a Jewish
ghetto in Warsaw,

368
00:22:31,390 --> 00:22:38,260
which originally consisted of
approximately 400,000 Jews--

369
00:22:38,260 --> 00:22:43,540
over 300,000 were
already deported to--

370
00:22:43,540 --> 00:22:44,650
To Treblinka?

371
00:22:44,650 --> 00:22:53,300
Yes-- between July or August,
whatsoever, maybe September.

372

00:22:53,300 --> 00:22:55,540

Still, in the
ghetto, at that time,

373

00:22:55,540 --> 00:22:59,390

were approximately
50,000 Jews left.

374

00:22:59,390 --> 00:22:59,890

Yes.

375

00:22:59,890 --> 00:23:03,430

And all the others had been
already gassed in Treblinka.

376

00:23:03,430 --> 00:23:04,270

Yes.

377

00:23:04,270 --> 00:23:08,830

As a matter of fact, at
that time, even the ghetto--

378

00:23:08,830 --> 00:23:11,350

practically, there
were four ghettos

379

00:23:11,350 --> 00:23:15,400

within the walls of
the original ghetto.

380

00:23:15,400 --> 00:23:19,020

In some parts, the
Aryans could move.

381

00:23:19,020 --> 00:23:21,160

Some parts of it,
they were empty.

382

00:23:21,160 --> 00:23:25,660

Nobody wanted to go too
deeply and live over there.

383

00:23:25,660 --> 00:23:32,470
The most important part was
the so-called central ghetto,

384
00:23:32,470 --> 00:23:41,400
around the Platz Muranowski I
don't know whether you visited.

385
00:23:41,400 --> 00:23:46,390
This was the part
I was smuggled in.

386
00:23:46,390 --> 00:23:49,630
Well, so now, to the meetings--

387
00:23:49,630 --> 00:23:50,950
a meeting was arranged.

388
00:23:50,950 --> 00:23:53,710
There were two gentlemen.

389
00:23:53,710 --> 00:23:55,870
It was very formal
at the beginning.

390
00:23:55,870 --> 00:23:59,020
They introduced themselves.

391
00:23:59,020 --> 00:24:04,900
I represent for the sake
of this meeting, Bund, one.

392
00:24:04,900 --> 00:24:08,680
I represent Zionists.

393
00:24:08,680 --> 00:24:10,420
They didn't give their names?

394
00:24:10,420 --> 00:24:11,860
Nobody gave the names.

395
00:24:11,860 --> 00:24:16,570

Only Polish leaders--
you know, I knew them.

396
00:24:16,570 --> 00:24:20,510
I was in contact several times.

397
00:24:20,510 --> 00:24:23,710
Of course, nobody introduced--

398
00:24:23,710 --> 00:24:26,870
nobody was supposed to know
my name, as a matter of fact.

399
00:24:26,870 --> 00:24:28,420
We had pseudonyms.

400
00:24:28,420 --> 00:24:31,810
Only with the Polish leaders.

401
00:24:31,810 --> 00:24:33,010
Yes, because you knew them.

402
00:24:33,010 --> 00:24:36,340
Yes, I knew who they were.

403
00:24:36,340 --> 00:24:39,430
Now, those two gentlemen--

404
00:24:39,430 --> 00:24:42,370
I was never involved
in Jewish affairs.

405
00:24:42,370 --> 00:24:46,150
I say, no, I am not a Jew.

406
00:24:46,150 --> 00:24:49,360
So I didn't know
them, naturally.

407
00:24:49,360 --> 00:24:53,170
Until today, you know, I
do not know their names.

408

00:24:53,170 --> 00:25:00,310

Only after the war, in
all Polish publications,

409

00:25:00,310 --> 00:25:07,030

they mentioned that the man who
represented Bund was Feiner.

410

00:25:07,030 --> 00:25:07,780

Leon Feiner?

411

00:25:07,780 --> 00:25:09,100

Yes.

412

00:25:09,100 --> 00:25:11,440

I never knew during the war.

413

00:25:11,440 --> 00:25:15,670

When even I reported to London,
I did not report the name.

414

00:25:15,670 --> 00:25:20,470

Only authorized leader of
Bund told me this and this.

415

00:25:20,470 --> 00:25:25,150

Second, the Zionist-- in
the Polish publications

416

00:25:25,150 --> 00:25:29,190

after the war, they
say, he was Berman.

417

00:25:29,190 --> 00:25:30,091

Adolf Berman.

418

00:25:30,091 --> 00:25:32,680

419

00:25:32,680 --> 00:25:36,190

They introduced themselves,

and then they told me,

420

00:25:36,190 --> 00:25:37,510

we know about you.

