

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,700

2
00:00:02,700 --> 00:00:06,720
Professor Karski, you know
that the subject of this film

3
00:00:06,720 --> 00:00:11,640
is the destruction of the
European Jews, the Holocaust.

4
00:00:11,640 --> 00:00:16,740
I would like to know among all
the official political leaders

5
00:00:16,740 --> 00:00:21,090
to whom you delivered
your report.

6
00:00:21,090 --> 00:00:26,550
Did you have the chance
to mention specifically

7
00:00:26,550 --> 00:00:32,070
the Jewish problem, the
destruction of the Jews?

8
00:00:32,070 --> 00:00:37,890
I am sure that you had a lot of
other things to report to them?

9
00:00:37,890 --> 00:00:40,830
But because the
subject of this film

10
00:00:40,830 --> 00:00:44,250
is the one I've
just named now, I

11
00:00:44,250 --> 00:00:47,160
would like to know what were the
possibilities for you to talk

12
00:00:47,160 --> 00:00:49,560
about this and who
was interested.

13
00:00:49,560 --> 00:00:50,460
How was [INAUDIBLE]?

14
00:00:50,460 --> 00:00:51,270
I understand.

15
00:00:51,270 --> 00:00:54,150
How was the reaction?

16
00:00:54,150 --> 00:00:58,290
So now I understand the
subject of this film that you

17
00:00:58,290 --> 00:01:03,240
are making, you hope it
will be shown eventually,

18
00:01:03,240 --> 00:01:05,459
probably the second part.

19
00:01:05,459 --> 00:01:08,670
You want to have
testimonies, interviews

20
00:01:08,670 --> 00:01:14,220
for historical records or
saved for some archives.

21
00:01:14,220 --> 00:01:15,420
So I understand it.

22
00:01:15,420 --> 00:01:17,400
I must be very precise.

23
00:01:17,400 --> 00:01:25,680
And now I am asking you to bear
with me and to understanding

24

00:01:25,680 --> 00:01:31,290
my possibilities and my mission
in the so-called Western free

25

00:01:31,290 --> 00:01:36,900
world dealing with
the Polish government

26

00:01:36,900 --> 00:01:43,410
leaders, political leaders,
Polish Jewish leaders.

27

00:01:43,410 --> 00:01:47,790
Because of the
nature of my mission,

28

00:01:47,790 --> 00:01:50,970
I traveled several times.

29

00:01:50,970 --> 00:01:54,540
Because within the statute
of my mission was I

30

00:01:54,540 --> 00:01:58,140
was going back to Poland.

31

00:01:58,140 --> 00:02:00,600
I was a very important man.

32

00:02:00,600 --> 00:02:01,515
I was a hero.

33

00:02:01,515 --> 00:02:04,200

34

00:02:04,200 --> 00:02:06,600
Everything was at my disposal.

35

00:02:06,600 --> 00:02:11,490
I met the most important men.

36

00:02:11,490 --> 00:02:15,210

They catered to me.

37

00:02:15,210 --> 00:02:21,990

I could-- to whomever I
spoke, I could tell them

38

00:02:21,990 --> 00:02:24,010

I didn't finish.

39

00:02:24,010 --> 00:02:27,150

I have more to say.

40

00:02:27,150 --> 00:02:33,290

On many occasions, I
was-- had such a situation

41

00:02:33,290 --> 00:02:37,670

with the General Sikorski whom
I saw at least five times.

42

00:02:37,670 --> 00:02:41,060

General, I didn't finish yet.

43

00:02:41,060 --> 00:02:44,960

He would say,
lieutenant, my secretary

44

00:02:44,960 --> 00:02:49,530

will inform you when I
will be free for you.

45

00:02:49,530 --> 00:02:53,180

So with the Polish
side of my mission,

46

00:02:53,180 --> 00:02:56,690

I had the great
possibilities to report.

47

00:02:56,690 --> 00:02:57,735

And I did report.

48
00:02:57,735 --> 00:03:00,600

49
00:03:00,600 --> 00:03:06,810
Now you are asking the
second part of my report.

