

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:00,530

2
00:00:00,530 --> 00:00:02,603
New York.

3
00:00:02,603 --> 00:00:05,310
[SPEAKING FRENCH]

4
00:00:05,310 --> 00:00:08,119
Mr. Landau, I would like
to know when did you

5
00:00:08,119 --> 00:00:11,940
meet Rabbi Weissmandel
for the first time?

6
00:00:11,940 --> 00:00:17,720
And do you recall vividly
your first meeting with him?

7
00:00:17,720 --> 00:00:21,200
Of course, because I remember
quite well when he came with

8
00:00:21,200 --> 00:00:26,520
the transport in about
April '44, April--

9
00:00:26,520 --> 00:00:27,020
'45.

10
00:00:27,020 --> 00:00:31,070
'45-- April '45, he came as
a transport to Switzerland

11
00:00:31,070 --> 00:00:33,050
bought by Mr. Kasztner.

12
00:00:33,050 --> 00:00:37,090
And he came to Toronto because

he had friends in Toronto.

13

00:00:37,090 --> 00:00:37,590

And--

14

00:00:37,590 --> 00:00:38,540

Came to Toronto?

15

00:00:38,540 --> 00:00:40,070

To Toronto, excuse me.

16

00:00:40,070 --> 00:00:42,830

He came to Montreux,
Switzerland, where I lived.

17

00:00:42,830 --> 00:00:45,770

I mentioned Toronto because
I live now in Toronto.

18

00:00:45,770 --> 00:00:49,640

And we met the first
time in the apartment

19

00:00:49,640 --> 00:00:53,060

of one member of our committee,
Mr. Hugo Donovan, which

20

00:00:53,060 --> 00:00:56,260

is mentioned quite often in
his letters and in his cables.

21

00:00:56,260 --> 00:00:57,660

That's --

22

00:00:57,660 --> 00:00:59,750

He was a member of the
Bratislava Committee.

23

00:00:59,750 --> 00:01:05,030

Mr. Hugo [? Tannenbaum. ?]
And he was very much upset

24

00:01:05,030 --> 00:01:06,230
that he didn't do enough.

25
00:01:06,230 --> 00:01:10,680
He said it was possible to do
quite a lot more than we did.

26
00:01:10,680 --> 00:01:15,590
And he was even so
enraged that he hit me.

27
00:01:15,590 --> 00:01:18,140
He really hit me with his fist.

28
00:01:18,140 --> 00:01:19,310
He was running after me.

29
00:01:19,310 --> 00:01:21,800
I was running around the table.

30
00:01:21,800 --> 00:01:24,930
And he was running after me
until he hitched up his knee,

31
00:01:24,930 --> 00:01:27,652
and he hit me with his fist
and said, "Why did you do this?"

32
00:01:27,652 --> 00:01:28,610
Why didn't you do more?

33
00:01:28,610 --> 00:01:30,530
You could have done much more?"

34
00:01:30,530 --> 00:01:35,330
Can you describe the first
moments of the meeting?

35
00:01:35,330 --> 00:01:38,450
The first moment of the meeting,
I can't remember exactly.

36

00:01:38,450 --> 00:01:39,740
Were you surprised by--

37
00:01:39,740 --> 00:01:41,330
I was not surprised.

38
00:01:41,330 --> 00:01:42,910
I knew that he was coming.

39
00:01:42,910 --> 00:01:44,000
We heard about it.

40
00:01:44,000 --> 00:01:47,150
And as he was quite a
famous person this time

41
00:01:47,150 --> 00:01:50,600
already, so I was quite
curious to meet him.

42
00:01:50,600 --> 00:01:53,540
And was he-- excuse
me, did you ever

43
00:01:53,540 --> 00:01:55,490
see before a picture of him?

44
00:01:55,490 --> 00:01:57,260
No, I never saw a
picture of him, no.

45
00:01:57,260 --> 00:02:00,320
But I was told that he
is quite a famous man.

46
00:02:00,320 --> 00:02:04,250
And we knew about him and we--
because during the whole years

47
00:02:04,250 --> 00:02:07,760
before, we got several
letters, quite a few letters.

48

00:02:07,760 --> 00:02:09,020

We got some cables.

49

00:02:09,020 --> 00:02:12,080

When we knew that he was
leading in the rescue work

50

00:02:12,080 --> 00:02:16,325

together with some other members
of his committee like Mrs--

51

00:02:16,325 --> 00:02:21,230

Gisi Fleischmann-- and we were
curious to meet him, of course.

52

00:02:21,230 --> 00:02:24,620

I would be very glad to
see him that he was saved.

53

00:02:24,620 --> 00:02:25,880

Yes.

54

00:02:25,880 --> 00:02:29,570

So when I met him
the first time--

55

00:02:29,570 --> 00:02:33,110

I think Mr. Sternbuch had
met him before I met him--

56

00:02:33,110 --> 00:02:36,080

I was very much impressed.

57

00:02:36,080 --> 00:02:41,450

He was in a very bad mood.

58

00:02:41,450 --> 00:02:44,300

I thought he would be a
little bit more relaxed now.

59

00:02:44,300 --> 00:02:46,790

He's out of danger of life.

60
00:02:46,790 --> 00:02:47,870
But he wasn't.

61
00:02:47,870 --> 00:02:49,007
He wasn't relaxed at all.

62
00:02:49,007 --> 00:02:50,090
He was not relaxed at all.

63
00:02:50,090 --> 00:02:52,790
He was always thinking
what could have been done,

64
00:02:52,790 --> 00:02:55,070
what he didn't do himself.

65
00:02:55,070 --> 00:02:58,140
He said himself could have done
more, but it was impossible.

66
00:02:58,140 --> 00:02:59,330
He didn't have enough money.

67
00:02:59,330 --> 00:03:00,913
The whole question
about money, money,

68
00:03:00,913 --> 00:03:03,830
money, when he heard
that he could have

69
00:03:03,830 --> 00:03:06,530
had more money from the States.

70
00:03:06,530 --> 00:03:09,756
But he believed he
was even more enraged.

71
00:03:09,756 --> 00:03:12,723
This means that the
1945 when it was--

72

00:03:12,723 --> 00:03:13,640

[INTERPOSING VOICES]--

73

00:03:13,640 --> 00:03:14,877

Yes, this was not 45.

74

00:03:14,877 --> 00:03:15,710

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

75

00:03:15,710 --> 00:03:16,897

It was very--

76

00:03:16,897 --> 00:03:17,730

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

77

00:03:17,730 --> 00:03:21,970

For him, it was
like a catastrophe .

78

00:03:21,970 --> 00:03:25,910

he knew he could do something
and it didn't do for him--

79

00:03:25,910 --> 00:03:30,200

the whole rescue work for
him is like his own life.

80

00:03:30,200 --> 00:03:34,340

And he reproached himself
also that he jumped.

81

00:03:34,340 --> 00:03:38,240

I know that-- you know that
he jumped from the deportation

82

00:03:38,240 --> 00:03:39,467

train.

83

00:03:39,467 --> 00:03:40,300

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

84

00:03:40,300 --> 00:03:44,810

I remember quite well how he explained that he loosened up

85

00:03:44,810 --> 00:03:46,790

a board in the car.

86

00:03:46,790 --> 00:03:48,800

And he told his wife also to jump.

87

00:03:48,800 --> 00:03:50,870

But it seems she was afraid of something.

88

00:03:50,870 --> 00:03:52,730

I don't know why she didn't jump.

89

00:03:52,730 --> 00:03:54,153

And he reproached him.

90

00:03:54,153 --> 00:03:56,570

He shouldn't have left his wife and children in the train.

91

00:03:56,570 --> 00:03:58,250

He should have come with them to death.

92

00:03:58,250 --> 00:04:01,040

And the other side he that I was thinking

93

00:04:01,040 --> 00:04:03,690

that I could do quite more when I jump

94

00:04:03,690 --> 00:04:06,020

and to try to do some rescue work

95

00:04:06,020 --> 00:04:09,300
than to go to the
to the gas chamber.

96
00:04:09,300 --> 00:04:11,900
This is the reason
why did he jump?

