

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,320

2

00:00:04,320 --> 00:00:09,660

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

3

00:00:09,660 --> 00:00:12,210

Take my two hands, and said,  
Mr. Landau, I have to thank you.

4

00:00:12,210 --> 00:00:13,823

You saved my life.

5

00:00:13,823 --> 00:00:15,240

I asked him, how  
can you say this?

6

00:00:15,240 --> 00:00:15,948

I don't know you.

7

00:00:15,948 --> 00:00:17,340

He said, you don't remember?

8

00:00:17,340 --> 00:00:19,200

I came to you in the  
Judenrat and asked you,

9

00:00:19,200 --> 00:00:20,200

what should I do?

10

00:00:20,200 --> 00:00:23,220

And you told me you, sell your  
factory, and go to Switzerland.

11

00:00:23,220 --> 00:00:24,030

I went home.

12

00:00:24,030 --> 00:00:27,360

On the same day,  
I sold my factory,

13

00:00:27,360 --> 00:00:28,850  
and I came here to Switzerland.

14

00:00:28,850 --> 00:00:34,670  
So don't I have to thank  
you that you saved my life?

15

00:00:34,670 --> 00:00:35,670  
It was not my intention.

16

00:00:35,670 --> 00:00:37,500  
I knew as much as he knew.

17

00:00:37,500 --> 00:00:41,280  
But I gave him just  
advice, because I

18

00:00:41,280 --> 00:00:44,370  
felt the Jews in Belgium,  
if they stayed there,

19

00:00:44,370 --> 00:00:47,220  
would perish.

20

00:00:47,220 --> 00:00:51,540  
That's only to tell you  
what the feeling was.

21

00:00:51,540 --> 00:00:54,118  
And it would have been better  
not to give and not to comply

22

00:00:54,118 --> 00:00:55,410  
with the orders of the Germans.

23

00:00:55,410 --> 00:00:56,060  
Of course.

24

00:00:56,060 --> 00:00:58,650  
At this time, I was  
thinking that it was not

25

00:00:58,650 --> 00:01:00,510  
right to cooperate.

26

00:01:00,510 --> 00:01:02,475  
Also, that all the  
members of the Judenrat--

27

00:01:02,475 --> 00:01:04,319  
especially the  
president, and so on--

28

00:01:04,319 --> 00:01:05,918  
they acted in good faith.

29

00:01:05,918 --> 00:01:06,960  
They acted in good faith.

30

00:01:06,960 --> 00:01:07,650  
In good faith.

31

00:01:07,650 --> 00:01:11,540  
But they didn't have enough  
wisdom to see what's going on

32

00:01:11,540 --> 00:01:13,435  
and what will happen.

33

00:01:13,435 --> 00:01:17,970  
And what would have happened if  
this policy of non-cooperation

34

00:01:17,970 --> 00:01:18,570  
[INAUDIBLE]?

35

00:01:18,570 --> 00:01:20,880  
They would have been deported.

36

00:01:20,880 --> 00:01:24,690  
Or they would have been replaced  
by other people who would maybe

37

00:01:24,690 --> 00:01:25,440  
comply or not.

38  
00:01:25,440 --> 00:01:26,340  
That, we don't know.

39  
00:01:26,340 --> 00:01:29,610  
But what would have  
saved a lot of people,

40  
00:01:29,610 --> 00:01:34,140  
because the German didn't  
know the addresses of the Jews

41  
00:01:34,140 --> 00:01:34,860  
in Belgium.

42  
00:01:34,860 --> 00:01:38,280  
And quite a few of those  
people who didn't register

43  
00:01:38,280 --> 00:01:38,970  
stayed alive.

44  
00:01:38,970 --> 00:01:43,920  
They were hidden by gentiles  
and came out with their life.

45  
00:01:43,920 --> 00:01:47,700  
And do you think-- because  
this is an accusation,

46  
00:01:47,700 --> 00:01:50,700  
which is often given--

47  
00:01:50,700 --> 00:01:57,720  
that the members of the  
Judenrat, in many cases,

48  
00:01:57,720 --> 00:02:02,010  
complied because they intended  
to save their own lives?

49

00:02:02,010 --> 00:02:05,610

That if they don't, they knew  
that if they didn't comply,

50

00:02:05,610 --> 00:02:08,370

they would have  
been the first one.

51

00:02:08,370 --> 00:02:09,148

That could be.

52

00:02:09,148 --> 00:02:10,110

That could be.

53

00:02:10,110 --> 00:02:15,690

Also, I think they didn't  
realize, really, what they did.

54

00:02:15,690 --> 00:02:19,850

But they would-- if you are  
on the head of a Judenrat,

55

00:02:19,850 --> 00:02:21,930

and the head, and take  
the responsibility

56

00:02:21,930 --> 00:02:24,540

for the Jew in your  
city or in your country,

57

00:02:24,540 --> 00:02:25,770

you have to be more clever.

58

00:02:25,770 --> 00:02:30,000

And unfortunately, besides some  
exceptions like the president

59

00:02:30,000 --> 00:02:32,520

of the community in  
Å Å<sup>3</sup>dÅ<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Litzmannstadt--

60

00:02:32,520 --> 00:02:37,200

when he was forced to give  
a certain amount of children

61  
00:02:37,200 --> 00:02:41,820  
every day for the concentration  
camps, he took his life.

62  
00:02:41,820 --> 00:02:43,680  
No.

63  
00:02:43,680 --> 00:02:44,220  
Oh, yes.

64  
00:02:44,220 --> 00:02:45,420  
No, you made a mistake.

65  
00:02:45,420 --> 00:02:46,800  
It's not Litzmannstadt.

66  
00:02:46,800 --> 00:02:47,367  
It's Warsaw.

67  
00:02:47,367 --> 00:02:47,950  
Oh, in Warsaw.

68  
00:02:47,950 --> 00:02:48,450  
Excuse me.

69  
00:02:48,450 --> 00:02:49,410  
Yeah.

70  
00:02:49,410 --> 00:02:50,040  
Excuse me.

71  
00:02:50,040 --> 00:02:50,890  
In Warsaw.

72  
00:02:50,890 --> 00:02:52,372  
It's Czerniakow, not Rumkowski.

73  
00:02:52,372 --> 00:02:53,256

Exactly.

74

00:02:53,256 --> 00:02:54,110

You got it right.

75

00:02:54,110 --> 00:02:55,072

Yeah.

76

00:02:55,072 --> 00:02:56,640

All right, let's go back to --

77

00:02:56,640 --> 00:02:57,960

So we're better.

78

00:02:57,960 --> 00:03:00,810

We're going back to what  
we said about Weissmandel.

79

00:03:00,810 --> 00:03:02,580

And if you read in  
his letters, you'll

80

00:03:02,580 --> 00:03:04,780

see that he changed his mind.

81

00:03:04,780 --> 00:03:07,220

He saw that the old way,  
that the modern way,

82

00:03:07,220 --> 00:03:14,550

the historical way to try to  
bribe was not good anymore.

83

00:03:14,550 --> 00:03:19,000

When he saw that the  
trains from Hungary were

84

00:03:19,000 --> 00:03:20,460

loading, and  
loading, and loading,

85

00:03:20,460 --> 00:03:25,170

and got any messages  
from Auschwitz that they

86  
00:03:25,170 --> 00:03:27,510  
were killed there,  
then he decided

87  
00:03:27,510 --> 00:03:29,530  
to start with the other way.

88  
00:03:29,530 --> 00:03:30,030  
Yes.

89  
00:03:30,030 --> 00:03:32,848  
He would have already met the  
two escapees of Auschwitz.

90  
00:03:32,848 --> 00:03:34,140  
The two escapee from Auschwitz.

91  
00:03:34,140 --> 00:03:36,120  
Rudolf Vrba and Alfred Wetzler.

92  
00:03:36,120 --> 00:03:38,610  
And then he writes  
in his letters

93  
00:03:38,610 --> 00:03:42,060  
that he leaves it up  
to the Jews in America

94  
00:03:42,060 --> 00:03:45,420  
to decide which way  
he should take--

95  
00:03:45,420 --> 00:03:49,170  
if he should take that old way,  
which he calls assumption A,

96  
00:03:49,170 --> 00:03:52,110  
or if you should  
start with violence,



97

00:03:52,110 --> 00:03:56,940  
assumption B. And in the other  
way he, himself, gives order.