50
00:03:06,810 --> 00:03:17,370
We have to make a distinction
with the English or American.

51
00:03:17,370 --> 00:03:22,530
Certain political leaders
like Jewish leaders--

52
00:03:22,530 --> 00:03:24,640
oh, yes, they listen to me.

53
00:03:24,640 --> 00:03:27,660
They let me report.

54
00:03:27,660 --> 00:03:32,760
With those great
intellectual leaders--

55
00:03:32,760 --> 00:03:36,390
poets, writers, et cetera--

56
00:03:36,390 --> 00:03:43,320
well, frankly, I felt free,
and I would say press myself.

57
00:03:43,320 --> 00:03:44,490
Still there is more.

58
00:03:44,490 --> 00:03:46,780
Still I want you to know more.

59
00:03:46,780 --> 00:03:50,770
HG Wells say, Koestler
this kind of people.

60
00:03:50,770 --> 00:04:00,340
Now speaking about
government leaders

61
00:04:00,340 --> 00:04:09,400
in Great Britain and the United
States, I met all of them

62
00:04:09,400 --> 00:04:13,240
as a result of the
Polish government,

63
00:04:13,240 --> 00:04:15,850
usually prime
minister's request.

64
00:04:15,850 --> 00:04:19,899

65
00:04:19,899 --> 00:04:23,470
Mr. Secretary for
Foreign Affairs,

66
00:04:23,470 --> 00:04:31,780
I wish that you receive a
most recent agent from Poland

67
00:04:31,780 --> 00:04:37,263
who has material of interest
to his majesty government.

68
00:04:37,263 --> 00:04:37,930
So you surmise--

69
00:04:37,930 --> 00:04:45,098

70
00:04:45,098 --> 00:04:48,577
[AUDIO OUT]

71
00:04:48,577 --> 00:06:32,860

72
00:06:32,860 --> 00:06:34,948
(film slating)

73
00:06:34,948 --> 00:06:39,350

74
00:06:39,350 --> 00:06:43,870
I don't remember where did we--

75
00:06:43,870 --> 00:06:46,300
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

76
00:06:46,300 --> 00:06:48,550

77
00:06:48,550 --> 00:06:49,280
Yes.

78
00:06:49,280 --> 00:06:51,315
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

79
00:06:51,315 --> 00:06:59,740
Now even at that time,
I had suspicions having

80
00:06:59,740 --> 00:07:03,430
met some of those leaders.

81
00:07:03,430 --> 00:07:09,400
And whomever I met, I speak only
about the government leaders.

82
00:07:09,400 --> 00:07:12,940
They were the most
important people

83
00:07:12,940 --> 00:07:17,230
both in the United States
and in Great Britain.

84

00:07:17,230 --> 00:07:20,830

Sometimes I couldn't
avoid the suspicion.

85

00:07:20,830 --> 00:07:26,013

Altogether they show me
as a matter of courtesy.

86

00:07:26,013 --> 00:07:26,680

As a matter of--

87

00:07:26,680 --> 00:07:28,840

Of courtesy.

88

00:07:28,840 --> 00:07:31,480

In London, the
prime minister asked

89

00:07:31,480 --> 00:07:36,250

them to see some
recently arrived agent

90

00:07:36,250 --> 00:07:40,600

from the Polish
underground and his report.

91

00:07:40,600 --> 00:07:45,310

It might be of interest
to his majesty government

92

00:07:45,310 --> 00:07:52,210

or to that particular minister
or a government leader.

93

00:07:52,210 --> 00:07:56,920

In the United States, it was
the ambassador, of course.

94

00:07:56,920 --> 00:07:59,210

Everything was in his hands.

95

00:07:59,210 --> 00:08:03,230

Now you must realize
at that time,

96
00:08:03,230 --> 00:08:07,510
I was not allowed to
have any contacts.

97
00:08:07,510 --> 00:08:12,040
I had to report to
the proper offices.

98
00:08:12,040 --> 00:08:17,200
Every man I met, I was
free to go to a theater,

99
00:08:17,200 --> 00:08:19,780
to a nightclub, to dinner.

