

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,762

2
00:00:06,762 --> 00:00:08,211
(film slating)

3
00:00:08,211 --> 00:00:13,610

4
00:00:13,610 --> 00:00:16,040
About the illegality
of our work,

5
00:00:16,040 --> 00:00:18,292
I would like to read
you a letter, which

6
00:00:18,292 --> 00:00:24,470
Rabbi Silver writes in one
of his books about a rescuer.

7
00:00:24,470 --> 00:00:27,560
He writes, "I remember
once, during those days

8
00:00:27,560 --> 00:00:30,500
of severe trial for
the work of rescue,

9
00:00:30,500 --> 00:00:32,630
visiting a well-known
philanthropist

10
00:00:32,630 --> 00:00:35,090
and asking for a
considerable sum of money.

11
00:00:35,090 --> 00:00:37,040
He asked me the
following question.

12

00:00:37,040 --> 00:00:40,610
Please tell me, rabbi, with
all due respect to all rabbis,

13
00:00:40,610 --> 00:00:42,740
it is difficult for
me to understand

14
00:00:42,740 --> 00:00:45,330
why, in the matter of
saving Jews in Europe,

15
00:00:45,330 --> 00:00:47,180
there is no one who
can do anything--

16
00:00:47,180 --> 00:00:50,360
not one of our famous help
organizations and institutions,

17
00:00:50,360 --> 00:00:52,110
and none of our
political leaders,

18
00:00:52,110 --> 00:00:54,560
only a handful of
orthodox rabbis?

19
00:00:54,560 --> 00:00:58,490
Forgive me for my frankness,
but some old-fashioned rabbis,

20
00:00:58,490 --> 00:01:01,580
and inept, succeed in
such an undertaking?"

21
00:01:01,580 --> 00:01:03,560
"And inept," he says.

22
00:01:03,560 --> 00:01:07,820
"And inept," yes, "succeed
in such an undertaking.

23

00:01:07,820 --> 00:01:10,850

I answered him clearly
and distinctly.

24

00:01:10,850 --> 00:01:14,720

When it is a matter of rescuing
Jewish lives, we, the rabbis,

25

00:01:14,720 --> 00:01:16,535

are forbidden to be inept.

26

00:01:16,535 --> 00:01:19,640

The precept of saving
lives is very dear to us.

27

00:01:19,640 --> 00:01:22,190

And true fulfillment
of this precept

28

00:01:22,190 --> 00:01:24,230

is only by self-sacrifice.

29

00:01:24,230 --> 00:01:26,270

By command of our
holy Torah, we are

30

00:01:26,270 --> 00:01:29,750

prepared to violate many laws
vis a vis the authorities

31

00:01:29,750 --> 00:01:31,480

in order to save lives.

32

00:01:31,480 --> 00:01:33,290

We are ready to
pay ransom for Jews

33

00:01:33,290 --> 00:01:35,330

and deliver them from
concentration camps

34

00:01:35,330 --> 00:01:37,310

with the help of

forged passports.

35

00:01:37,310 --> 00:01:39,320

For this purpose,
we do not hesitate

36

00:01:39,320 --> 00:01:42,260

to deal with counterfeit
pirates and passport thieves.

37

00:01:42,260 --> 00:01:44,810

We are ready to smuggle Jewish
children over the borders

38

00:01:44,810 --> 00:01:47,240

and to engage expert
smugglers for this purpose.

39

00:01:47,240 --> 00:01:48,920

Those whose profession this is.

40

00:01:48,920 --> 00:01:50,840

We are ready to
smuggle money illegally

41

00:01:50,840 --> 00:01:54,160

into enemy territories in order
to bribe as many as necessary

42

00:01:54,160 --> 00:01:55,970

of the killers of
the Jewish people,

43

00:01:55,970 --> 00:01:57,380

those dregs of humanity.

44

00:01:57,380 --> 00:01:59,720

We are even ready to
send special emissaries

45

00:01:59,720 --> 00:02:01,880

to plead with the chief
murderers, those ruthless

46
00:02:01,880 --> 00:02:05,220
criminals, and try to
appease them at any cost."

47
00:02:05,220 --> 00:02:05,720
You see?

48
00:02:05,720 --> 00:02:09,660
That's what the other
organization didn't understand.

49
00:02:09,660 --> 00:02:13,310
They didn't know that, in a time
where you have to save lives,

50
00:02:13,310 --> 00:02:14,540
you have to do everything.

51
00:02:14,540 --> 00:02:18,050
And you can't look even at
the laws of the land, which

52
00:02:18,050 --> 00:02:19,760
otherwise they keep quite well.