421

00:25:37,510 --> 00:25:39,475

We know you are going to London.

422

00:25:39,475 --> 00:25:42,070

423

00:25:42,070 --> 00:25:44,350

We also have messages.

424

00:25:44,350 --> 00:25:48,160

Will you take messages from us?

425

00:25:48,160 --> 00:25:51,420

We are Polish citizens.

426

00:25:51,420 --> 00:25:55,870

We feel we are entitled
to the services.

427

00:25:55,870 --> 00:25:58,650

But this is up to
you, Mr. Witold--

428

00:25:58,650 --> 00:26:00,450

that was my pseudonym.

429

00:26:00,450 --> 00:26:03,060

I said, yes, I will do it.

430

00:26:03,060 --> 00:26:06,930

Then, they presented
their demands.

431

00:26:06,930 --> 00:26:09,840

Can you describe the
meetings with the two men?

432

00:26:09,840 --> 00:26:13,180

433

00:26:13,180 --> 00:26:15,940

Did it take place in
the ghetto, the meeting?

434

00:26:15,940 --> 00:26:17,470

No.

435

00:26:17,470 --> 00:26:20,980

No, twice, two houses
outside of the ghetto.

436

00:26:20,980 --> 00:26:24,610

They did not live in the ghetto.

437

00:26:24,610 --> 00:26:29,170

The Zionist leader never
went with me to the ghetto.

438

00:26:29,170 --> 00:26:33,000

On my two visits to
the Warsaw ghetto,

439

00:26:33,000 --> 00:26:36,470

Bund leader accompanied
me-- apparently, Feiner.

440

00:26:36,470 --> 00:26:39,310

441

00:26:39,310 --> 00:26:42,380

Zionist leader, I
never met him again.

442

00:26:42,380 --> 00:26:46,270

I never met again
after those meetings.

443

00:26:46,270 --> 00:26:47,980

Bund leader-- not [INAUDIBLE].

444
00:26:47,980 --> 00:26:48,740
Yes.

445
00:26:48,740 --> 00:26:51,130
But let's come back
to the first meeting.

446
00:26:51,130 --> 00:26:55,600

447
00:26:55,600 --> 00:27:00,520
In some old house, ruined, cold.

448
00:27:00,520 --> 00:27:06,460
It was the beginning
of October, cold.

449
00:27:06,460 --> 00:27:11,470
They were well-dressed,
relatively, undistinguishable

450
00:27:11,470 --> 00:27:13,960
from the Aryan, naturally Aryan.

451
00:27:13,960 --> 00:27:17,050

452
00:27:17,050 --> 00:27:22,420
Then during the meeting, at
various points, so to say,

453
00:27:22,420 --> 00:27:25,900
they did break down--

454
00:27:25,900 --> 00:27:27,700
They broke down?

455
00:27:27,700 --> 00:27:30,520
Yes, they broke down.

456

00:27:30,520 --> 00:27:34,090

They were of course
excited, frustrated,

457

00:27:34,090 --> 00:27:38,380

shouting, whispering,
walking in the rooms.

458

00:27:38,380 --> 00:27:42,110

When they were describing
their demands--

459

00:27:42,110 --> 00:27:43,255

what do they want?

460

00:27:43,255 --> 00:27:45,900

461

00:27:45,900 --> 00:27:51,700

Well, so now, I go back in
my memory to the other world.

462

00:27:51,700 --> 00:27:54,420

So what is your--

463

00:27:54,420 --> 00:28:00,600

do you want me now to deal
with those two sessions?

464

00:28:00,600 --> 00:28:01,100

Oh, yes.

465

00:28:01,100 --> 00:28:02,340

Or about the ghetto?

466

00:28:02,340 --> 00:28:02,910

No, no, no.

467

00:28:02,910 --> 00:28:04,290

The two sessions.

468

00:28:04,290 --> 00:28:09,170

What did they ask specifically,
for you to report to the world?

469
00:28:09,170 --> 00:28:14,420

470
00:28:14,420 --> 00:28:18,200
They gave me several messages.

471
00:28:18,200 --> 00:28:22,940
Some of them-- one of
them, only to the president

472
00:28:22,940 --> 00:28:27,560
of the Polish Republic,
Wladyslaw Raczekiewicz.

473
00:28:27,560 --> 00:28:34,640
They specifically forbade
me to discuss this subject

474
00:28:34,640 --> 00:28:38,480
with the Jewish leaders
in London, mainly.