100
00:08:19,780 --> 00:08:21,910
I had plenty of
money, of course,

101
00:08:21,910 --> 00:08:25,120
to buy myself new
clothes whatsoever.

102
00:08:25,120 --> 00:08:29,320
I could not have contacts
on my own initiative,

103
00:08:29,320 --> 00:08:31,570
only as instructed.

104
00:08:31,570 --> 00:08:35,320
You are going to see
such and such a leader.

105
00:08:35,320 --> 00:08:37,990
The same in the United
States, of course.

106
00:08:37,990 --> 00:08:39,370
I lived in the embassy.

107
00:08:39,370 --> 00:08:41,770
I was not allowed
to live in any--

108
00:08:41,770 --> 00:08:42,970
to take any hotel.

109
00:08:42,970 --> 00:08:47,040
I lived all the time
on the premises.

110
00:08:47,040 --> 00:08:49,510
And how did it happen
with Roosevelt?

111
00:08:49,510 --> 00:08:55,580
With President Roosevelt.

112
00:08:55,580 --> 00:09:02,090
I must-- well, Polish
ambassador in Washington

113
00:09:02,090 --> 00:09:05,900
was informed about my
existence in London.

114
00:09:05,900 --> 00:09:08,930

115
00:09:08,930 --> 00:09:13,820
Before coming to
London, I didn't expect

116
00:09:13,820 --> 00:09:16,540
to go to the United States.

117
00:09:16,540 --> 00:09:20,480
Now it was the
Polish ambassador who

118
00:09:20,480 --> 00:09:27,020

in his report to the
prime minister suggested.

119
00:09:27,020 --> 00:09:35,900
He thinks that it may be useful
if before returning to Poland,

120
00:09:35,900 --> 00:09:40,370
Karski will come secretly
to the United States.

121
00:09:40,370 --> 00:09:45,920
The ambassador is pretty
sure he will get him

122
00:09:45,920 --> 00:09:50,390
in touch with the key
members of the government

123
00:09:50,390 --> 00:09:53,420
and the proper people.

124
00:09:53,420 --> 00:09:59,660
He hopes the
president himself will

125
00:09:59,660 --> 00:10:02,180
be interested in his report.

126
00:10:02,180 --> 00:10:06,230
Once we received this
report, General Sikorski

127
00:10:06,230 --> 00:10:08,870
tells me, lieutenant,
you go to Washington

128
00:10:08,870 --> 00:10:11,150
before you go to Poland.

129
00:10:11,150 --> 00:10:13,370
I arrived to Washington.

130

00:10:13,370 --> 00:10:17,750

Ambassador Ciechanowski
already totally acquainted

131

00:10:17,750 --> 00:10:19,730

with my material.

132

00:10:19,730 --> 00:10:21,230

I stay at the embassy.

133

00:10:21,230 --> 00:10:23,720

As you can imagine,
every morning,

134

00:10:23,720 --> 00:10:30,280

every evening, we talk about
what happened in Poland.

135

00:10:30,280 --> 00:10:35,150

The most by the way
intimate talks were there

136

00:10:35,150 --> 00:10:40,880

was a ritual in the
evening, after dinner,

137

00:10:40,880 --> 00:10:43,880

before going to
bed, the ambassador

138

00:10:43,880 --> 00:10:49,130

would walk his dog, [INAUDIBLE].

139

00:10:49,130 --> 00:10:51,580

I would walk the ambassador.

140

00:10:51,580 --> 00:10:53,210

He always invited me.

141

00:10:53,210 --> 00:10:56,420

Johnny, come with me.

142

00:10:56,420 --> 00:10:59,000

Then we would, again,
the most intimate.

143

00:10:59,000 --> 00:11:03,590

Even Madame Ciechanowska
she may see this film.

144

00:11:03,590 --> 00:11:05,690

She lives now in Belgium.

145

00:11:05,690 --> 00:11:10,010

Even she was not present and
then some time his worries

146

00:11:10,010 --> 00:11:12,830

and his fears and all this.

147

00:11:12,830 --> 00:11:19,610

At a certain point, he
tells me, Johnny, listen.