98

00:03:56,940 --> 00:03:59,850  
We got cables from him  
where he gives instructions

99

00:03:59,850 --> 00:04:03,945  
to bomb the tracks.

100

00:04:03,945 --> 00:04:05,890  
What exactly are  
the two assumptions?

101

00:04:05,890 --> 00:04:06,736  
Yeah.

102

00:04:06,736 --> 00:04:07,830  
May I read it to you now?

103

00:04:07,830 --> 00:04:11,250  
Yes, you can, but  
slowly and clearly.

104

00:04:11,250 --> 00:04:13,380  
Yeah.

105

00:04:13,380 --> 00:04:16,810  
This means that there were two  
different theories, A and B.

106

00:04:16,810 --> 00:04:17,310  
Yeah.

107

00:04:17,310 --> 00:04:21,360  
He calls it assumption A and  
assumption B, the assumption--

108

00:04:21,360 --> 00:04:23,220  
I think I read it  
already to you--

109  
00:04:23,220 --> 00:04:25,780  
"that, in spite of the  
terrible killings," and so on.

110  
00:04:25,780 --> 00:04:28,350  
And then he starts  
with assumption B.

111  
00:04:28,350 --> 00:04:32,310  
"It is possible and probable  
that all is a lie, an attempt

112  
00:04:32,310 --> 00:04:34,230  
to disguise and mislead.

113  
00:04:34,230 --> 00:04:36,750  
They negotiate in order  
to arise our confidence

114  
00:04:36,750 --> 00:04:38,790  
and believe in them  
in order to diminish

115  
00:04:38,790 --> 00:04:40,380  
the resistance of the Jews.

116  
00:04:40,380 --> 00:04:43,330  
They negotiate in order to  
delay any more resistance,

117  
00:04:43,330 --> 00:04:44,760  
such as radio and papers.

118  
00:04:44,760 --> 00:04:46,710  
If there are  
negotiations, then the Jew

119  
00:04:46,710 --> 00:04:48,570  
would determine  
the public opinion

120

00:04:48,570 --> 00:04:50,280  
and probably squash  
any resistance.

121  
00:04:50,280 --> 00:04:52,530  
And though we have to base  
our behavior in the insight

122  
00:04:52,530 --> 00:04:54,480  
and regarding the  
money on assumption

123  
00:04:54,480 --> 00:04:56,490  
A, theoretically  
and practically,

124  
00:04:56,490 --> 00:04:58,860  
we have to accept assumption  
B. And for this--"

125  
00:04:58,860 --> 00:05:00,620  
[NON-ENGLISH] No.

126  
00:05:00,620 --> 00:05:02,620  
[NON-ENGLISH] No, you read it--

127  
00:05:02,620 --> 00:05:03,120  
Too fast?

128  
00:05:03,120 --> 00:05:03,620  
No.

129  
00:05:03,620 --> 00:05:04,912  
(film slating)

130  
00:05:04,912 --> 00:05:06,710

131  
00:05:06,710 --> 00:05:10,250  
Allow me to read you the  
letter with this assumption

132

00:05:10,250 --> 00:05:11,750  
A with Weissmandel--

133  
00:05:11,750 --> 00:05:12,680  
Assumption A.

134  
00:05:12,680 --> 00:05:14,840  
--if you are interested.

135  
00:05:14,840 --> 00:05:17,390  
And therefore assumption,  
"A is possible--

136  
00:05:17,390 --> 00:05:19,490  
that, in spite of  
the terrible killings

137  
00:05:19,490 --> 00:05:23,070  
and the horrible deceit,  
the German offer is real.

138  
00:05:23,070 --> 00:05:25,460  
Some heads, those  
who make decisions,

139  
00:05:25,460 --> 00:05:28,280  
and possibly those who  
conceive Himmler's ideas

140  
00:05:28,280 --> 00:05:30,350  
or at least influence  
him, believe

141  
00:05:30,350 --> 00:05:33,260  
that they can put the burden of  
the past on Hitler and Himmler,

142  
00:05:33,260 --> 00:05:35,030  
and that the present  
and future, they

143  
00:05:35,030 --> 00:05:37,220  
can write by

themselves, and by this

144  
00:05:37,220 --> 00:05:39,020  
buy their right for  
the next world."

145  
00:05:39,020 --> 00:05:45,140  
That means that they get a  
good person, after the war,

146  
00:05:45,140 --> 00:05:46,700  
they will go free.

147  
00:05:46,700 --> 00:05:48,320  
Yes.

148  
00:05:48,320 --> 00:05:51,800  
A, he says, Weissmandel,  
"One has to give immediately,

149  
00:05:51,800 --> 00:05:55,850  
only in real, not only in words,  
possibly more money and less

150  
00:05:55,850 --> 00:05:56,810  
goods.

151  
00:05:56,810 --> 00:06:00,130  
B, one has to work  
with both ways.

152  
00:06:00,130 --> 00:06:04,730  
C, we have no expression that  
explain to you how much we

153  
00:06:04,730 --> 00:06:06,680  
believe that though  
we are certainly

154  
00:06:06,680 --> 00:06:09,200  
more than enough reasons  
not to believe them,

155

00:06:09,200 --> 00:06:12,890

we have to conduct our action  
and intention by the ground

156

00:06:12,890 --> 00:06:14,630

that their intention is real.

157

00:06:14,630 --> 00:06:16,820

And we have to  
answer negotiations

158

00:06:16,820 --> 00:06:18,560

in the best way in their eyes."

159

00:06:18,560 --> 00:06:21,170

That is very, very  
interesting, because he

160

00:06:21,170 --> 00:06:24,132

says there are enough  
reasons not to believe them.

161

00:06:24,132 --> 00:06:24,965

Not to believe them.

162

00:06:24,965 --> 00:06:28,260

But in the other way,  
we have to continue.

163

00:06:28,260 --> 00:06:29,690

We have to act as if--

164

00:06:29,690 --> 00:06:32,040

As if we mean it.

165

00:06:32,040 --> 00:06:32,540

Yes.

166

00:06:32,540 --> 00:06:32,780

Yeah.

167

00:06:32,780 --> 00:06:33,210  
And then he--

168  
00:06:33,210 --> 00:06:34,020  
As if we meant it.

169  
00:06:34,020 --> 00:06:34,520  
Yeah.

170  
00:06:34,520 --> 00:06:36,920  
"And what happened  
in the summer of '42

171  
00:06:36,920 --> 00:06:39,410  
should, under no  
circumstances, happen again."

172  
00:06:39,410 --> 00:06:41,750  
That means that it shouldn't  
happen, the same thing

173  
00:06:41,750 --> 00:06:44,120  
in Slovakia, with the \$25,000.

174  
00:06:44,120 --> 00:06:47,790  
Maybe I have talked  
about it before.

175  
00:06:47,790 --> 00:06:50,660  
And then now he comes  
to his assumption B.

176  
00:06:50,660 --> 00:06:55,310  
"It is possible and probable  
that all is a lie, an attempt

177  
00:06:55,310 --> 00:06:57,470  
to disguise and mislead.

178  
00:06:57,470 --> 00:07:00,950  
They negotiate in order  
to arise our confidence

179

00:07:00,950 --> 00:07:03,110  
and believe in them  
in order to diminish

180

00:07:03,110 --> 00:07:04,850  
the resistance of the Jews.

181

00:07:04,850 --> 00:07:08,610  
They negotiate in order to  
delay any more resistance,

182

00:07:08,610 --> 00:07:10,310  
such as radio and papers.

183

00:07:10,310 --> 00:07:14,030  
If there are negotiations,  
then the Jews

184

00:07:14,030 --> 00:07:15,890  
would determine  
the public opinion

185

00:07:15,890 --> 00:07:17,690  
and probably squash  
any resistance."

186

00:07:17,690 --> 00:07:22,550  
This means precisely that the  
Germans negotiate with the--

187

00:07:22,550 --> 00:07:24,900  
Only negotiate  
with the Polish --

188

00:07:24,900 --> 00:07:28,180  
Not to diminish their  
resistance and to lead them

189

00:07:28,180 --> 00:07:29,660  
more easily to Auschwitz.

190

00:07:29,660 --> 00:07:31,560



Yeah, that's what I said before.