475
00:28:38,480 --> 00:28:45,020
They were afraid that in their
zeal, despair, frustration,

476
00:28:45,020 --> 00:28:47,540
they might complicate
the problem.

477
00:28:47,540 --> 00:28:54,110
The problem was, the
Germans are physically

478
00:28:54,110 --> 00:28:59,410
exterminating the Jews.

479
00:28:59,410 --> 00:29:05,830
From whatever we know, this
will continue, regardless

480
00:29:05,830 --> 00:29:08,070
of the outcome of the war.

481
00:29:08,070 --> 00:29:10,970

482
00:29:10,970 --> 00:29:13,310
On a humanitarian basis--

483
00:29:13,310 --> 00:29:15,840

484
00:29:15,840 --> 00:29:21,990
Zionist, as a matter of fact,
he interjected, Christianity

485
00:29:21,990 --> 00:29:25,890
has roots in Judaism.

486
00:29:25,890 --> 00:29:32,715
We feel entitled to expect
protection from the Vatican.

487
00:29:32,715 --> 00:29:35,770

488
00:29:35,770 --> 00:29:44,260
Sanctions must be
applied against Catholics

489
00:29:44,260 --> 00:29:50,110
who take directly or
indirectly any part

490
00:29:50,110 --> 00:29:52,900
in Jewish extermination.

491
00:29:52,900 --> 00:29:53,440
Excuse me.

492

00:29:53,440 --> 00:29:57,520
Did they give you the
feeling, and did they

493
00:29:57,520 --> 00:30:01,270
have themselves a feeling that
what was at stake at the time

494
00:30:01,270 --> 00:30:05,260
was extermination not of
individuals but of the whole

495
00:30:05,260 --> 00:30:06,610
of the Jewish people?

496
00:30:06,610 --> 00:30:09,550
Both of them, they had
no doubts about this.

497
00:30:09,550 --> 00:30:14,110
The most outspoken
was the Bund leader--

498
00:30:14,110 --> 00:30:14,860
What did he say?

499
00:30:14,860 --> 00:30:15,635
--in this respect.

500
00:30:15,635 --> 00:30:19,150

501
00:30:19,150 --> 00:30:22,450
Many-- of course, the
majority of the Poles

502
00:30:22,450 --> 00:30:26,330
consider themselves Catholics.

503
00:30:26,330 --> 00:30:31,460
I repeat now their reaction.

504

00:30:31,460 --> 00:30:33,460

Now, however,
there are very many

505

00:30:33,460 --> 00:30:41,410

Germans, many German officials
who not only are born Catholics

506

00:30:41,410 --> 00:30:46,810

but who consider
themselves still Catholics.

507

00:30:46,810 --> 00:30:52,240

As a matter of fact,
Hitler was a born Catholic.

508

00:30:52,240 --> 00:30:59,760

From whatever we know
about your Catholic church,

509

00:30:59,760 --> 00:31:09,810

we understand the pope has a
jurisdiction in excommunicating

510

00:31:09,810 --> 00:31:10,380

the faithful.

511

00:31:10,380 --> 00:31:15,220

512

00:31:15,220 --> 00:31:18,520

We leave it to the
wisdom, to the conscience

513

00:31:18,520 --> 00:31:25,300

of the president of the Polish
Republic, to approach the pope.

514

00:31:25,300 --> 00:31:28,060

You will discuss it
only with him, not

515

00:31:28,060 --> 00:31:32,470

even with the prime minister,
not with the Jewish leaders.

516
00:31:32,470 --> 00:31:35,080
We understand
diplomatic protocol.

517
00:31:35,080 --> 00:31:40,120
Only the head of state
can approach the pope

518
00:31:40,120 --> 00:31:48,040
on our behalf to apply
sanctions against the Catholics,

519
00:31:48,040 --> 00:31:54,610
both Polish and Germans, and
to make those sanctions public.

520
00:31:54,610 --> 00:31:58,240
Perhaps it will help a little.

521
00:31:58,240 --> 00:31:59,500
Who knows?

522
00:31:59,500 --> 00:32:05,980
Perhaps Hitler will reflect,
if excommunication publicly

523
00:32:05,980 --> 00:32:07,390
will be announced.

524
00:32:07,390 --> 00:32:08,740
What did they ask?

525
00:32:08,740 --> 00:32:14,080
Specifically it was
excommunication?

526
00:32:14,080 --> 00:32:15,970
They mentioned several times--

527

00:32:15,970 --> 00:32:22,030
we know excommunication is in
the jurisdiction of the pope.

528
00:32:22,030 --> 00:32:25,540
There are precedents
that he did it.

529
00:32:25,540 --> 00:32:37,000