97
00:04:11,900 --> 00:04:13,150
Why he escape?

98
00:04:13,150 --> 00:04:14,240
That's what he told me.

99
00:04:14,240 --> 00:04:16,850
I don't think it's written
somewhere in this book.

100
00:04:16,850 --> 00:04:18,079
I can't remember exactly.

101
00:04:18,079 --> 00:04:18,320
Did he say that--

102
00:04:18,320 --> 00:04:18,829
But he said--

103
00:04:18,829 --> 00:04:19,662
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

104
00:04:19,662 --> 00:04:23,590
--he jump because he could more
useful for the Jewish people

105
00:04:23,590 --> 00:04:26,060
or for the world when
he saved his life

106
00:04:26,060 --> 00:04:27,740
and tried to do
some of rescue work.

107

00:04:27,740 --> 00:04:29,900

But in the same
time, he felt guilty?

108

00:04:29,900 --> 00:04:33,185

He felt guilty that he left
his wife and children alone.

109

00:04:33,185 --> 00:04:35,630

And what do you
think you about this?

110

00:04:35,630 --> 00:04:39,350

Of course I think he
has the right to jump,

111

00:04:39,350 --> 00:04:44,160

because when you are
in danger of your life,

112

00:04:44,160 --> 00:04:45,380

you don't look at the others.

113

00:04:45,380 --> 00:04:48,080

You have to look
for yourself first.

114

00:04:48,080 --> 00:04:50,070

Who is we?

115

00:04:50,070 --> 00:04:52,430

The human being.

116

00:04:52,430 --> 00:04:54,530

I think everybody
would do the same thing

117

00:04:54,530 --> 00:04:57,800

if you have to choose either
to go in the gas chambers

118

00:04:57,800 --> 00:05:00,710

together with your family

or do you save your own life

119

00:05:00,710 --> 00:05:03,170

and not be able to save
the life of your family.

120

00:05:03,170 --> 00:05:04,660

You will try to save your life.

121

00:05:04,660 --> 00:05:06,048

Yes, but there
are people who can

122

00:05:06,048 --> 00:05:08,090

make an [? honorable way. ?]
As a matter of fact,

123

00:05:08,090 --> 00:05:09,790

a different choice.

124

00:05:09,790 --> 00:05:11,770

But I don't think we
can judge if you are not

125

00:05:11,770 --> 00:05:13,490

in the situation--

126

00:05:13,490 --> 00:05:15,520

for things that we are
not in this situation.

127

00:05:15,520 --> 00:05:18,340

I don't know myself
how I would act.

128

00:05:18,340 --> 00:05:21,390

Well, you said that he hit you.

129

00:05:21,390 --> 00:05:23,807

He hit me-- hit me,
right with a fist.

130

00:05:23,807 --> 00:05:24,640
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

131
00:05:24,640 --> 00:05:28,480
No, no really, hit me on
my back with his fist.

132
00:05:28,480 --> 00:05:30,140
And what did he say
when he hit you?

133
00:05:30,140 --> 00:05:31,090
He said, why didn't you do more?

134
00:05:31,090 --> 00:05:32,090
You could have saved us.

135
00:05:32,090 --> 00:05:34,450
Why didn't you do more.

136
00:05:34,450 --> 00:05:35,950
And he told everybody, or--

137
00:05:35,950 --> 00:05:36,190
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

138
00:05:36,190 --> 00:05:37,732
No, I was alone with
him in the room.

139
00:05:37,732 --> 00:05:39,065
You were alone with him.

140
00:05:39,065 --> 00:05:39,940
I was alone with him.

141
00:05:39,940 --> 00:05:44,020
And he was in which
state, in which condition?

142
00:05:44,020 --> 00:05:46,450
He was not a healthy

man in this time.

143
00:05:46,450 --> 00:05:50,020
But his mind was
clear, 100% clear.

144
00:05:50,020 --> 00:05:51,160
The mind was clear.

145
00:05:51,160 --> 00:05:52,930
Clear, but he was
very depressed.

146
00:05:52,930 --> 00:05:55,720
He was depressed, but
his mind was clear.

147
00:05:55,720 --> 00:06:01,380
And how would the
depression showed itself?

148
00:06:01,380 --> 00:06:05,950
The depression that
he was always thinking

149
00:06:05,950 --> 00:06:07,120
what could he have done?

150
00:06:07,120 --> 00:06:10,030
What did he did not do
and could have done?

151
00:06:10,030 --> 00:06:12,730
And why did I leave my family?

152
00:06:12,730 --> 00:06:15,400
Why did I jump--

153
00:06:15,400 --> 00:06:18,880
that showed as depression.

154
00:06:18,880 --> 00:06:22,360

And also, I don't know if
I could or should say it

155
00:06:22,360 --> 00:06:28,420
or not, once he was living
in the same hotel as I

156
00:06:28,420 --> 00:06:29,770
and my family lived.

157
00:06:29,770 --> 00:06:31,360
We lived to door to door.

158
00:06:31,360 --> 00:06:33,280
Even my wife told
me once, are you

159
00:06:33,280 --> 00:06:36,430
married with Mr. Weissmandl,
or are you married with me?

160
00:06:36,430 --> 00:06:38,470
Because I spent so
much time with him.

161
00:06:38,470 --> 00:06:40,137
Why did you spend so
much time with him?

162
00:06:40,137 --> 00:06:42,460
Because he was a very
interesting person.

163
00:06:42,460 --> 00:06:44,170
It was very interesting
to listen to him.

164
00:06:44,170 --> 00:06:45,160
And what was it--

165
00:06:45,160 --> 00:06:48,280
And when he explained
all the possibilities

166
00:06:48,280 --> 00:06:55,060
he had, when he told me about
the treaty that was the deal

167
00:06:55,060 --> 00:06:57,070
he did is a Wisliceny

168
00:06:57,070 --> 00:06:57,940
With the Germans.

169
00:06:57,940 --> 00:07:00,820
The German, especially
one of the representatives

170
00:07:00,820 --> 00:07:06,790
in the Judenrat in Slovakia
and with Wisliceny.

171
00:07:06,790 --> 00:07:11,890
And I was listening to him
and so I spent most of my time

172
00:07:11,890 --> 00:07:12,430
with him--

173
00:07:12,430 --> 00:07:13,420
my free time.

174
00:07:13,420 --> 00:07:15,580
This was a principle content--

175
00:07:15,580 --> 00:07:16,413
main content of your

176
00:07:16,413 --> 00:07:17,247
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

177
00:07:17,247 --> 00:07:18,970
Always-- the
discussion was always

178

00:07:18,970 --> 00:07:21,950

what could have been
done but was not done.

179

00:07:21,950 --> 00:07:25,180

And one day, in the morning,
I come in the his room

180

00:07:25,180 --> 00:07:28,188

and he was laying in a coma.

181

00:07:28,188 --> 00:07:28,980

He was in the coma.

182

00:07:28,980 --> 00:07:29,800

He was in a coma.

183

00:07:29,800 --> 00:07:34,340

It seems that he took
too many sleeping pills.

184

00:07:34,340 --> 00:07:35,250

What was it?

185

00:07:35,250 --> 00:07:37,110

It was an attempt of suicide?

186

00:07:37,110 --> 00:07:39,820

He suffered sleeplessness.

187

00:07:39,820 --> 00:07:42,610

He couldn't sleep during the
night, so Mr. [? Donovan, ?]

188

00:07:42,610 --> 00:07:45,820

who was a pharmacist, he
gave him some sleeping pills.

189

00:07:45,820 --> 00:07:47,270

So he took some regularly.

190

00:07:47,270 --> 00:07:49,420
And he said it helped him.

191
00:07:49,420 --> 00:07:52,210
And this day, it seemed, he
took too many sleeping pills.

192
00:07:52,210 --> 00:07:54,790
I don't think he
did it by purpose.

193
00:07:54,790 --> 00:07:58,270
Must have been either not
thinking, or I don't know.

194
00:07:58,270 --> 00:07:59,030
Whatever.

195
00:07:59,030 --> 00:08:00,730
What, he took the whole--

196
00:08:00,730 --> 00:08:02,430
He took the whole bottle.