191

00:07:31,560 --> 00:07:35,180

He wants that the Jews should  
believe that they really

192

00:07:35,180 --> 00:07:38,960

mean it, that their  
offer is a genuine one.

193

00:07:38,960 --> 00:07:42,560

But they, themselves, want  
that the Jews should calm down,

194

00:07:42,560 --> 00:07:44,090

should not have any resistance.

195

00:07:44,090 --> 00:07:48,590

And it would be easier for them  
to deport them and kill them

196

00:07:48,590 --> 00:07:50,780

in Auschwitz.

197

00:07:50,780 --> 00:07:53,390

And then he gives  
all the possibilities

198

00:07:53,390 --> 00:07:56,080

of the way of violence.

199

00:07:56,080 --> 00:07:56,900

What does he say?

200

00:07:56,900 --> 00:08:01,230

201

00:08:01,230 --> 00:08:04,230

"And though we have to base  
our behavior in the insight

202

00:08:04,230 --> 00:08:07,770

and regarding the money on  
assumption A, theoretically

203  
00:08:07,770 --> 00:08:10,260  
and practically, we have  
to accept our assumption

204  
00:08:10,260 --> 00:08:13,890  
B. And for this purpose,  
we demand strongly,

205  
00:08:13,890 --> 00:08:17,160  
A, the destruction of all  
the ways leading from Hungary

206  
00:08:17,160 --> 00:08:20,280  
to Poland and to Germany,  
especially the roads,"

207  
00:08:20,280 --> 00:08:21,750  
so and so on.

208  
00:08:21,750 --> 00:08:24,540  
"B, the destructions has to  
be close to the departure

209  
00:08:24,540 --> 00:08:27,250  
points as to prevent  
the use of other roads."

210  
00:08:27,250 --> 00:08:29,910  
That means, if you  
destruct further away,

211  
00:08:29,910 --> 00:08:32,909  
it's much easier to  
get to Auschwitz.

212  
00:08:32,909 --> 00:08:35,580  
But if you destruct  
their tracks right away

213  
00:08:35,580 --> 00:08:38,220

from the beginning in  
Hungary, it would take longer.

214  
00:08:38,220 --> 00:08:39,740  
Oh, the places of  
origin where the--

215  
00:08:39,740 --> 00:08:39,990  
The places--

216  
00:08:39,990 --> 00:08:41,115  
--the Jews are gathered.

217  
00:08:41,115 --> 00:08:41,823  
--Jews are dying.

218  
00:08:41,823 --> 00:08:43,440  
Yeah.

219  
00:08:43,440 --> 00:08:47,160  
"C, the destruction has to  
be in order all the time."

220  
00:08:47,160 --> 00:08:48,900  
You should not make [INAUDIBLE].

221  
00:08:48,900 --> 00:08:49,590  
Not only once.

222  
00:08:49,590 --> 00:08:52,050  
No, you have to do it always.

223  
00:08:52,050 --> 00:08:54,630  
"D, one has to take  
into consideration

224  
00:08:54,630 --> 00:08:57,120  
that these roads are  
heavily used with transport

225  
00:08:57,120 --> 00:08:59,190  
from all directions."

226  
00:08:59,190 --> 00:09:01,260  
I don't understand  
completely what

227  
00:09:01,260 --> 00:09:03,590  
he means with this, because--

228  
00:09:03,590 --> 00:09:05,852  
That there are military  
transports it would be--

229  
00:09:05,852 --> 00:09:08,310  
Military transports, that would  
be better to destruct then.

230  
00:09:08,310 --> 00:09:09,900  
Exactly.

231  
00:09:09,900 --> 00:09:12,150  
"E, in the moral  
situation of the innocent,

232  
00:09:12,150 --> 00:09:15,540  
the [? willing ?] can't afford,  
in the interior of the country

233  
00:09:15,540 --> 00:09:19,200  
through the eyes of the public,  
to lose by bloodshed 13,000

234  
00:09:19,200 --> 00:09:20,400  
souls daily.

235  
00:09:20,400 --> 00:09:24,090  
It is possible only by  
the unseen whatever way

236  
00:09:24,090 --> 00:09:26,700  
of Auschwitz, and  
in no other way."

237

00:09:26,700 --> 00:09:29,160

He knew that the  
German would never

238

00:09:29,160 --> 00:09:32,830

dare to kill people inside  
Hungary, or inside Austria,

239

00:09:32,830 --> 00:09:35,340

or inside Slovakia--  
that the only way

240

00:09:35,340 --> 00:09:38,700

to hide the fact of the  
destruction of the Jews

241

00:09:38,700 --> 00:09:40,380

was only in Auschwitz.

242

00:09:40,380 --> 00:09:41,505

To bring them to Auschwitz.

243

00:09:41,505 --> 00:09:43,140

He has to bring  
them to Auschwitz.

244

00:09:43,140 --> 00:09:46,020

That means, if you take  
away the possibility

245

00:09:46,020 --> 00:09:48,570

to bring them to Auschwitz,  
they would be saved.

246

00:09:48,570 --> 00:09:51,040

He wanted to avoid that  
we would say to him,

247

00:09:51,040 --> 00:09:54,610

listen, OK, if we  
destroy the tracks to--

248

00:09:54,610 --> 00:09:57,540

we bomb the way  
to Auschwitz, who

249  
00:09:57,540 --> 00:10:00,780  
guarantees that the Jews will  
not be killed where they are?

250  
00:10:00,780 --> 00:10:03,405  
He knew that the Germans  
wouldn't dare to do this.

251  
00:10:03,405 --> 00:10:05,280  
And then in the last  
point he wants, he says,

252  
00:10:05,280 --> 00:10:07,230  
"The destruction of the  
way out of the country

253  
00:10:07,230 --> 00:10:09,900  
is, therefore, the prevention  
of the killing itself."

254  
00:10:09,900 --> 00:10:11,550  
That's what we discussed.

255  
00:10:11,550 --> 00:10:13,270  
And now he writes--

256  
00:10:13,270 --> 00:10:15,210  
it's very heartbreaking.

257  
00:10:15,210 --> 00:10:17,340  
"And now we ask,  
how can you eat,

258  
00:10:17,340 --> 00:10:20,700  
sleep, how can you live when  
going to be responsible,

259  
00:10:20,700 --> 00:10:24,060  
if you shall not move heaven  
and earth in order to bring us

260  
00:10:24,060 --> 00:10:26,090  
the help which is  
possible by our allies

261  
00:10:26,090 --> 00:10:29,760  
and in the shortest Time  
Remember that, daily, 13,000

262  
00:10:29,760 --> 00:10:33,060  
of your brothers and your  
sisters, men and babies, women

263  
00:10:33,060 --> 00:10:34,140  
and old people are lost.

264  
00:10:34,140 --> 00:10:36,570  
And you're afraid of the  
judgment in this world

265  
00:10:36,570 --> 00:10:37,890  
and in the next one?

266  
00:10:37,890 --> 00:10:41,040  
If you say you have done  
everything, we should say,

267  
00:10:41,040 --> 00:10:42,090  
it is not true.

268  
00:10:42,090 --> 00:10:44,610  
For God's sake, do  
now, and do quickly.

269  
00:10:44,610 --> 00:10:47,250  
This way is useful in the  
present situation of the war

270  
00:10:47,250 --> 00:10:49,230  
and the transportation  
situation that

271

00:10:49,230 --> 00:10:50,910  
has become difficult for them.

272  
00:10:50,910 --> 00:10:53,100  
This way is more efficient,  
quicker and easier.

273  
00:10:53,100 --> 00:10:55,260  
This way is possible,  
but it has to be

274  
00:10:55,260 --> 00:10:57,600  
started with immediately."

275  
00:10:57,600 --> 00:11:00,540  
You see that he changed  
his mind completely,

276  
00:11:00,540 --> 00:11:02,585  
although he says  
in the beginning--

277  
00:11:02,585 --> 00:11:04,040  
(film slating)

278  
00:11:04,040 --> 00:11:07,920

279  
00:11:07,920 --> 00:11:09,330  
If you'll allow  
me, I'll continue

280  
00:11:09,330 --> 00:11:12,840  
with this letter, which  
is very, very interesting.

281  
00:11:12,840 --> 00:11:16,020  
He says, "Furthermore,  
one has to warn

282  
00:11:16,020 --> 00:11:18,450  
the heads of the countries  
in the hand of the evil



283  
00:11:18,450 --> 00:11:22,110  
and their people about the  
punishment that they deserve.