148

00:11:19,610 --> 00:11:26,920

The President of the United
States wishes to see you.

149

00:11:26,920 --> 00:11:31,990

Now he believes as
a matter of fact,

150

00:11:31,990 --> 00:11:36,690

all the time he was
criticizing me on one point,

151

00:11:36,690 --> 00:11:41,670

mainly, Johnny,
you are inclined--

152

00:11:41,670 --> 00:11:44,550

you talk too much.

153

00:11:44,550 --> 00:11:51,510

You must acquire precision-- you
have precision-- to be concise.

154
00:11:51,510 --> 00:11:55,950
You realize people I am
going to introduce you,

155
00:11:55,950 --> 00:11:59,010
they are the most
powerful people.

156
00:11:59,010 --> 00:12:02,160
Poland is my inner
concern for them.

157
00:12:02,160 --> 00:12:03,840
They have the whole war.

158
00:12:03,840 --> 00:12:06,330
They waged this war.

159
00:12:06,330 --> 00:12:09,596
So be careful.

160
00:12:09,596 --> 00:12:16,350
Concise, precision, concentrate
rather on their questions.

161
00:12:16,350 --> 00:12:18,540
Try to answer their questions.

162
00:12:18,540 --> 00:12:20,820
President comes.

163
00:12:20,820 --> 00:12:22,650
He gives me the same briefing.

164
00:12:22,650 --> 00:12:26,490
Now you be careful.

165
00:12:26,490 --> 00:12:31,920
You are going to see the most

powerful men on this globe.

166

00:12:31,920 --> 00:12:34,620

167

00:12:34,620 --> 00:12:38,640

This man evidently is busy.

168

00:12:38,640 --> 00:12:46,290

He thinks in terms of
the war of humanity.

169

00:12:46,290 --> 00:12:50,790

Roosevelt had this inclination,
which Ambassador Ciechanowski

170

00:12:50,790 --> 00:12:52,290

instructed.

171

00:12:52,290 --> 00:12:54,600

We have a president.

172

00:12:54,600 --> 00:12:56,700

He thinks in terms.

173

00:12:56,700 --> 00:13:01,950

He thinks after this
war the human race

174

00:13:01,950 --> 00:13:06,270

will be organized in
such a way no more wars,

175

00:13:06,270 --> 00:13:13,660

and he will play the key
role in this arrangement.

176

00:13:13,660 --> 00:13:18,390

So I get be brief, very concise.

177

00:13:18,390 --> 00:13:23,670

I am not going to take

part in the conversation.

178

00:13:23,670 --> 00:13:30,030

I will go with you as required
by diplomatic protocol.

179

00:13:30,030 --> 00:13:35,520

I have to certify your veracity,
introduce you to the president.

180

00:13:35,520 --> 00:13:38,460

Then I will sit quiet.

181

00:13:38,460 --> 00:13:40,380

So don't rely on me.

182

00:13:40,380 --> 00:13:43,500

I will be unable to
help you in any way.

183

00:13:43,500 --> 00:13:49,600

It may be that the president
will ask me a question,

184

00:13:49,600 --> 00:13:52,780

then I will answer his question.

185

00:13:52,780 --> 00:13:56,280

So I don't know how the
conversation will develop.

186

00:13:56,280 --> 00:13:59,610

I don't know how long he
will stay with the president.

187

00:13:59,610 --> 00:14:04,110

Only you are on your
own and now be wise.

188

00:14:04,110 --> 00:14:10,530

With this kind of briefing,
[INAUDIBLE] whatsoever

189

00:14:10,530 --> 00:14:14,380
brings us to the White House.

190

00:14:14,380 --> 00:14:18,280
Ambassador punctual,
president punctual.

191

00:14:18,280 --> 00:14:23,440
Secretary leads
me to his office.

192

00:14:23,440 --> 00:14:28,560
I see Roosevelt.

193

00:14:28,560 --> 00:14:32,550
He looked like a world leader.

194

00:14:32,550 --> 00:14:33,550
Like a world leader?