197
00:08:02,430 --> 00:08:04,690
It must have been
about 20 pills.

198
00:08:04,690 --> 00:08:05,770
But he was in the coma.

199
00:08:05,770 --> 00:08:07,330
He was in a real coma.

200
00:08:07,330 --> 00:08:09,040
We called the doctor,
and the doctor

201
00:08:09,040 --> 00:08:12,040
sent him right to the hospital,
pumped out his stomach

202

00:08:12,040 --> 00:08:14,530
and said, nothing can be done.

203
00:08:14,530 --> 00:08:16,960
He will die within
the next 24 hours.

204
00:08:16,960 --> 00:08:18,170
Oh, they said he will die?

205
00:08:18,170 --> 00:08:18,670
He will die.

206
00:08:18,670 --> 00:08:19,842
100%.

207
00:08:19,842 --> 00:08:20,800
And then what happened?

208
00:08:20,800 --> 00:08:23,290
And we called another
doctor from the bigger city

209
00:08:23,290 --> 00:08:25,160
because Montreux
is a small city.

210
00:08:25,160 --> 00:08:26,990
So we called the
doctor from Lausanne.

211
00:08:26,990 --> 00:08:29,200
And he was from
the same opinion.

212
00:08:29,200 --> 00:08:32,890
He also came in
and said, I don't

213
00:08:32,890 --> 00:08:35,230
think he can live much
longer than 24 hours.

214

00:08:35,230 --> 00:08:37,690

Meantime, the whole
Switzerland was up.

215

00:08:37,690 --> 00:08:41,230

Rabbi Weissmandl, who was
a famous person, was dying.

216

00:08:41,230 --> 00:08:44,390

So one of the gentlemen--

217

00:08:44,390 --> 00:08:46,870

I think Mr. [INAUDIBLE] was it--

218

00:08:46,870 --> 00:08:50,710

he asked one of the
biggest professors--

219

00:08:50,710 --> 00:08:55,420

heart specialist--
a certain professor,

220

00:08:55,420 --> 00:08:57,490

[? Loeffler, ?] Professor
[? Loeffler ?] to come

221

00:08:57,490 --> 00:09:01,683

to Switzerland-- to Montreux
He traveled the whole night.

222

00:09:01,683 --> 00:09:02,350

Came from where?

223

00:09:02,350 --> 00:09:04,650

From Zurich to Montreux.

224

00:09:04,650 --> 00:09:05,530

Excuse me.

225

00:09:05,530 --> 00:09:07,820

He traveled the whole
night, came into the room

226
00:09:07,820 --> 00:09:09,940
in the hospital,
took off his coat,

227
00:09:09,940 --> 00:09:14,770
went to the sick person,
Weissmandl, and he said,

228
00:09:14,770 --> 00:09:17,560
who dares to call
me to a dead person?

229
00:09:17,560 --> 00:09:20,230
He took his coat, and went
back home to Switzerland.

230
00:09:20,230 --> 00:09:23,740
He sent us a bill for 1,200
Swiss francs, which we paid,

231
00:09:23,740 --> 00:09:24,400
of course.

232
00:09:24,400 --> 00:09:26,800
And at 1:00 was it--

233
00:09:26,800 --> 00:09:28,750
no, it was half
past 12, I think--

234
00:09:28,750 --> 00:09:31,000
the nurse said,
look, now the foam

235
00:09:31,000 --> 00:09:32,570
is coming out of his mouth.

236
00:09:32,570 --> 00:09:34,300
Another half hour and he's gone.

237
00:09:34,300 --> 00:09:35,260

There was a foam--

238

00:09:35,260 --> 00:09:37,300

A foam from the mouth.

239

00:09:37,300 --> 00:09:42,910

So 3 o'clock, about, we were
discussing we shouldn't call

240

00:09:42,910 --> 00:09:46,060

his brother-- he had a
brother in London, England--

241

00:09:46,060 --> 00:09:48,460

if you should call
him to come over.

242

00:09:48,460 --> 00:09:52,450

And he lifted his head and
said, I don't need my brother.

243

00:09:52,450 --> 00:09:54,910

Don't call him and
went back to sleep.

244

00:09:54,910 --> 00:09:57,830

245

00:09:57,830 --> 00:09:58,720

[INAUDIBLE]

246

00:09:58,720 --> 00:10:02,060

[INAUDIBLE]

247

00:10:02,060 --> 00:10:03,020

Don't call my brother.

248

00:10:03,020 --> 00:10:03,650

Don't call him.

249

00:10:03,650 --> 00:10:04,760

I don't need him.

250
00:10:04,760 --> 00:10:06,240
And he went back to sleep.

251
00:10:06,240 --> 00:10:11,570
And after a few hours, he awoke
again, he said a few words,

252
00:10:11,570 --> 00:10:15,200
and a few days later, he
could leave the hospital.

253
00:10:15,200 --> 00:10:16,910
He came back to the hotel.

254
00:10:16,910 --> 00:10:18,440
Did you discuss with him?

255
00:10:18,440 --> 00:10:20,240
We didn't talk about this.

256
00:10:20,240 --> 00:10:22,970
Mr. [? Donovan ?] I think,
talked to him and he said,

257
00:10:22,970 --> 00:10:25,250
he didn't know that he took
so many sleeping pills.

258
00:10:25,250 --> 00:10:27,950
He was thinking he
took only one or two.

259
00:10:27,950 --> 00:10:29,660
But I don't know.

260
00:10:29,660 --> 00:10:33,360
Maybe in his subconscious,
he wanted to commit suicide.

261
00:10:33,360 --> 00:10:35,240
But I don't think

as an Orthodox Jew--

262

00:10:35,240 --> 00:10:38,330
and especially him who
was very, very Orthodox--

263

00:10:38,330 --> 00:10:40,410
he would never done
a thing like this

264

00:10:40,410 --> 00:10:43,820
if he would have known
what he was doing.

265

00:10:43,820 --> 00:10:46,370
Because-- can you explain this?

266

00:10:46,370 --> 00:10:47,360
For an Orthodox Jew--

267

00:10:47,360 --> 00:10:51,620
Orthodox Jew is that it's one
of the biggest crimes a man can

268

00:10:51,620 --> 00:10:53,660
commit to take his own life.

269

00:10:53,660 --> 00:10:55,310
Life is what God has given you.

270

00:10:55,310 --> 00:10:58,310
You have no right to take
it away from other people

271

00:10:58,310 --> 00:10:59,810
or from yourself.

272

00:10:59,810 --> 00:11:00,710
This is a law?

273

00:11:00,710 --> 00:11:02,870
That's a Jewish law.

274
00:11:02,870 --> 00:11:05,510
And him as a rabbi
and an honor to,

275
00:11:05,510 --> 00:11:08,030
he wouldn't do anything
against the law.

276
00:11:08,030 --> 00:11:11,195
Yes, but in spite of
the fact that maybe

277
00:11:11,195 --> 00:11:13,302
it was not a conscious attempt.

278
00:11:13,302 --> 00:11:14,260
That's what I'm saying.

279
00:11:14,260 --> 00:11:16,490
It could be that
his subconscious--

280
00:11:16,490 --> 00:11:19,340
but if he was conscious when
he took a sleeping pill,

281
00:11:19,340 --> 00:11:22,210
I'm 100% sure that he didn't
want to commit suicide.

282
00:11:22,210 --> 00:11:25,340
That shows how much disturbed--

283
00:11:25,340 --> 00:11:26,300
He was disturbed.

284
00:11:26,300 --> 00:11:28,040
He was disturbed at this time.

285
00:11:28,040 --> 00:11:29,120
And he was distracted.

286
00:11:29,120 --> 00:11:30,890
But he was not unconscious.

287
00:11:30,890 --> 00:11:32,690
He knew what he was doing.

288
00:11:32,690 --> 00:11:35,180
That's why I don't understand
how he could have done it.

289
00:11:35,180 --> 00:11:37,000
And he was disturbed
in his behavior.

290
00:11:37,000 --> 00:11:38,740
In his behavior, yeah.

291
00:11:38,740 --> 00:11:42,830
He walked around
talking to himself.