284  
00:11:22,110 --> 00:11:23,910  
One has to reach  
the pope, that he

285  
00:11:23,910 --> 00:11:26,970  
will scream loudly to heaven  
and earth about this murder."

286  
00:11:26,970 --> 00:11:27,510  
The pope?

287  
00:11:27,510 --> 00:11:28,720  
The pope, yeah.

288  
00:11:28,720 --> 00:11:30,220  
"On the other hand,  
it is necessary

289  
00:11:30,220 --> 00:11:32,160  
that the heads of the  
countries and the radio

290  
00:11:32,160 --> 00:11:35,030  
will say what they did with  
us, that they killed in murder

291  
00:11:35,030 --> 00:11:37,740  
houses, in Belzec,  
Sobibor, and Auschwitz,

292  
00:11:37,740 --> 00:11:40,890  
up till now six times a  
thousand thousand Jews of Europe

293  
00:11:40,890 --> 00:11:41,460  
and Russia."

294

00:11:41,460 --> 00:11:44,340

Why does he say six  
times a thousand?

295

00:11:44,340 --> 00:11:45,780

I think that's  
only an expression.

296

00:11:45,780 --> 00:11:47,775

He didn't have a  
figure at this time.

297

00:11:47,775 --> 00:11:49,608

First of all, at this  
time, there were not--

298

00:11:49,608 --> 00:11:52,050

6,000 thousand  
Jews is 6 million.

299

00:11:52,050 --> 00:11:54,930

At this time, they were  
not yet killed 6 millions.

300

00:11:54,930 --> 00:11:58,860

But I think he used just  
an expression, six times.

301

00:11:58,860 --> 00:12:02,460

In Hebrew, it's translated  
six times a thousand thousand.

302

00:12:02,460 --> 00:12:05,220

At this time, in '44, it  
was really very real to him.

303

00:12:05,220 --> 00:12:09,540

Real to him, but  
not yet completely.

304

00:12:09,540 --> 00:12:13,110

And then he continues.

305

00:12:13,110 --> 00:12:15,420

"My brothers, I am  
writing this letter

306

00:12:15,420 --> 00:12:18,330

in the name of all the parties  
in the country Hungary,

307

00:12:18,330 --> 00:12:20,530

as they have no way  
to send their letters.

308

00:12:20,530 --> 00:12:22,950

I also write the letter in  
the name of all the parties

309

00:12:22,950 --> 00:12:23,980

in our country."

310

00:12:23,980 --> 00:12:28,890

He wants to express that what he  
writes is not his own opinion.

311

00:12:28,890 --> 00:12:32,370

But he writes in the name of  
the whole committee, which

312

00:12:32,370 --> 00:12:36,420

was composed of the heads  
of the different parties--

313

00:12:36,420 --> 00:12:39,900

the left and the right, the  
non-observant and observant,

314

00:12:39,900 --> 00:12:41,580

orthodox Jews.

315

00:12:41,580 --> 00:12:42,840

And then he finished.

316

00:12:42,840 --> 00:12:44,850

"A terrible and

holy responsibility

317  
00:12:44,850 --> 00:12:46,290  
has been placed on you.

318  
00:12:46,290 --> 00:12:49,770  
Let you be happy if you will  
understand and carry it out.

319  
00:12:49,770 --> 00:12:51,300  
And woe to you, if not.

320  
00:12:51,300 --> 00:12:53,970  
The Lord, be blessed, has  
given you the privilege

321  
00:12:53,970 --> 00:12:56,730  
to be messengers of  
mitzvah for the remnants

322  
00:12:56,730 --> 00:12:58,920  
who are killed, and  
murdered, and burned daily

323  
00:12:58,920 --> 00:13:02,570  
for Kiddush Hashem," which means  
the sanctification of his name,

324  
00:13:02,570 --> 00:13:06,860  
"as a plea of the layman  
from the market," MWE.

325  
00:13:06,860 --> 00:13:08,810  
He wrote on his  
letters-- he signed,

326  
00:13:08,810 --> 00:13:12,048  
MWE, Michael Dov Weissmandel.

327  
00:13:12,048 --> 00:13:12,590  
And then he--

328

00:13:12,590 --> 00:13:15,220

What does it mean, "a  
plea of the market"?

329

00:13:15,220 --> 00:13:18,830

That's where the-- the  
prophet [INAUDIBLE],,

330

00:13:18,830 --> 00:13:21,800

when he said his  
prophecies, he said

331

00:13:21,800 --> 00:13:25,670

he is a layman in the market,  
the markets in the streets.

332

00:13:25,670 --> 00:13:29,600

He pleas, not as a leader,  
but he pleas as a layman

333

00:13:29,600 --> 00:13:30,435

on the street.

334

00:13:30,435 --> 00:13:32,990

And what did you think  
when you got this letter?

335

00:13:32,990 --> 00:13:35,840

Because he asked  
you, how can you

336

00:13:35,840 --> 00:13:38,730

eat, how can you live,  
when he wrote to you?

337

00:13:38,730 --> 00:13:41,680

How did you react to such a--

338

00:13:41,680 --> 00:13:43,100

Our heart was broken.

339

00:13:43,100 --> 00:13:44,400

But what could we do?

340  
00:13:44,400 --> 00:13:45,712  
The only thing what we did--

341  
00:13:45,712 --> 00:13:47,170  
what we could do,  
and what we did--

342  
00:13:47,170 --> 00:13:51,000  
we sent the letters to America.

343  
00:13:51,000 --> 00:13:55,910  
And we added our own wishes.

344  
00:13:55,910 --> 00:13:57,770  
If we allow, I can  
read some letters,

345  
00:13:57,770 --> 00:14:01,400  
which Mr. Sternbuch,  
when he transmitted

346  
00:14:01,400 --> 00:14:05,065  
his messages to the United  
States, what he himself had--

347  
00:14:05,065 --> 00:14:06,502  
yeah, you have the time?

348  
00:14:06,502 --> 00:14:09,684  
It is interesting--  
yes, of course-- to me.

349  
00:14:09,684 --> 00:14:12,610

350  
00:14:12,610 --> 00:14:15,890  
But first of all,  
can you explain,

351  
00:14:15,890 --> 00:14:18,220  
what does it mean

with sanctification

352

00:14:18,220 --> 00:14:19,690  
of the name, Kiddush Hashem?

353

00:14:19,690 --> 00:14:21,040  
Can you elaborate a little bit?

354

00:14:21,040 --> 00:14:22,030  
Yeah.

355

00:14:22,030 --> 00:14:24,100  
You know that, when  
a Jew is killed--

356

00:14:24,100 --> 00:14:24,800  
I know.

357

00:14:24,800 --> 00:14:25,300  
I know.

358

00:14:25,300 --> 00:14:26,800  
But also, I don't know.

359

00:14:26,800 --> 00:14:27,530  
Repeat it.

360

00:14:27,530 --> 00:14:28,030  
Yeah.

361

00:14:28,030 --> 00:14:30,820

362

00:14:30,820 --> 00:14:35,500  
The Jewish way, if you are being  
killed because you are Jew,

363

00:14:35,500 --> 00:14:39,940  
that means you are killed for  
the sanctification of the Lord.

364

00:14:39,940 --> 00:14:43,360

You give your life for  
the sanctification of God.

365

00:14:43,360 --> 00:14:45,970

You didn't give your life  
as you, for you, yourself.

366

00:14:45,970 --> 00:14:48,790

You give your life  
because you were a Jew.

367

00:14:48,790 --> 00:14:52,792

And you sanctify the name  
of God in being killed.

368

00:14:52,792 --> 00:14:53,740

That's what it means.

369

00:14:53,740 --> 00:14:58,840

Is that something to do with the  
[INAUDIBLE] of being converted.

370

00:14:58,840 --> 00:14:59,710

No?

371

00:14:59,710 --> 00:15:01,420

Not at this time anymore, today.

372

00:15:01,420 --> 00:15:03,550

Yes, but that's the  
beginning-- the origin of it.

373

00:15:03,550 --> 00:15:09,850

Originally, it was, yeah,  
because there is only one way.

374

00:15:09,850 --> 00:15:13,360

If somebody says to you,  
either you'll be killed

375

00:15:13,360 --> 00:15:18,490

or you convert, you are



not allowed to convert.