53
00:02:19,760 --> 00:02:22,760
But to save lives, nothing
counts, only saving lives.

54
00:02:22,760 --> 00:02:25,340
And he thinks it out very
nicely, Rabbi Silver.

55
00:02:25,340 --> 00:02:27,470
And he was one, himself.

56
00:02:27,470 --> 00:02:29,570
When the Vaad
Hatzala was founded,

57
00:02:29,570 --> 00:02:32,750

and they collected money, he
was the first man to give.

58
00:02:32,750 --> 00:02:34,310
He was not a rich man.

59
00:02:34,310 --> 00:02:35,610
But what did he do?

60
00:02:35,610 --> 00:02:39,740
He borrowed money on
his life insurance,

61
00:02:39,740 --> 00:02:41,830
and gave it to the Vaad Hatzala.

62
00:02:41,830 --> 00:02:44,840
This means, for these
people, the rescue

63
00:02:44,840 --> 00:02:46,760
was really the main [INAUDIBLE].

64
00:02:46,760 --> 00:02:49,130
The rescue was the main
purpose in all the rescue.

65
00:02:49,130 --> 00:02:50,160
Save lives.

66
00:02:50,160 --> 00:02:53,720
Nothing else was more
important than saving lives.

67
00:02:53,720 --> 00:02:54,863
Priority number one.

68
00:02:54,863 --> 00:02:55,530
It was Priority.

69
00:02:55,530 --> 00:02:56,820
Number one.

70
00:02:56,820 --> 00:03:01,520
And now, can you tell me about
the beginning of the Vaad

71
00:03:01,520 --> 00:03:05,220
Hatzala, of this
religious organization?

72
00:03:05,220 --> 00:03:05,720
Yeah.

73
00:03:05,720 --> 00:03:07,640
When and why was it created?

74
00:03:07,640 --> 00:03:10,430
What was the purpose
at the beginning?

75
00:03:10,430 --> 00:03:12,560
The purpose at the beginning
of the Vaad Hatzala

76
00:03:12,560 --> 00:03:17,720
was to save the yeshivat in
Eastern Europe, the yeshivat

77
00:03:17,720 --> 00:03:23,480
of the Polish Lithuanian
Hungarian countries, which

78
00:03:23,480 --> 00:03:26,670
are the lifeline
if I can call it

79
00:03:26,670 --> 00:03:28,980
this way, the lifeline
of the Judaism.

80
00:03:28,980 --> 00:03:29,690
The lifeline.

81

00:03:29,690 --> 00:03:31,670
Lifeline of Judaism.

82
00:03:31,670 --> 00:03:33,800
Without yeshivas,
without learning Torah,

83
00:03:33,800 --> 00:03:35,330
there couldn't be a Judaism.

84
00:03:35,330 --> 00:03:37,430
And those rabbis--
not only the rabbis,

85
00:03:37,430 --> 00:03:39,980
all the other orthodox
organizations,

86
00:03:39,980 --> 00:03:43,910
like Agudat Israel,
Mizrahi, Young Israel--

87
00:03:43,910 --> 00:03:47,690
they were all organized
together in the Vaad Hatzala

88
00:03:47,690 --> 00:03:50,960
to save the yeshivas
and to bring them out

89
00:03:50,960 --> 00:03:55,970
of the countries,
which were in danger

90
00:03:55,970 --> 00:03:58,370
Why do you call this
a lifeline of the--

91
00:03:58,370 --> 00:04:01,220
Because without Torah,
there is no Judaism.

92
00:04:01,220 --> 00:04:04,400

And Torah is studied
in the yeshivas.

93
00:04:04,400 --> 00:04:08,600
So we see that, to
keep Judaism alive,

94
00:04:08,600 --> 00:04:11,990
you have to keep the
yeshivas working.

95
00:04:11,990 --> 00:04:13,190
This was [INAUDIBLE]--

96
00:04:13,190 --> 00:04:17,630
This was the main purpose of the
founding of the Vaad Hatzala.

97
00:04:17,630 --> 00:04:23,180
And later on, it became the
work for rescuing anybody,

98
00:04:23,180 --> 00:04:24,730
everybody, if possible.

99
00:04:24,730 --> 00:04:26,870
But at the beginning,
it was a specifically --

100
00:04:26,870 --> 00:04:28,700
A specific orthodox
organization.

101
00:04:28,700 --> 00:04:31,550
And to save the orthodox Jews?

102
00:04:31,550 --> 00:04:33,222
To save not orthodox Jews.