195

00:14:33,550 --> 00:14:35,130
World leader, yes.

196

00:14:35,130 --> 00:14:37,440
As a matter of
fact, he struck me

197

00:14:37,440 --> 00:14:41,460
he was more than the President
of the United States.

198

00:14:41,460 --> 00:14:45,030
His formulations, his gestures.

199

00:14:45,030 --> 00:14:50,280
He did consider
himself a world leader.

200

00:14:50,280 --> 00:14:55,680
He sits behind the desk,
behind him, of course,

201

00:14:55,680 --> 00:14:59,640

all American flags,
very impressive ,

202

00:14:59,640 --> 00:15:06,690

the whole wall covered
by them, very high chair,

203

00:15:06,690 --> 00:15:07,570

Grand Seigneur.

204

00:15:07,570 --> 00:15:09,870

205

00:15:09,870 --> 00:15:12,380

Because I was warned
he will not get up

206

00:15:12,380 --> 00:15:14,370

when he would shake your hand.

207

00:15:14,370 --> 00:15:15,025

He's crippled.

208

00:15:15,025 --> 00:15:17,600

209

00:15:17,600 --> 00:15:20,100

Shakes hand.

210

00:15:20,100 --> 00:15:23,557

Please sit down, Mr. Ambassador.

211

00:15:23,557 --> 00:15:26,420

212

00:15:26,420 --> 00:15:35,810

He says, Mr. Karski,
I know about you.

213

00:15:35,810 --> 00:15:43,490

I have been informed about
your great work contribution

214
00:15:43,490 --> 00:15:46,850
to the Allied cause.

215
00:15:46,850 --> 00:15:52,490
I am sure that you would
like me to be informed

216
00:15:52,490 --> 00:15:56,480
about things in Poland please.

217
00:15:56,480 --> 00:15:59,440

218
00:15:59,440 --> 00:16:01,960
Now realize this.

219
00:16:01,960 --> 00:16:05,380
I heard it throughout
my entire mission.

220
00:16:05,380 --> 00:16:11,050
For me, the Jewish problem
was not that the only problem.

221
00:16:11,050 --> 00:16:15,790
For me, the key
problem was Poland.

222
00:16:15,790 --> 00:16:18,400

223
00:16:18,400 --> 00:16:20,200
Curzon line.

224
00:16:20,200 --> 00:16:24,730
Soviet demands, communists
in the underground movement,

225
00:16:24,730 --> 00:16:27,190

fear of the Polish nation.

226

00:16:27,190 --> 00:16:31,400

What is going to
happen to Poland?

227

00:16:31,400 --> 00:16:33,730

This was the emphasis.

228

00:16:33,730 --> 00:16:35,350

Of your mission?

229

00:16:35,350 --> 00:16:41,200

Yes, of my mission, of course,
and my concern naturally

230

00:16:41,200 --> 00:16:44,950

I speak to the president
in those terms--

231

00:16:44,950 --> 00:16:49,780

expectations, fears
among the leaders.

232

00:16:49,780 --> 00:16:56,020

All hope Mr. President
has been place

233

00:16:56,020 --> 00:17:02,860

by the Polish nation in the
hands of Franklin Delano

234

00:17:02,860 --> 00:17:06,130

Roosevelt.

235

00:17:06,130 --> 00:17:07,130

He said this?

236

00:17:07,130 --> 00:17:08,060

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

237

00:17:08,060 --> 00:17:09,369

In proper words?

238

00:17:09,369 --> 00:17:11,319

Oh, yes, in the same words.

239

00:17:11,319 --> 00:17:18,079

Not the president, Franklin

Delano Roosevelt he says.

240

00:17:18,079 --> 00:17:24,190

I describe thinking

how much time I had.

241

00:17:24,190 --> 00:17:29,492

He says then I come to the

Jewish problem, Mr. President.

242

00:17:29,492 --> 00:17:33,080

243

00:17:33,080 --> 00:17:38,910

I have also a mission on

behalf of the Polish Jews.

244

00:17:38,910 --> 00:17:40,680

Oh, yes.

245

00:17:40,680 --> 00:18:00,000