376

00:15:18,490 --> 00:15:24,730

You have to give your life  
for the holiness of your God's

377

00:15:24,730 --> 00:15:25,780

name.

378

00:15:25,780 --> 00:15:27,720

Is this what is Kiddush Hashem?

379

00:15:27,720 --> 00:15:28,220

Kiddush.

380

00:15:28,220 --> 00:15:31,930

That's what it means, the  
expression of Kiddush Hashem.

381

00:15:31,930 --> 00:15:34,600

And he repeats the same  
here, as a matter of fact.

382

00:15:34,600 --> 00:15:38,560

And then he says, as I mentioned  
before, "This letter should

383

00:15:38,560 --> 00:15:41,200

be read by Nathan."

384

00:15:41,200 --> 00:15:44,110

He means Nathan Schwalb,  
who was a representative

385

00:15:44,110 --> 00:15:48,430

of the Hashomer  
Hatzair in Switzerland.

386

00:15:48,430 --> 00:15:50,863

Hugo [? Donovan, ?]  
who was [INAUDIBLE]----

387

00:15:50,863 --> 00:15:52,780  
he means [? Hugo ?]  
[? Donovan ?] was a member

388  
00:15:52,780 --> 00:15:55,930  
of our committee and a  
representative of the Slovakian

389  
00:15:55,930 --> 00:15:57,220  
Jews.

390  
00:15:57,220 --> 00:16:02,290  
[NON-ENGLISH]---- that's  
translated, [NON-ENGLISH],,

391  
00:16:02,290 --> 00:16:03,484  
is Silver.

392  
00:16:03,484 --> 00:16:04,310  
And it was-- yeah.

393  
00:16:04,310 --> 00:16:04,810  
[INAUDIBLE]

394  
00:16:04,810 --> 00:16:05,920  
And we had [INAUDIBLE].

395  
00:16:05,920 --> 00:16:08,140  
He quoted this, yeah,  
and Silverstein,

396  
00:16:08,140 --> 00:16:10,390  
who was a representative  
of the Polish Jews

397  
00:16:10,390 --> 00:16:13,382  
in Geneva, and others.

398  
00:16:13,382 --> 00:16:14,340  
Yes, and how would he--

399  
00:16:14,340 --> 00:16:17,110

Last, not least, he writes,  
[? "Salimaya, ?] and everybody

400  
00:16:17,110 --> 00:16:19,850  
else whom they see fit."

401  
00:16:19,850 --> 00:16:24,160  
And then, in every letter, he  
writes always, give the letters

402  
00:16:24,160 --> 00:16:25,870  
to all those people.

403  
00:16:25,870 --> 00:16:28,270  
He was under the impression  
that those people

404  
00:16:28,270 --> 00:16:30,920  
would be able to do something.

405  
00:16:30,920 --> 00:16:33,940  
Unfortunately, we were mindless.

406  
00:16:33,940 --> 00:16:38,710  
No, it's very difficult  
to picture this, how.

407  
00:16:38,710 --> 00:16:43,630  
It must have been a very  
difficult personal experience

408  
00:16:43,630 --> 00:16:45,480  
to live in Switzerland.

409  
00:16:45,480 --> 00:16:45,980  
Sure.

410  
00:16:45,980 --> 00:16:46,930  
It was.

411  
00:16:46,930 --> 00:16:47,530  
Yeah.

412  
00:16:47,530 --> 00:16:50,650  
To live in Montreal, and to  
get these letters coming from

413  
00:16:50,650 --> 00:16:52,840  
the [INAUDIBLE]  
neighbor, from the--

414  
00:16:52,840 --> 00:16:56,530  
I still-- even when I talk with  
my wife, I am still saying,

415  
00:16:56,530 --> 00:16:59,830  
we can't understand  
today how it be possible.

416  
00:16:59,830 --> 00:17:00,568  
We danced.

417  
00:17:00,568 --> 00:17:01,360  
There was weddings.

418  
00:17:01,360 --> 00:17:02,890  
There were bar mitzvahs.

419  
00:17:02,890 --> 00:17:03,940  
We went to the cinemas.

420  
00:17:03,940 --> 00:17:05,420  
We went everywhere.

421  
00:17:05,420 --> 00:17:09,730  
And the other side of  
our continent, in Europe,

422  
00:17:09,730 --> 00:17:12,210  
people were killed daily,  
daily, millions, thousands,

423  
00:17:12,210 --> 00:17:13,720  
thousands of Jews.

424  
00:17:13,720 --> 00:17:16,030  
And the same thing in America.

425  
00:17:16,030 --> 00:17:21,323  
There was-- the  
life was going on.

426  
00:17:21,323 --> 00:17:22,240  
The life was going on.

427  
00:17:22,240 --> 00:17:24,610  
Daily life was going on.

428  
00:17:24,610 --> 00:17:25,930  
The daily life went on.

429  
00:17:25,930 --> 00:17:27,263  
Not only the daily life went on.

430  
00:17:27,263 --> 00:17:30,010  
It went in the usual  
way, although I'm

431  
00:17:30,010 --> 00:17:31,630  
sure that quite a  
lot of people had

432  
00:17:31,630 --> 00:17:35,950  
sleepless nights, especially  
those people who had relatives

433  
00:17:35,950 --> 00:17:36,530  
there.

434  
00:17:36,530 --> 00:17:38,300  
But I went home.

435  
00:17:38,300 --> 00:17:46,870  
But how would they react, the  
people to whom the letters were

436

00:17:46,870 --> 00:17:48,970  
passed on, were sent?

437

00:17:48,970 --> 00:17:49,920  
That, I can't say.

438

00:17:49,920 --> 00:17:51,700  
Did they give their full time?

439

00:17:51,700 --> 00:17:54,430  
Did they, all of them?

440

00:17:54,430 --> 00:17:55,180  
Not all of them.

441

00:17:55,180 --> 00:17:57,040  
Did they devote  
themselves completely

442

00:17:57,040 --> 00:17:59,740  
to the task of rescue?

443

00:17:59,740 --> 00:18:03,673  
Were they at the labor of  
the demands of Weissmandel?

444

00:18:03,673 --> 00:18:04,590  
This is the mentality?

445

00:18:04,590 --> 00:18:08,500  
I don't think there was anybody  
in the same dimension as--

446

00:18:08,500 --> 00:18:10,750  
in the same level  
as Weissmandel.

447

00:18:10,750 --> 00:18:13,090  
I know, from experience,  
that Mr. Sternbuch

448

00:18:13,090 --> 00:18:15,460  
didn't say for any time.

449  
00:18:15,460 --> 00:18:17,260  
He was working day and night.

450  
00:18:17,260 --> 00:18:20,650  
And his wife's special,  
Mrs. Sternbuch.

451  
00:18:20,650 --> 00:18:22,570  
She did whatever she could do.

452  
00:18:22,570 --> 00:18:26,230  
There was no days, and  
there was no nights.

453  
00:18:26,230 --> 00:18:27,310  
There was no Shabbat.

454  
00:18:27,310 --> 00:18:29,110  
If the telephone was  
ringing on Shabbat,

455  
00:18:29,110 --> 00:18:30,310  
we took the telephone also.

456  
00:18:30,310 --> 00:18:34,480  
An Orthodox Jew doesn't  
take the telephone.

457  
00:18:34,480 --> 00:18:36,160  
They worked, and  
worked, and worked.

458  
00:18:36,160 --> 00:18:38,380  
Is it really  
absolutely meaningful

459  
00:18:38,380 --> 00:18:41,560  
if a religious Jew practices  
the Shabbat in order

460

00:18:41,560 --> 00:18:43,740  
to [INAUDIBLE]?

461

00:18:43,740 --> 00:18:45,730  
If it's a [NON-ENGLISH],,  
what we call.

462

00:18:45,730 --> 00:18:48,010  
If it's a danger of  
life, you are allowed

463

00:18:48,010 --> 00:18:49,630  
to break the law of Shabbat.

464

00:18:49,630 --> 00:18:51,310  
I remember, myself, a case.

465

00:18:51,310 --> 00:18:55,090  
There was a bar mitzvah of  
the son of Mr. Sternbuch.