292
00:11:42,830 --> 00:11:43,460
In Montreux.

293
00:11:43,460 --> 00:11:44,840
In Montreux, yeah.

294
00:11:44,840 --> 00:11:47,150
Not always, but sometimes.

295
00:11:47,150 --> 00:11:48,242
How did he do this?

296
00:11:48,242 --> 00:11:51,230
He walked on the
street, talking.

297
00:11:51,230 --> 00:11:54,030
And what were the symptoms?

298

00:11:54,030 --> 00:11:57,440
We saw him walking and
then moving his lips.

299
00:11:57,440 --> 00:12:00,930

300
00:12:00,930 --> 00:12:04,460
And I think what he was talking
to himself was, what did I do?

301
00:12:04,460 --> 00:12:05,480
Why did I jump?

302
00:12:05,480 --> 00:12:08,330
Or why didn't I
save more people?

303
00:12:08,330 --> 00:12:10,400
I could have saved
more people if I would

304
00:12:10,400 --> 00:12:12,440
have had the possibilities.

305
00:12:12,440 --> 00:12:15,080
Yes, you think that
this question--

306
00:12:15,080 --> 00:12:16,040
Excuse me.

307
00:12:16,040 --> 00:12:16,540
Go ahead.

308
00:12:16,540 --> 00:12:20,810
You think that this
question of a rescue was--

309
00:12:20,810 --> 00:12:23,720
That was his main topic.

310

00:12:23,720 --> 00:12:27,050

The whole time, he
was in Switzerland.

311

00:12:27,050 --> 00:12:29,480

Of course, he took part
later on a discussion--

312

00:12:29,480 --> 00:12:36,540

how to help the refugees, the
displaced person in Germany.

313

00:12:36,540 --> 00:12:38,930

And he gave them good advices.

314

00:12:38,930 --> 00:12:40,490

He was clear.

315

00:12:40,490 --> 00:12:44,240

But his main topic
was always rescue.

316

00:12:44,240 --> 00:12:45,700

What could have been done.

317

00:12:45,700 --> 00:12:47,450

During the war, what
could have been done,

318

00:12:47,450 --> 00:12:49,400

what hasn't been done.

319

00:12:49,400 --> 00:12:52,400

When in fact, I was
at the same opinion

320

00:12:52,400 --> 00:12:53,910

because I remember myself.

321

00:12:53,910 --> 00:12:58,820

I wrote letters to the editors
a few years later that virtually

322

00:12:58,820 --> 00:13:02,450
should have a [INAUDIBLE] on
everybody who was able to do

323

00:13:02,450 --> 00:13:05,690
something should give
[HEBREW],, means to keep up--

324

00:13:05,690 --> 00:13:06,920
[INAUDIBLE]

325

00:13:06,920 --> 00:13:08,270
[SPEAKING HEBREW]

326

00:13:08,270 --> 00:13:10,790
It's a Hebrew expression.

327

00:13:10,790 --> 00:13:14,930
He should prove everything--
what he could have done

328

00:13:14,930 --> 00:13:16,730
or did not do.

329

00:13:16,730 --> 00:13:18,500
He would be judged for it.

330

00:13:18,500 --> 00:13:20,960
You think that world
Jewry was guilty.

331

00:13:20,960 --> 00:13:24,890
World Jewry was guilty
because, of course, hindsight

332

00:13:24,890 --> 00:13:26,390
it's very easy.

333

00:13:26,390 --> 00:13:29,930
But in these years
and years '42, '43,

334

00:13:29,930 --> 00:13:34,070
it seems there was a possibility
to save more people with money

335

00:13:34,070 --> 00:13:36,950
because they were corrupt
people under the German.

336

00:13:36,950 --> 00:13:40,400
And the proof is the
deal with Wisliceny.

337

00:13:40,400 --> 00:13:43,740
And deportation was
stopped for two years.

338

00:13:43,740 --> 00:13:48,710
So there was quite a possibility
to save few Jews if the money

339

00:13:48,710 --> 00:13:50,000
would have been available.

340

00:13:50,000 --> 00:13:55,010
Well now, can you
explain precisely what

341

00:13:55,010 --> 00:13:58,610
was the bargaining of
Weissmandl with Nazi.

342

00:13:58,610 --> 00:14:02,630
When did it start, and what
did he achieve, and what not?

343

00:14:02,630 --> 00:14:04,070
Yeah.

344

00:14:04,070 --> 00:14:06,560
He started this when--

345

00:14:06,560 --> 00:14:10,460

I remember, rightly-- he started
his dealings with Wisliceny

346
00:14:10,460 --> 00:14:13,400
in the year '41.

347
00:14:13,400 --> 00:14:15,380
Or was it '42?

348
00:14:15,380 --> 00:14:16,340
'42, I think.

349
00:14:16,340 --> 00:14:17,240
'42.

350
00:14:17,240 --> 00:14:19,640
And he promised
them at this time

351
00:14:19,640 --> 00:14:24,050
an amount of \$50,000
for this German

352
00:14:24,050 --> 00:14:27,740
would stop the deportation
for about two years.

353
00:14:27,740 --> 00:14:28,440
For the Jews--

354
00:14:28,440 --> 00:14:30,140
For the Jews of Slovakia.

355
00:14:30,140 --> 00:14:34,040
And he gave him a down
payment of \$25,000

356
00:14:34,040 --> 00:14:36,890
and promised him the balance
within a certain time.

357
00:14:36,890 --> 00:14:39,030

I think it was about
six or seven weeks.

358
00:14:39,030 --> 00:14:41,780
And the deportation stopped.

359
00:14:41,780 --> 00:14:46,070
After seven weeks, the
money was not available,

360
00:14:46,070 --> 00:14:49,985
and Wisliceny started to deport
Jews again from Slovakia.

361
00:14:49,985 --> 00:14:52,760

362
00:14:52,760 --> 00:14:54,680
This rescue committee
in Bratislava

363
00:14:54,680 --> 00:15:00,400
then asked Budapest to help
them, and they got \$25,000,

364
00:15:00,400 --> 00:15:02,870
gave it to him, and
Wisliceny told them then,

365
00:15:02,870 --> 00:15:04,500
you see your people.

366
00:15:04,500 --> 00:15:08,270
You have to be persecuted
before you do something.

367
00:15:08,270 --> 00:15:10,510
Why didn't you bring
the \$25,000 right away.

368
00:15:10,510 --> 00:15:12,410
It would have saved
quite a few people,

369
00:15:12,410 --> 00:15:13,760
which we deported in times.

370
00:15:13,760 --> 00:15:17,510
And the deportations
stopped for two years.

371
00:15:17,510 --> 00:15:24,680
But did Weissmandl really
believe in these deals?

372
00:15:24,680 --> 00:15:26,510
Did he believe--

373
00:15:26,510 --> 00:15:33,110
In the years '42, '43
until maybe May '44,

374
00:15:33,110 --> 00:15:34,130
he believed in it.

375
00:15:34,130 --> 00:15:38,840
The best proof is his letters,
which he wrote quite frequently

376
00:15:38,840 --> 00:15:40,590
to Switzerland.

377
00:15:40,590 --> 00:15:44,120
Yes, because the letters
are extremely strong.

378
00:15:44,120 --> 00:15:46,730
The letters are not only strong,
they give the whole heart.

379
00:15:46,730 --> 00:15:50,480
If you allow to read a
few of those letters--

380
00:15:50,480 --> 00:15:54,380

I have some translations
here in English.

381
00:15:54,380 --> 00:15:57,440
The letters written
in Hebrew, but we

382
00:15:57,440 --> 00:15:59,090
translated some in English.

383
00:15:59,090 --> 00:16:02,860
If you, now i read
you some extracts.

384
00:16:02,860 --> 00:16:06,250
For instance the letter,
which he wrote in '43,

385
00:16:06,250 --> 00:16:08,570
he writes that they're
preparing already

386
00:16:08,570 --> 00:16:10,060
a new wave of deportation.

387
00:16:10,060 --> 00:16:11,150
Which he wrote to who?

388
00:16:11,150 --> 00:16:13,335
He wrote to the--

389
00:16:13,335 --> 00:16:17,120
the letter was addressed to
some person in Switzerland.