466

00:18:55,090 --> 00:18:59,290  
And there came a telephone  
call that two Jews who

467

00:18:59,290 --> 00:19:03,140  
came from Belgium into  
Switzerland were fooled,

468

00:19:03,140 --> 00:19:03,640  
they said.

469

00:19:03,640 --> 00:19:08,860  
This is sent back to the  
border, to Germany or to France,

470

00:19:08,860 --> 00:19:09,730  
wherever they came.

471

00:19:09,730 --> 00:19:10,690  
There was no bar mitzvah.



472

00:19:10,690 --> 00:19:11,898  
There was no Shabbat anymore.

473

00:19:11,898 --> 00:19:12,670  
We're Calling.

474

00:19:12,670 --> 00:19:15,040  
We're calling, telephone  
calls, until we found a way

475

00:19:15,040 --> 00:19:17,200  
to save those two boys.

476

00:19:17,200 --> 00:19:20,290  
That proves that they  
were working all day.

477

00:19:20,290 --> 00:19:22,240  
I can't say for  
other organizations.

478

00:19:22,240 --> 00:19:23,110  
For instance?

479

00:19:23,110 --> 00:19:27,280  
I remember, once, we had  
some dealings with a train

480

00:19:27,280 --> 00:19:30,430  
from Bergen-Belsen, a  
[? Kielce ?] transport.

481

00:19:30,430 --> 00:19:34,660  
And I called Mr. [INAUDIBLE],,  
who was at this time

482

00:19:34,660 --> 00:19:38,440  
the representative of the  
Jewish agency in Geneva.

483

00:19:38,440 --> 00:19:41,090  
It was 6 or 7 o'clock

in the evening.

484

00:19:41,090 --> 00:19:42,280

So I called him in his home.

485

00:19:42,280 --> 00:19:43,120

Shabbat was over.

486

00:19:43,120 --> 00:19:44,120

This was not on Shabbat.

487

00:19:44,120 --> 00:19:44,950

On a regular day.

488

00:19:44,950 --> 00:19:45,890

So he said, what--

489

00:19:45,890 --> 00:19:47,020

6, 7 o'clock in his home.

490

00:19:47,020 --> 00:19:48,370

He said, what do you want?

491

00:19:48,370 --> 00:19:51,368

Don't disturb me after  
the working hours.

492

00:19:51,368 --> 00:19:52,660

Call me tomorrow in the office.

493

00:19:52,660 --> 00:19:55,510

494

00:19:55,510 --> 00:19:57,360

Why?

495

00:19:57,360 --> 00:19:57,860

[INAUDIBLE]

496

00:19:57,860 --> 00:20:00,320

You see, that's the--

what can you do?

497

00:20:00,320 --> 00:20:03,740

Not everybody acted the same way as the Sternbuchs acted.

498

00:20:03,740 --> 00:20:09,140

I must say they were not very well, 100%, well-organized.

499

00:20:09,140 --> 00:20:12,055

But they worked with a full heart for the full time.

500

00:20:12,055 --> 00:20:12,680

The Sternbuchs.

501

00:20:12,680 --> 00:20:14,380

The Sternbuchs.

502

00:20:14,380 --> 00:20:17,090

And Sternbuch, when you conveyed the letters,

503

00:20:17,090 --> 00:20:22,553

the messages of Weissmandel, he didn't try to [INAUDIBLE]??

504

00:20:22,553 --> 00:20:23,053

No.

505

00:20:23,053 --> 00:20:23,690

To make it law?

506

00:20:23,690 --> 00:20:24,190

No.

507

00:20:24,190 --> 00:20:27,230

And I think, in contrary, he made it even stronger.

508

00:20:27,230 --> 00:20:35,690

I'll read you one of the cables,  
which he sent to New York.

509  
00:20:35,690 --> 00:20:48,015

510  
00:20:48,015 --> 00:20:51,960  
(film slating)

511  
00:20:51,960 --> 00:20:54,620  
May I read you a few  
of the cables, which

512  
00:20:54,620 --> 00:20:56,720  
Mr. Sternbuch sent to New York?

513  
00:20:56,720 --> 00:20:57,410  
Yes.

514  
00:20:57,410 --> 00:21:01,790  
In June, 2nd of June,  
'44, "15,000 Jews

515  
00:21:01,790 --> 00:21:05,480  
daily are deported overseas  
to Poland since May 15.

516  
00:21:05,480 --> 00:21:07,370  
The people are in  
despair that nothing has

517  
00:21:07,370 --> 00:21:08,960  
been done up to the present.

518  
00:21:08,960 --> 00:21:11,060  
Do not miss another  
hour on this matter.

519  
00:21:11,060 --> 00:21:13,040  
This is one means of rescue.

520  
00:21:13,040 --> 00:21:14,100

Do intervene.

521

00:21:14,100 --> 00:21:16,730

All this is strictly  
confidential."

522

00:21:16,730 --> 00:21:18,110

Now, on the 3rd of June--

523

00:21:18,110 --> 00:21:18,830

This was a cable.

524

00:21:18,830 --> 00:21:19,670

That was a cable.

525

00:21:19,670 --> 00:21:23,090

It was declassified by the  
State Department in '72.

526

00:21:23,090 --> 00:21:26,080

The cable was sent to  
the American Consulate,

527

00:21:26,080 --> 00:21:28,280

the American legation  
in Bern on June 2--

528

00:21:28,280 --> 00:21:28,830

I see.

529

00:21:28,830 --> 00:21:30,185

--1944.

530

00:21:30,185 --> 00:21:37,550

Now, in June 3, 1944, what  
he heard from Hungary.

531

00:21:37,550 --> 00:21:39,470

"We are dependent  
upon you entirely.

532

00:21:39,470 --> 00:21:41,840

Only you could wholly  
and partly save us.

533  
00:21:41,840 --> 00:21:43,310  
Everything is in your hand.

534  
00:21:43,310 --> 00:21:46,190  
Do not conceal long,  
and do not rest.

535  
00:21:46,190 --> 00:21:47,360  
Awake, all people.

536  
00:21:47,360 --> 00:21:48,650  
Appropriate with this.

537  
00:21:48,650 --> 00:21:52,430  
And act quickly, as long  
as there is still time."

538  
00:21:52,430 --> 00:21:55,340  
Another cable here,  
in August '44.

539  
00:21:55,340 --> 00:21:57,200  
"Our people in  
Hungary and Slovakia

540  
00:21:57,200 --> 00:21:58,910  
are in contact  
with Gestapo agents

541  
00:21:58,910 --> 00:22:00,705  
who must continually be bribed.

542  
00:22:00,705 --> 00:22:03,080  
They're warned that, if their  
requests are not fulfilled,

543  
00:22:03,080 --> 00:22:05,360  
the rest of the Jews  
are lost without fail

544

00:22:05,360 --> 00:22:08,600

and the responsibility for  
their existence rests upon us."

545

00:22:08,600 --> 00:22:11,495

It's already in  
August, 400,000--

546

00:22:11,495 --> 00:22:12,268

400,000 Jews.

547

00:22:12,268 --> 00:22:13,310

--Jews have been killed--

548

00:22:13,310 --> 00:22:13,670

Killed.

549

00:22:13,670 --> 00:22:14,600

--from [INAUDIBLE].

550

00:22:14,600 --> 00:22:18,020

And still, a cry for  
help, and for help,

551

00:22:18,020 --> 00:22:20,270

and [INAUDIBLE] only--

552

00:22:20,270 --> 00:22:22,640

no voice, and no reply.

553

00:22:22,640 --> 00:22:23,870

We can't say no reply.

554

00:22:23,870 --> 00:22:27,200

Of course, the Vaad Hatzala  
did whatever he could.

555

00:22:27,200 --> 00:22:31,820

But he didn't have the resources  
to collect enough money.

556

00:22:31,820 --> 00:22:36,340  
But what is very striking  
in these messages is

557  
00:22:36,340 --> 00:22:41,570  
the speed of the way they were  
transmitted, because all this

558  
00:22:41,570 --> 00:22:43,730  
is very accurate, first.

559  
00:22:43,730 --> 00:22:47,930  
And the communications were.

560  
00:22:47,930 --> 00:22:48,430  
Yeah.

561  
00:22:48,430 --> 00:22:50,350  
They all very cooperative.

562  
00:22:50,350 --> 00:22:52,410  
The American consulate worked--

563  
00:22:52,410 --> 00:22:53,780  
were very cooperative.

564  
00:22:53,780 --> 00:22:55,520  
The Polish Legation  
were cooperative.

565  
00:22:55,520 --> 00:22:59,580  
And later on, when the war  
Refugee Board was established,

566  
00:22:59,580 --> 00:23:02,440  
also Mr. McClelland  
was quite cooperative.

567  
00:23:02,440 --> 00:23:05,660  
This means that  
they knew daily--

568



00:23:05,660 --> 00:23:07,580

That they had to  
other sources, too.

569

00:23:07,580 --> 00:23:08,390

Yes, [INAUDIBLE].

570

00:23:08,390 --> 00:23:10,040

But they were in contact,  
daily in contact.

571

00:23:10,040 --> 00:23:11,285

But they knew daily what was--

572

00:23:11,285 --> 00:23:12,118

What's going on in--

573

00:23:12,118 --> 00:23:13,550

--going on in Hungaria.

574

00:23:13,550 --> 00:23:15,020

And on the other side--

575

00:23:15,020 --> 00:23:18,740

So is this a contrast between  
the speed of the information

576

00:23:18,740 --> 00:23:22,640

and the fact that  
nothing was done,

577

00:23:22,640 --> 00:23:25,370

and everybody knew,  
and this was--

578

00:23:25,370 --> 00:23:27,860

That, you have to ask  
the Jews in America.

579

00:23:27,860 --> 00:23:28,640

You can't ask me.

580

00:23:28,640 --> 00:23:31,160

I was in Switzerland  
at this time.

581

00:23:31,160 --> 00:23:35,110

You think, clearly, one has  
to ask the Jews in America.

582

00:23:35,110 --> 00:23:37,310

The money was in America.

583

00:23:37,310 --> 00:23:39,130

The Jews in Switzerland  
had no money.

584

00:23:39,130 --> 00:23:40,910

There were quite a few people--

585

00:23:40,910 --> 00:23:42,060

Why didn't they give?

586

00:23:42,060 --> 00:23:43,040

What do you think?

587

00:23:43,040 --> 00:23:44,300

What is the reason why?

588

00:23:44,300 --> 00:23:47,330

They didn't believe it.

589

00:23:47,330 --> 00:23:49,070

On the one side,  
they said, this is

590

00:23:49,070 --> 00:23:51,530

against the law of the country.

591

00:23:51,530 --> 00:23:57,260

They didn't allow to transmit  
money to occupied countries.

592

00:23:57,260 --> 00:24:01,880

On the other side, they  
didn't believe that this money

593  
00:24:01,880 --> 00:24:03,588  
could save people.

594  
00:24:03,588 --> 00:24:05,005  
Later on, when  
they saw the signs,

595  
00:24:05,005 --> 00:24:09,860  
when the first train came  
from Hungary, the 1,600 people

596  
00:24:09,860 --> 00:24:13,160  
here in Bergen-Belsen, then  
it was a little bit easier

597  
00:24:13,160 --> 00:24:14,300  
to collect money.

598  
00:24:14,300 --> 00:24:16,454  
But at this time, money--

599  
00:24:16,454 --> 00:24:18,198  
it's no worry anymore.

600  
00:24:18,198 --> 00:24:18,740  
The Germans--

601  
00:24:18,740 --> 00:24:19,430  
It was too late.

602  
00:24:19,430 --> 00:24:22,270  
The Germans didn't accept any  
money anymore at this time.

603  
00:24:22,270 --> 00:24:24,330  
On the other side, he  
writes, Weissmandel--

604  
00:24:24,330 --> 00:24:28,490

in May '44, he writes to--

605

00:24:28,490 --> 00:24:30,770

I think this was  
to Nathan Schwalb.

606

00:24:30,770 --> 00:24:33,350

He writes, "Our brothers,  
have you gone mad?

607

00:24:33,350 --> 00:24:35,750

Don't you know in  
what hell we live?

608

00:24:35,750 --> 00:24:37,610

Who do you keep that money for?

609

00:24:37,610 --> 00:24:40,530

Why do you wait for us to send  
you a messenger from our hell

610

00:24:40,530 --> 00:24:43,220

to beg when all our begging  
is not effective, even

611

00:24:43,220 --> 00:24:45,230

that of the poor  
man at the door?

612

00:24:45,230 --> 00:24:47,450

After some request,  
you throw us dimes.

613

00:24:47,450 --> 00:24:50,420

Crazy murderers, who  
is giving charity--

614

00:24:50,420 --> 00:24:52,550

you, from your  
high stance, or we,

615

00:24:52,550 --> 00:24:56,000

us who give blood

[INAUDIBLE] from the dead?

616

00:24:56,000 --> 00:24:58,670

Who permits you demand  
from me a report on budget,

617

00:24:58,670 --> 00:25:01,520

as if it concerned bargaining  
over clothes and articles,

618

00:25:01,520 --> 00:25:07,250

and this before you give us  
1% of 1,000 of what we need?"

619

00:25:07,250 --> 00:25:11,210

You see that he gives his  
full heart in his request.

620

00:25:11,210 --> 00:25:14,935

But it was not accepted in the  
same way as it was written.

621

00:25:14,935 --> 00:25:17,810

This means that they answered  
him in a bureaucratic way.

622

00:25:17,810 --> 00:25:19,190

It was a bureaucrat.

623

00:25:19,190 --> 00:25:22,940

He didn't know that they're  
a big organization working

624

00:25:22,940 --> 00:25:26,000

like bigger companies  
on a budget,

625

00:25:26,000 --> 00:25:28,040

and we have to  
organize it, and have

626

00:25:28,040 --> 00:25:31,370

to go to meetings, and another

meeting, and another meeting,

627

00:25:31,370 --> 00:25:35,330

whereas we, from the Vaad  
Hatzala, we, as I said before,

628

00:25:35,330 --> 00:25:37,490

the Vaad Hatzala was  
not well-organized.

629

00:25:37,490 --> 00:25:38,990

But he worked from his heart.

630

00:25:38,990 --> 00:25:40,157

Because, precisely because--

631

00:25:40,157 --> 00:25:41,490

Because it didn't have a budget.

632

00:25:41,490 --> 00:25:43,250

And it didn't have  
an organization.

633

00:25:43,250 --> 00:25:46,990

They worked-- we are Jewish--  
as a Jewish should work.

634

00:25:46,990 --> 00:25:47,490

Yes.

635

00:25:47,490 --> 00:25:50,620

And they just wanted  
probably accounts,

636

00:25:50,620 --> 00:25:51,960

how the money had been spent.

637

00:25:51,960 --> 00:25:52,460

Sure.

638

00:25:52,460 --> 00:25:55,380

They asked him, how did

you spend the money?

639

00:25:55,380 --> 00:25:59,730

Can you imagine, thousands  
of thousands of Jews

640

00:25:59,730 --> 00:26:02,640

are perishing every day,  
and the organization

641

00:26:02,640 --> 00:26:04,170

asking from him a report?

642

00:26:04,170 --> 00:26:05,340

How did you spend the money?

643

00:26:05,340 --> 00:26:07,330

What did you take the money for?

644

00:26:07,330 --> 00:26:07,830

Yes.

645

00:26:07,830 --> 00:26:08,620

He has a point.

646

00:26:08,620 --> 00:26:09,120

[INAUDIBLE]

647

00:26:09,120 --> 00:26:13,230

Today, even America doesn't  
ask their own people

648

00:26:13,230 --> 00:26:16,580

how they spent their money.

649

00:26:16,580 --> 00:26:18,440

Yes.

650

00:26:18,440 --> 00:26:20,770

I think this was  
really the tragedy.

651

00:26:20,770 --> 00:26:21,350

No?

652

00:26:21,350 --> 00:26:23,990

That is the real tragedy,  
and real tragedy,

653

00:26:23,990 --> 00:26:26,630

that nobody understood  
what's going on.

654

00:26:26,630 --> 00:26:28,837

And maybe we can't blame them.

655

00:26:28,837 --> 00:26:29,920

Maybe we can't blame them.

656

00:26:29,920 --> 00:26:30,170

We can't blame them?

657

00:26:30,170 --> 00:26:31,250

Maybe we can't blame them.

658

00:26:31,250 --> 00:26:31,750

Why?

659

00:26:31,750 --> 00:26:34,075

Maybe they really didn't  
know what's going on.