390
00:16:17,120 --> 00:16:19,360
And he writes in the
end, we will come to it,

391
00:16:19,360 --> 00:16:20,980
to whom the letter
should be shown.

392

00:16:20,980 --> 00:16:22,060

And you got this letter.

393

00:16:22,060 --> 00:16:23,920

We got this letter
in Switzerland.

394

00:16:23,920 --> 00:16:25,810

For instance, he starts
saying in one letter,

395

00:16:25,810 --> 00:16:28,750

"We beg of you with tears
running from our eyes.

396

00:16:28,750 --> 00:16:31,810

You have but one obligation
to raise money and money

397

00:16:31,810 --> 00:16:33,340

and money in large quantities.

398

00:16:33,340 --> 00:16:35,950

Or leave the advice
and suggestion to us.

399

00:16:35,950 --> 00:16:37,785

You also have a heart
to know and to feel

400

00:16:37,785 --> 00:16:39,910

when only we here and our
brothers in the condemned

401

00:16:39,910 --> 00:16:42,890

country can judge, being on
the spot, what should be done

402

00:16:42,890 --> 00:16:43,600

and what not.

403

00:16:43,600 --> 00:16:45,130

We have everything in our hands.

404

00:16:45,130 --> 00:16:46,840

There are many ways
to save, and it's

405

00:16:46,840 --> 00:16:48,970

a pity for the ones
which are already lost.

406

00:16:48,970 --> 00:16:51,850

There are many ways to save,
and there's only one thing

407

00:16:51,850 --> 00:16:53,890

missing that you
can't get hold of.

408

00:16:53,890 --> 00:16:55,180

And that is the money.

409

00:16:55,180 --> 00:16:57,130

Please do whatever
you can and even more.

410

00:16:57,130 --> 00:16:59,740

If you had the power to do
[? so ?] in these letters,

411

00:16:59,740 --> 00:17:00,940

how good would that be?

412

00:17:00,940 --> 00:17:03,580

Then we would put him under
oath to say the following,

413

00:17:03,580 --> 00:17:06,505

go to our brothers of Israel
and also to places of freedom.

414

00:17:06,505 --> 00:17:08,410

Go tell them, weep
and cry to them

415
00:17:08,410 --> 00:17:11,589
about the souls of the old
people we have [INAUDIBLE]

416
00:17:11,589 --> 00:17:14,470
shot cold in their beds
or leaning on the sticks.

417
00:17:14,470 --> 00:17:16,569
Tell them about the souls
of hundreds of thousands

418
00:17:16,569 --> 00:17:18,579
of the beautiful children,
the pure children

419
00:17:18,579 --> 00:17:21,220
murdered in the camps,
children buried alive.

420
00:17:21,220 --> 00:17:22,750
1,001 graves.

421
00:17:22,750 --> 00:17:25,660
Tell them about the souls of the
thousands who were suffocated

422
00:17:25,660 --> 00:17:27,369
by smoke in the death houses.

423
00:17:27,369 --> 00:17:30,190
Cry about the pure souls
awaiting compassion

424
00:17:30,190 --> 00:17:31,815
in the hearts of our
brothers of Israel

425
00:17:31,815 --> 00:17:33,982
about whom we know if that
they have the possibility

426

00:17:33,982 --> 00:17:34,630
to give money."

427

00:17:34,630 --> 00:17:36,520
And so on, and so on.

428

00:17:36,520 --> 00:17:39,700
If I read this letter, I
get myself tears in the eyes

429

00:17:39,700 --> 00:17:43,820
because I remember that in
this time, we were mightless.

430

00:17:43,820 --> 00:17:47,810
We sent out letters transmitted
to legislators to America.

431

00:17:47,810 --> 00:17:50,530
They tried to do something,
but it didn't do enough.

432

00:17:50,530 --> 00:17:53,310
They sent us money, and we sent
them on their way [INAUDIBLE]

433

00:17:53,310 --> 00:17:54,340
to Slovakia.

434

00:17:54,340 --> 00:18:01,120
But we see in other letters,
only drops in the sea.

435

00:18:01,120 --> 00:18:01,930
Yes.

436

00:18:01,930 --> 00:18:04,780
Weissmandl was always asking
for gigantic service--

437

00:18:04,780 --> 00:18:05,410
Yeah.

438
00:18:05,410 --> 00:18:09,700
But he had a plan to save the
Jews of the whole Europe, all

439
00:18:09,700 --> 00:18:10,900
the occupied land.

440
00:18:10,900 --> 00:18:14,800
You heard about-- I don't
know if you heard about it--

441
00:18:14,800 --> 00:18:16,450
Europa plan.

442
00:18:16,450 --> 00:18:17,140
Europa plan.

443
00:18:17,140 --> 00:18:17,980
And then later--

444
00:18:17,980 --> 00:18:19,630
It was a complete mad idea, no?

445
00:18:19,630 --> 00:18:21,910
It was a mad idea,
but we don't know.

446
00:18:21,910 --> 00:18:23,590
Maybe it would have succeeded.

447
00:18:23,590 --> 00:18:25,150
You don't know.

448
00:18:25,150 --> 00:18:26,260
We will know later on.

449
00:18:26,260 --> 00:18:29,380
We did some deals with
the Germans in '45

450

00:18:29,380 --> 00:18:32,590
and got out about 1,200 Jews.

451
00:18:32,590 --> 00:18:34,930
Where we promised only money,
we didn't give them money.

452
00:18:34,930 --> 00:18:36,070
We promised only money.

453
00:18:36,070 --> 00:18:38,320
Of course, at this time it
was a little bit different,

454
00:18:38,320 --> 00:18:40,480
in '45, because it was
not a matter of money.

455
00:18:40,480 --> 00:18:42,022
It was about the
end of the war, when

456
00:18:42,022 --> 00:18:44,990
the Germans were looking
for some [INAUDIBLE]

457
00:18:44,990 --> 00:18:46,780
to get a good press.

458
00:18:46,780 --> 00:18:47,770
I don't know.

459
00:18:47,770 --> 00:18:48,380
Maybe, yes.

460
00:18:48,380 --> 00:18:48,880
Maybe, no.

461
00:18:48,880 --> 00:18:49,690
We don't know.

462
00:18:49,690 --> 00:18:51,010

You can't judge now.

463

00:18:51,010 --> 00:18:55,570

And Weissmandl, himself,
in '44, he always writes,

464

00:18:55,570 --> 00:18:56,800

there are two possibilities.

465

00:18:56,800 --> 00:18:59,440

Yes, but [INAUDIBLE].

466

00:18:59,440 --> 00:19:00,976

But when you were
in Switzerland--

467

00:19:00,976 --> 00:19:03,900

when you researched
these letters,

468

00:19:03,900 --> 00:19:05,270

these desperate cables--

469

00:19:05,270 --> 00:19:05,770

Yeah.

470

00:19:05,770 --> 00:19:06,930

We were shocked.

471

00:19:06,930 --> 00:19:09,022

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

472

00:19:09,022 --> 00:19:09,730

You were shocked?

473

00:19:09,730 --> 00:19:10,600

We were shocked.

474

00:19:10,600 --> 00:19:13,370

And we were believing
if he writes

475

00:19:13,370 --> 00:19:15,288

this-- we didn't
deal with the German,

476

00:19:15,288 --> 00:19:16,330

he dealt with the German.

477

00:19:16,330 --> 00:19:17,140

Maybe he's right.

478

00:19:17,140 --> 00:19:19,720

Maybe you can have-- and we
sent letters to Mr. Sternbuch.

479

00:19:19,720 --> 00:19:25,580

We sent letters via the
Polish Legation to New York

480

00:19:25,580 --> 00:19:30,990

and also via the
consul general of--

481

00:19:30,990 --> 00:19:34,960

no, the legation of
United States in Bern,

482

00:19:34,960 --> 00:19:37,960

who sent the letters because
the War Refugee Board

483

00:19:37,960 --> 00:19:39,850

was not yet established.

484

00:19:39,850 --> 00:19:42,250

It was just the beginning
of the rescue work.

485

00:19:42,250 --> 00:19:43,670

And I remember the name.

486

00:19:43,670 --> 00:19:47,740

I think it was Consul Woods

who was very cooperative.

487

00:19:47,740 --> 00:19:50,080

He took out the cables
and sent them to--

488

00:19:50,080 --> 00:19:52,480

And I would like to know,
what did you believe exactly--

489

00:19:52,480 --> 00:19:53,313

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

490

00:19:53,313 --> 00:19:55,960

At this time, we
believed that there

491

00:19:55,960 --> 00:19:57,220

is a possibility [INAUDIBLE].

492

00:19:57,220 --> 00:19:59,270

You believed about the fact--

493

00:19:59,270 --> 00:19:59,770

Yeah.

494

00:19:59,770 --> 00:20:04,090

We believed that when he writes,
that he has the possibility

495

00:20:04,090 --> 00:20:05,440

to save souls with money.

496

00:20:05,440 --> 00:20:06,560

We believed him, 100%.

497

00:20:06,560 --> 00:20:07,060

Yes.

498

00:20:07,060 --> 00:20:07,870

This you believed.

499

00:20:07,870 --> 00:20:08,560
100%.

500

00:20:08,560 --> 00:20:10,810
And, of course, you
believed about what

501

00:20:10,810 --> 00:20:12,530
he said about the killings.

502

00:20:12,530 --> 00:20:13,030
Oh, sure.

503

00:20:13,030 --> 00:20:15,430
That we knew already from
some other sources too.

504

00:20:15,430 --> 00:20:16,180
Yes.

505

00:20:16,180 --> 00:20:18,095
You were completely aware of--

506

00:20:18,095 --> 00:20:18,970
--of what's going on.

507

00:20:18,970 --> 00:20:20,897
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

508

00:20:20,897 --> 00:20:21,480
Yeah, we were.

509

00:20:21,480 --> 00:20:23,040
We were quite aware.

510

00:20:23,040 --> 00:20:26,440
In fact, we were the
first one to transmit

511

00:20:26,440 --> 00:20:30,310
the study of the killings

to the United States.

512
00:20:30,310 --> 00:20:32,110
Yes.

513
00:20:32,110 --> 00:20:34,630
But you believed, like
him, that the money--

514
00:20:34,630 --> 00:20:35,860
--money could save them.

515
00:20:35,860 --> 00:20:36,860
Money could save.

516
00:20:36,860 --> 00:20:37,990
Yeah.

517
00:20:37,990 --> 00:20:40,900
Also, what he asked in
the previous letters--

518
00:20:40,900 --> 00:20:43,810
he asked for money to
save Jews from Poland,

519
00:20:43,810 --> 00:20:47,200
who came in-- to bring them
by smugglers out from Poland

520
00:20:47,200 --> 00:20:52,090
into Slovakia and from
Slovakia later to Hungary.

521
00:20:52,090 --> 00:20:54,860
And he succeeded with
quite a few hundred people.

522
00:20:54,860 --> 00:20:58,780
But he didn't have enough
money to hire more smugglers.

523

00:20:58,780 --> 00:21:00,920
Yes.

524
00:21:00,920 --> 00:21:09,125
This was in the
years 1942, 1943.

525
00:21:09,125 --> 00:21:10,384
43,

526
00:21:10,384 --> 00:21:13,050
[SPEAKING FRENCH]

527
00:21:13,050 --> 00:21:18,370
Well, but I am
convinced that you--

528
00:21:18,370 --> 00:21:23,070
I am convinced that you believe
in the reports of Weissmandl,

529
00:21:23,070 --> 00:21:28,750
but were you as sure as he was,
I mean at the time in 1942,

530
00:21:28,750 --> 00:21:30,600
'43?

531
00:21:30,600 --> 00:21:34,200
Were you so sure about
the real possibilities

532
00:21:34,200 --> 00:21:35,790
of rescue through money.

533
00:21:35,790 --> 00:21:41,130
Yeah, '42 into mid '43,
still we are 100% sure

534
00:21:41,130 --> 00:21:42,542
that there is a possibility.

535

00:21:42,542 --> 00:21:44,250

Of course, we understood
that it wouldn't

536

00:21:44,250 --> 00:21:47,610

be possible to save all the
Jews in the occupied countries

537

00:21:47,610 --> 00:21:49,890

because they started
to kill quite

538

00:21:49,890 --> 00:21:54,300

a lot of people from Poland
and Lithuania and so on.

539

00:21:54,300 --> 00:21:56,980

But we didn't know
at this time--

540

00:21:56,980 --> 00:21:59,550

we did not know that
Hungary would also

541

00:21:59,550 --> 00:22:02,670

be totally destroyed.

542

00:22:02,670 --> 00:22:05,190

But we were sure
that when Weissmandl

543

00:22:05,190 --> 00:22:07,350

writes that he has
some possibility

544

00:22:07,350 --> 00:22:10,980

to save the Jews, or some of
them, that he could do it.

545

00:22:10,980 --> 00:22:13,950

The amount of money
he was asking--

546

00:22:13,950 --> 00:22:15,900
Yeah, the amount of money--

547
00:22:15,900 --> 00:22:19,410
in this time, he thought
maybe \$100 or \$200 per person.

548
00:22:19,410 --> 00:22:21,030
But when we got
the other letters,

549
00:22:21,030 --> 00:22:24,650
he writes that he needs millions
and millions of dollars,

550
00:22:24,650 --> 00:22:27,600
we began to get a
little bit skeptical

551
00:22:27,600 --> 00:22:29,490
if it would be possible
to raise the money.

552
00:22:29,490 --> 00:22:31,020
To raise the money.

553
00:22:31,020 --> 00:22:34,440
That he still could do
it, we were quite sure.

554
00:22:34,440 --> 00:22:35,450
This was your--

555
00:22:35,450 --> 00:22:36,450
It was our opinion.

556
00:22:36,450 --> 00:22:37,500
We didn't know.

557
00:22:37,500 --> 00:22:41,940
But we were of opinion that
he wouldn't ask if he wouldn't

558

00:22:41,940 --> 00:22:44,260
have seen the possibility.

559

00:22:44,260 --> 00:22:49,110
But later on then, in '44, he
starts to write quite different

560

00:22:49,110 --> 00:22:52,860
letters that there
were two ways to--

561

00:22:52,860 --> 00:22:56,330
Yes, because it seems that there
had been, really, two periods--

562

00:22:56,330 --> 00:22:58,440
--in his own opinion.

563

00:22:58,440 --> 00:23:02,220
In the beginning, I think he was
100% sure that what he wants,

564

00:23:02,220 --> 00:23:03,840
he can succeed.

565

00:23:03,840 --> 00:23:08,320
I have the feeling that in the
first period, he was acting--

566

00:23:08,320 --> 00:23:11,160
He was acting in
the old Talmudic way

567

00:23:11,160 --> 00:23:14,490
that you have to bribe
the Gentiles if you

568

00:23:14,490 --> 00:23:16,340
want to save Jewish lives.

569

00:23:16,340 --> 00:23:18,120
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

570

00:23:18,120 --> 00:23:23,970

You have to bribe them because
this was in the middle age.

571

00:23:23,970 --> 00:23:26,100

And in the olden times,
this was always the case.

572

00:23:26,100 --> 00:23:28,800

If you bribe the Gentile,
you would save you.

573

00:23:28,800 --> 00:23:32,440

If you don't bribe
him, you're lost.

574

00:23:32,440 --> 00:23:35,760

The only way to fight
him was to bribe him.

575

00:23:35,760 --> 00:23:39,060

It is the reason why money
was so important for them.

576

00:23:39,060 --> 00:23:40,792

For him, sure.

577

00:23:40,792 --> 00:23:42,090

For the Jews.

578

00:23:42,090 --> 00:23:44,940

That's why also the
Jews had to have money

579

00:23:44,940 --> 00:23:48,150

because, first of all,
they're so much persecuted

580

00:23:48,150 --> 00:23:52,530

that they didn't
even succeed to amass

581

00:23:52,530 --> 00:23:53,910

property and things like this.