660

00:26:34,075 --> 00:26:35,420

But they knew.

661

00:26:35,420 --> 00:26:38,480

They knew, but they couldn't--  
if you are not in it,

662

00:26:38,480 --> 00:26:40,815

if you don't see it,  
you don't believe it.

663



00:26:40,815 --> 00:26:41,690

That is the question.

664

00:26:41,690 --> 00:26:43,610

Then you'll be-- but--

665

00:26:43,610 --> 00:26:46,331

What is the meaning of knowing?

666

00:26:46,331 --> 00:26:49,400

Knowing is-- they  
had knowledge of it,

667

00:26:49,400 --> 00:26:51,680

but didn't understand it.

668

00:26:51,680 --> 00:26:55,760

It didn't go in,  
even in their mind.

669

00:26:55,760 --> 00:26:56,480

Jews were killed?

670

00:26:56,480 --> 00:26:57,590

OK, they are killed.

671

00:26:57,590 --> 00:26:59,863

Everywhere, peoples are killed.

672

00:26:59,863 --> 00:27:01,280

But they didn't  
understand what it

673

00:27:01,280 --> 00:27:05,380

means that Hitler was out to  
destroy the Jew completely,

674

00:27:05,380 --> 00:27:06,143

the Jew of Europe.

675

00:27:06,143 --> 00:27:08,060

What do you mean when

you say that they didn't

676

00:27:08,060 --> 00:27:10,940  
act the way a Jew should have?

677

00:27:10,940 --> 00:27:11,640  
A Jew--

678

00:27:11,640 --> 00:27:12,723  
What is the meaning of it?

679

00:27:12,723 --> 00:27:15,860  
We know, in olden times, that  
the people gave everything away

680

00:27:15,860 --> 00:27:21,860  
only to take out [INAUDIBLE],,  
to release prisoners.

681

00:27:21,860 --> 00:27:23,870  
They gave away their last penny.

682

00:27:23,870 --> 00:27:24,560  
In old times.

683

00:27:24,560 --> 00:27:25,378  
In olden times.

684

00:27:25,378 --> 00:27:26,420  
They were even forced to.

685

00:27:26,420 --> 00:27:30,710  
If they didn't want to give,  
the head of the community

686

00:27:30,710 --> 00:27:33,800  
had the right to tax the  
people how much to give

687

00:27:33,800 --> 00:27:35,210  
for release of prisoners.

688

00:27:35,210 --> 00:27:39,890

And was there, according to  
you, a strong difference between

689

00:27:39,890 --> 00:27:45,290

the way the religious  
Jews, the orthodox Jews,

690

00:27:45,290 --> 00:27:49,310

decided to act and the way  
the big organizations--

691

00:27:49,310 --> 00:27:52,010

like the World Jewish Congress,  
or the American Jewish

692

00:27:52,010 --> 00:27:57,200

Committee, or the  
American Jewish Congress--

693

00:27:57,200 --> 00:27:57,860

behaved?

694

00:27:57,860 --> 00:27:59,160

I think there was a difference.

695

00:27:59,160 --> 00:28:00,452

I think there was a difference.

696

00:28:00,452 --> 00:28:01,100

Which was?

697

00:28:01,100 --> 00:28:04,940

Difference that the Vaad  
Hatzala worked in another way.

698

00:28:04,940 --> 00:28:07,940

It worked more speedy  
and less bureaucratic.

699

00:28:07,940 --> 00:28:09,770

But unfortunately,

they didn't have

700

00:28:09,770 --> 00:28:15,560

enough resources to  
answer to the requests

701

00:28:15,560 --> 00:28:17,390

of the Jew in Europe.

702

00:28:17,390 --> 00:28:19,850

The money was not  
in the [INAUDIBLE]..

703

00:28:19,850 --> 00:28:22,280

Later on, they got more money.

704

00:28:22,280 --> 00:28:23,360

And they sent more money.

705

00:28:23,360 --> 00:28:25,760

But it was too late.

706

00:28:25,760 --> 00:28:26,600

Yes.

707

00:28:26,600 --> 00:28:30,950

But maybe there is  
something else too,

708

00:28:30,950 --> 00:28:38,760

because as far as we know,  
the people of the Vaad Hatzala

709

00:28:38,760 --> 00:28:41,270

were ready to use  
any kind of channels,

710

00:28:41,270 --> 00:28:42,770

even to go against the law.

711

00:28:42,770 --> 00:28:43,910

Yeah.

712  
00:28:43,910 --> 00:28:46,670  
You know what Rabbi  
Silverman said--

713  
00:28:46,670 --> 00:28:50,070  
that we, as religious Jews,  
we have to help other people.

714  
00:28:50,070 --> 00:28:51,860  
We don't look at the law.

715  
00:28:51,860 --> 00:28:53,600  
We do what we have to do.

716  
00:28:53,600 --> 00:28:55,190  
And in fact, they did it.

717  
00:28:55,190 --> 00:28:58,640  
They sent money illegally to  
Switzerland in the beginning

718  
00:28:58,640 --> 00:29:01,280  
before Morgenthau gave the  
permission to transfer money

719  
00:29:01,280 --> 00:29:02,040  
to Switzerland.

720  
00:29:02,040 --> 00:29:03,560  
Morgenthau was the treasurer--

721  
00:29:03,560 --> 00:29:06,170  
Was the treasurer of  
the United States.

722  
00:29:06,170 --> 00:29:07,320  
Yeah.

723  
00:29:07,320 --> 00:29:08,570  
And--

724

00:29:08,570 --> 00:29:13,240

And he was informed  
what's going on.

725

00:29:13,240 --> 00:29:15,800

Was he really ready  
to go against the law?

726

00:29:15,800 --> 00:29:16,360

Or--

727

00:29:16,360 --> 00:29:16,860

Yeah.

728

00:29:16,860 --> 00:29:18,020

Can you explain this?

729

00:29:18,020 --> 00:29:20,347

I don't want to say things  
if [? you are ?] not sure.

730

00:29:20,347 --> 00:29:20,930

For instance--

731

00:29:20,930 --> 00:29:21,430

[INAUDIBLE]

732

00:29:21,430 --> 00:29:25,160

--when he sent our first  
cable to America and asked

733

00:29:25,160 --> 00:29:25,940

for money--

734

00:29:25,940 --> 00:29:28,880

and he had some specific cases--

735

00:29:28,880 --> 00:29:31,800

they sent us money via  
the Polish Legation.

736

00:29:31,800 --> 00:29:32,770  
Which was forbidden.

737  
00:29:32,770 --> 00:29:34,790  
It was on the black--  
it was forbidden.

738  
00:29:34,790 --> 00:29:38,810  
It was not allowed to transfer  
any money from America

739  
00:29:38,810 --> 00:29:40,550  
to Switzerland--

740  
00:29:40,550 --> 00:29:44,810  
to Switzerland, and further  
on, to occupied countries.

741  
00:29:44,810 --> 00:29:46,130  
But we didn't mind.

742  
00:29:46,130 --> 00:29:48,710  
Also, we only got about  
half of the money, which

743  
00:29:48,710 --> 00:29:51,705  
was spent paid in the States.

744  
00:29:51,705 --> 00:29:52,205  
Why?

745  
00:29:52,205 --> 00:29:52,705  
Why?

746  
00:29:52,705 --> 00:29:56,030  
Because the black market dollar  
was only worth half of it.

747  
00:29:56,030 --> 00:29:59,870  
For each dollar, the official  
cost was four Swiss francs.

748

00:29:59,870 --> 00:30:02,012

And we got four Swiss  
francs and 20 cents.

749

00:30:02,012 --> 00:30:05,295

And we got only 2.19 or  
2.18 for each dollar.

750

00:30:05,295 --> 00:30:06,920

And they put money  
in the black market.

751

00:30:06,920 --> 00:30:09,600

In the black market.

752

00:30:09,600 --> 00:30:12,743

But [NON-ENGLISH].

753

00:30:12,743 --> 00:30:13,576

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

754

00:30:13,576 --> 00:30:16,725

[NON-ENGLISH] I would  
like you to read this--

755

00:30:16,725 --> 00:30:17,600

This letter from him.

756

00:30:17,600 --> 00:30:20,350

--of his and see  
where he [? put-- ?]

757

00:30:20,350 --> 00:30:30,000