582

00:23:53,910 --> 00:23:57,300

They had to have liquid
money to save themselves.

583

00:23:57,300 --> 00:24:00,130

And furthermore, they
knew that with this money,

584

00:24:00,130 --> 00:24:01,860

they can help themselves.

585

00:24:01,860 --> 00:24:02,370

Yes.

586

00:24:02,370 --> 00:24:03,630

Weissmandl--

587

00:24:03,630 --> 00:24:05,980

Weissmandl was
thinking in this way.

588

00:24:05,980 --> 00:24:08,260

And I don't think,
in the beginning,

589

00:24:08,260 --> 00:24:12,690

he had the intention to fight
the way he later on wanted

590

00:24:12,690 --> 00:24:15,240

to have us to act.

591

00:24:15,240 --> 00:24:16,380

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

592

00:24:16,380 --> 00:24:19,337

In the first period, he acted
absolutely as a non-violent--

593

00:24:19,337 --> 00:24:19,920

A non-violent.

594

00:24:19,920 --> 00:24:21,420

100%, non-violent.

595

00:24:21,420 --> 00:24:21,920

He refused--

596

00:24:21,920 --> 00:24:22,878

He refused to violent--

597

00:24:22,878 --> 00:24:23,460

--by the law.

598

00:24:23,460 --> 00:24:24,793

He never mentioned it.

599

00:24:24,793 --> 00:24:25,710

He never mentioned it.

600

00:24:25,710 --> 00:24:26,210

Yes.

601

00:24:26,210 --> 00:24:30,150

But what is interesting is
there is another letter of him--

602

00:24:30,150 --> 00:24:32,880

Oh, there is a letter there
where he writes both ways.

603

00:24:32,880 --> 00:24:35,580

604

00:24:35,580 --> 00:24:38,910

We see that he fights
within himself,

605

00:24:38,910 --> 00:24:41,280

which way is the correct way.

606
00:24:41,280 --> 00:24:44,580
Shall we try the old
way as a [NON-ENGLISH],,

607
00:24:44,580 --> 00:24:48,015
as an intermediary
to bribe the people,

608
00:24:48,015 --> 00:24:50,690
or would it be better to
fight them with terror.

609
00:24:50,690 --> 00:24:51,840
He, himself, told me--

610
00:24:51,840 --> 00:24:52,500
With terror?

611
00:24:52,500 --> 00:24:53,130
With terror.

612
00:24:53,130 --> 00:24:55,710
I remember he told
me once that he

613
00:24:55,710 --> 00:24:57,900
amassed some dynamite already.

614
00:24:57,900 --> 00:25:02,640
He had-- when he was in
hiding, he bought dynamite,

615
00:25:02,640 --> 00:25:05,490
and he wanted to
turn off the brakes

616
00:25:05,490 --> 00:25:08,790
to the tracks where the
deportation trains came

617
00:25:08,790 --> 00:25:11,070

from Hungary to Poland.

618
00:25:11,070 --> 00:25:12,690
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

619
00:25:12,690 --> 00:25:16,838
But I can't remember why he
didn't continue with this way.

620
00:25:16,838 --> 00:25:17,880
I can't remember anymore.

621
00:25:17,880 --> 00:25:18,900
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

622
00:25:18,900 --> 00:25:21,180
--members of his yeshiva.

623
00:25:21,180 --> 00:25:25,390
One of his pupils even wanted
to sacrifice himself and said,

624
00:25:25,390 --> 00:25:26,940
I have to die anyway.

625
00:25:26,940 --> 00:25:28,690
Let me do it.

626
00:25:28,690 --> 00:25:31,850
But it was never done.

627
00:25:31,850 --> 00:25:33,270
Yes, can you--

628
00:25:33,270 --> 00:25:34,560
Of course, I have--

629
00:25:34,560 --> 00:25:36,000
if you want to hear something.

630
00:25:36,000 --> 00:25:39,030

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

631
00:25:39,030 --> 00:25:42,270
He was a real inclination and
the very interesting thing

632
00:25:42,270 --> 00:25:45,430
is that he, himself, didn't
want to make this decision.

633
00:25:45,430 --> 00:25:48,720
He wants us-- the
Jews in America--

634
00:25:48,720 --> 00:25:51,960
to make the decision,
which way he should act.

635
00:25:51,960 --> 00:25:54,380
If he should act in
the way that he started

636
00:25:54,380 --> 00:25:56,800
his dealings with
the Germans or if he

637
00:25:56,800 --> 00:25:58,420
should use the way of terror.

638
00:25:58,420 --> 00:26:02,550
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

639
00:26:02,550 --> 00:26:05,150
I can read your a few
sentences of this letter.

640
00:26:05,150 --> 00:26:08,440

641
00:26:08,440 --> 00:26:11,490
This letter, I
think that's in '44.

642

00:26:11,490 --> 00:26:12,630

Some time in '44.

643

00:26:12,630 --> 00:26:16,680

It's in May '44, at

the end of May '44.

644

00:26:16,680 --> 00:26:20,580

There he writes, for instance--

645

00:26:20,580 --> 00:26:21,460

Read slowly, please.

646

00:26:21,460 --> 00:26:21,960

Yeah.

647

00:26:21,960 --> 00:26:24,690

648

00:26:24,690 --> 00:26:27,120

"There are two ways to work.

649

00:26:27,120 --> 00:26:32,280

One, assumption all is
possible that in spite

650

00:26:32,280 --> 00:26:34,500

of the terrible killings
and the horrible deceit,

651

00:26:34,500 --> 00:26:37,408

the German offer is real."

652

00:26:37,408 --> 00:26:38,700

This means the German offered--

653

00:26:38,700 --> 00:26:42,180

The German offered to
negotiate with him.

654

00:26:42,180 --> 00:26:44,640

"And the other side, you
have no expressions that

655
00:26:44,640 --> 00:26:47,190
can explain to you
how much we believe

656
00:26:47,190 --> 00:26:48,990
that there are certainly
more than enough

657
00:26:48,990 --> 00:26:50,520
reasons not to believe them.

658
00:26:50,520 --> 00:26:53,490
We have to conduct our action
and intention by the ground

659
00:26:53,490 --> 00:26:55,100
that the intention is real.

660
00:26:55,100 --> 00:26:58,785
We have to end the negotiation
in the best way, in their eyes,

661
00:26:58,785 --> 00:27:01,110
so that what happened
in the summer of '42

662
00:27:01,110 --> 00:27:03,850
should under no
circumstances happen again."

663
00:27:03,850 --> 00:27:06,480
That means that we
should not let them down.

664
00:27:06,480 --> 00:27:07,910
So pay their demands.

665
00:27:07,910 --> 00:27:09,870
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

666

00:27:09,870 --> 00:27:10,990

Yes.

667

00:27:10,990 --> 00:27:11,490

One minute.

668

00:27:11,490 --> 00:27:13,300

We must try to be clear.

669

00:27:13,300 --> 00:27:16,530

It means that in '42,
they couldn't go on

670

00:27:16,530 --> 00:27:18,500

with the dealings because
they had no money.

671

00:27:18,500 --> 00:27:19,250

They had no money.

672

00:27:19,250 --> 00:27:20,350

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

673

00:27:20,350 --> 00:27:22,950

And he's afraid that if
you start negotiations

674

00:27:22,950 --> 00:27:26,560

again and doesn't come
up with the money,

675

00:27:26,560 --> 00:27:27,750

it would be even worse.

676

00:27:27,750 --> 00:27:28,980

That should not happen again.

677

00:27:28,980 --> 00:27:30,450

This means he wants to go on--

678

00:27:30,450 --> 00:27:34,650

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

679

00:27:34,650 --> 00:27:35,190

Excuse me.

680

00:27:35,190 --> 00:27:39,150

As a matter of fact, he
doesn't believe the Germans.

681

00:27:39,150 --> 00:27:42,576

It's as if he thinks
that he must act as if--

682

00:27:42,576 --> 00:27:44,490

--as if he wants to do so.

683

00:27:44,490 --> 00:27:47,370

But he says, in this
letter, that he still

684

00:27:47,370 --> 00:27:50,270

believes the German mean it.

685

00:27:50,270 --> 00:27:52,380

[BACKGROUND NOISES]

686

00:27:52,380 --> 00:27:53,865

What happened?

687

00:27:53,865 --> 00:27:57,830

(slate stated by filming crew)

688

00:27:57,830 --> 00:27:59,010

It's very interesting.

689

00:27:59,010 --> 00:28:00,870

If you look at
the letters, which

690

00:28:00,870 --> 00:28:05,580

we've got from Weissmandl,
he changed his own opinion

691
00:28:05,580 --> 00:28:07,740
in the beginning as
mentioned before.

692
00:28:07,740 --> 00:28:10,530
He always was against
terror, against violence

693
00:28:10,530 --> 00:28:14,910
with everything to be done
in dealing with the Germans.

694
00:28:14,910 --> 00:28:19,170
But later on, when he saw
that he doesn't know exactly

695
00:28:19,170 --> 00:28:21,450
if he will succeed
with these dealings

696
00:28:21,450 --> 00:28:24,030
or if the dealings
alone would help,

697
00:28:24,030 --> 00:28:26,140
he started to change his mind.

698
00:28:26,140 --> 00:28:28,810
And he gives us
two possibilities.

699
00:28:28,810 --> 00:28:29,310
Yes.

700
00:28:29,310 --> 00:28:32,100
But this is a letter
which was written--

701
00:28:32,100 --> 00:28:33,450
--written much later.

702

00:28:33,450 --> 00:28:36,280

This letter which we got
from him, I think was in May.

703

00:28:36,280 --> 00:28:36,810

Let me see.

704

00:28:36,810 --> 00:28:38,530

I think I marked
it down somewhere.

705

00:28:38,530 --> 00:28:44,250

Yeah, it was written
somewhere in the end of May.

706

00:28:44,250 --> 00:28:48,630

End of May, 1944, when
the deportation of Hungary

707

00:28:48,630 --> 00:28:52,770

have already started and when
he saw every day the trains

708

00:28:52,770 --> 00:28:56,940

passing by for his own eyes and
hundreds of thousands of Jews

709

00:28:56,940 --> 00:28:57,780

perished.

710

00:28:57,780 --> 00:29:03,240

Then it came to his mind that
dealings alone doesn't help.

711

00:29:03,240 --> 00:29:04,770

He has to go the other way.

712

00:29:04,770 --> 00:29:09,270

He has to start
with bombing trains

713

00:29:09,270 --> 00:29:13,560

or tearing off the

tracks of the cars

714

00:29:13,560 --> 00:29:18,150
and not to rely
only on dealings.

715

00:29:18,150 --> 00:29:21,300
And he writes in his
letter, there are two ways.

716

00:29:21,300 --> 00:29:23,520
He, himself, gives us to ways.

717

00:29:23,520 --> 00:29:26,620
In one way he said-- assumption
[? R ?] he calls it--

718

00:29:26,620 --> 00:29:29,660
assumption [? R ?] that
we should try further on

719

00:29:29,660 --> 00:29:31,110
to deal with German.

720

00:29:31,110 --> 00:29:33,450
Maybe they mean it.

721

00:29:33,450 --> 00:29:34,650
You can believe them.

722

00:29:34,650 --> 00:29:37,620
And the other side,
maybe they do this only

723

00:29:37,620 --> 00:29:41,970
to bring us to peace
of mind, that we

724

00:29:41,970 --> 00:29:45,720
Jews in Slovakia and in
Hungary, think that the German

725

00:29:45,720 --> 00:29:46,890
wants to deal with them.

726
00:29:46,890 --> 00:29:49,920
And it would be easier
for them to deceive them

727
00:29:49,920 --> 00:29:51,510
and to deport them.

728
00:29:51,510 --> 00:29:53,850
I can talk from
my own experience

729
00:29:53,850 --> 00:29:57,060
because I was quite a
while under German rule.

730
00:29:57,060 --> 00:30:00,930
I was a member of the
Judenrat in Belgium.

731
00:30:00,930 --> 00:30:06,300
And in 1942, we got the
order from the Germans

732
00:30:06,300 --> 00:30:12,720
to collect all the names of all
the Jews for certain purposes.

733
00:30:12,720 --> 00:30:16,080
We didn't think that
it was for deportation.

734
00:30:16,080 --> 00:30:21,060
And of course, we followed
their regulations.

735
00:30:21,060 --> 00:30:24,210
We collected all the names,
and we gave them all the lists.

736
00:30:24,210 --> 00:30:28,540

And later on, of course, they
came to everybody in the house.

737
00:30:28,540 --> 00:30:30,310
The only thing what
was good in systems

738
00:30:30,310 --> 00:30:32,460
still that they
didn't take us right

739
00:30:32,460 --> 00:30:36,390
from our homes and houses.

740
00:30:36,390 --> 00:30:40,350
They only invited us to
appear before a certain camp.

741
00:30:40,350 --> 00:30:42,480
And from this camp, they
later on were deported.

742
00:30:42,480 --> 00:30:45,780
When I got this letter, although
I was a member of the Judenrat,

743
00:30:45,780 --> 00:30:47,100
I could have been saved.

744
00:30:47,100 --> 00:30:51,090
I preferred to leave the
country when I went illegally

745
00:30:51,090 --> 00:30:53,130
to Switzerland.

746
00:30:53,130 --> 00:30:54,900
When you got which letter?

747
00:30:54,900 --> 00:30:59,670
When I got the letter from the
German in Belgium to the people

748

00:30:59,670 --> 00:31:01,320
to come to the camp--

749

00:31:01,320 --> 00:31:04,560

750

00:31:04,560 --> 00:31:05,730
to the camp in Malin.

751

00:31:05,730 --> 00:31:07,650
I knew what was going on.

752

00:31:07,650 --> 00:31:11,220
I didn't believe them that they
would send us to work camps,

753

00:31:11,220 --> 00:31:14,270
but I felt that it
would be the end of us.

754

00:31:14,270 --> 00:31:18,200
So I decided with my wife
to pack up and go illegally.

755

00:31:18,200 --> 00:31:20,410
And you stopped to be a
member of the Judenrat.

756

00:31:20,410 --> 00:31:20,910
Oh, sure.

757

00:31:20,910 --> 00:31:21,630
I left it.

758

00:31:21,630 --> 00:31:24,200
And in fact, I was told later
on I was the first member

759

00:31:24,200 --> 00:31:25,220
of the Judenrat.

760

00:31:25,220 --> 00:31:27,410

And when they heard
that I left the country,

761

00:31:27,410 --> 00:31:29,750

everybody went to
my parents-in-law

762

00:31:29,750 --> 00:31:32,480

if they could have the name of
the address of the smuggler who

763

00:31:32,480 --> 00:31:34,730

brought us to Switzerland.

764

00:31:34,730 --> 00:31:38,630

You think that it was
wrong as a general policy

765

00:31:38,630 --> 00:31:41,180

from the side of the Judenrat.

766

00:31:41,180 --> 00:31:43,580

It happened everywhere,
as a matter of fact,

767

00:31:43,580 --> 00:31:47,560

to give the names of
the Jews to the Germans.

768

00:31:47,560 --> 00:31:50,390

No, the Jews shouldn't
have cooperated.

769

00:31:50,390 --> 00:31:53,090

But he did, unfortunately.

770

00:31:53,090 --> 00:31:56,970

In fact, I remember a case
when I arrived in Switzerland.

771

00:31:56,970 --> 00:31:58,265

A man came to--

772

00:31:58,265 --> 00:32:03,710
we were sent by the Swiss people
in a prison for illegal entry

773

00:32:03,710 --> 00:32:04,830
in the country.

774

00:32:04,830 --> 00:32:08,010
So the man comes to me and
says, are you not Mr. Landau.

775

00:32:08,010 --> 00:32:08,750
I said, yes.

776

00:32:08,750 --> 00:32:11,040
Have you been in
Judenrat in Belgium.

777

00:32:11,040 --> 00:32:11,540
Yes.

778

00:32:11,540 --> 00:32:14,530
He takes my two hands
and shakes hands.

779

00:32:14,530 --> 00:32:27,000