103
00:04:33,222 --> 00:04:35,180
At this time, it was only
to save the yeshivas.

104

00:04:35,180 --> 00:04:36,540

Yes, and the Torah.

105

00:04:36,540 --> 00:04:38,870

They didn't know yet that
there was a possibility

106

00:04:38,870 --> 00:04:39,950

to save others.

107

00:04:39,950 --> 00:04:46,120

Even, in fact, Rabbi Silver sent
his own emissary to Lithuania,

108

00:04:46,120 --> 00:04:50,210

a certain Mr. Schmidt,
who was editor

109

00:04:50,210 --> 00:04:54,080

of a Jewish paper in Cincinnati.

110

00:04:54,080 --> 00:04:55,176

He went to--

111

00:04:55,176 --> 00:04:56,180

To [INAUDIBLE].

112

00:04:56,180 --> 00:04:57,230

--to Lithuania.

113

00:04:57,230 --> 00:04:59,750

And Mr. Schmidt
told me in 1944--

114

00:04:59,750 --> 00:05:02,900

or '45 he told me, if Rabbi
Silver would have told him,

115

00:05:02,900 --> 00:05:06,385

jump from the George Washington
Bridge, he would have jumped.

116

00:05:06,385 --> 00:05:07,110

He would?

117

00:05:07,110 --> 00:05:07,950

Yeah.

118

00:05:07,950 --> 00:05:10,050

As a matter of fact--

119

00:05:10,050 --> 00:05:12,180

He believed in Rabbi

Silver [INAUDIBLE]..

120

00:05:12,180 --> 00:05:13,800

But he said to me,

if Rabbi Silver

121

00:05:13,800 --> 00:05:15,720

tells me to jump he

knows what he's saying.

122

00:05:15,720 --> 00:05:16,290

I will jump.

123

00:05:16,290 --> 00:05:18,840

As a matter of fact, did they

succeed in saving the yeshivat?

124

00:05:18,840 --> 00:05:19,950

He tried.

125

00:05:19,950 --> 00:05:21,780

He tried to do something.

126

00:05:21,780 --> 00:05:26,520

And finally, they succeeded

to get visas to Shanghai.

127

00:05:26,520 --> 00:05:27,270

Shanghai.

128

00:05:27,270 --> 00:05:27,780
Shanghai.

129
00:05:27,780 --> 00:05:35,010
Most of the Yeshivas went intact
to either Russia, to Shanghai.

130
00:05:35,010 --> 00:05:38,270
This means that the yeshivat
of Poland, of Lithuania?

131
00:05:38,270 --> 00:05:38,970
No.

132
00:05:38,970 --> 00:05:40,350
Most of Lithuania.

133
00:05:40,350 --> 00:05:40,905
Of Lithuania.

134
00:05:40,905 --> 00:05:42,760
In Poland, it was
too late already.

135
00:05:42,760 --> 00:05:43,620
He succeeded to--

136
00:05:43,620 --> 00:05:45,840
Succeeded to come to Shanghai.

137
00:05:45,840 --> 00:05:47,430
And they continued
their work there.

138
00:05:47,430 --> 00:05:50,430
Not only they were sitting,
and learning, and studying.

139
00:05:50,430 --> 00:05:53,760
They even printed
Hebrew books there.

140

00:05:53,760 --> 00:05:55,650

There was a real
ghetto in there.

141

00:05:55,650 --> 00:05:57,199

It was in the
ghetto, they did it.

142

00:05:57,199 --> 00:05:58,032

There was a ghetto--

143

00:05:58,032 --> 00:05:59,130

There was a ghetto in Shanghai.

144

00:05:59,130 --> 00:06:00,217

--during the World War.

145

00:06:00,217 --> 00:06:01,800

In the beginning,
there was no ghetto.

146

00:06:01,800 --> 00:06:04,540

In the beginning, they could
live outside the ghetto.

147

00:06:04,540 --> 00:06:06,490

And then, later on,
the German forced--

148

00:06:06,490 --> 00:06:06,990

Japanese.

149

00:06:06,990 --> 00:06:09,810

--the Japanese to
start the ghettos.

150

00:06:09,810 --> 00:06:13,560

But their life was safe.

151

00:06:13,560 --> 00:06:14,700

They were not killed there.

152

00:06:14,700 --> 00:06:16,935
And they went on studying
Torah in Shanghai.

153
00:06:16,935 --> 00:06:17,453
Torah, yeah.

154
00:06:17,453 --> 00:06:19,620
Even if they had nothing
to eat, they were studying.

155
00:06:19,620 --> 00:06:23,850
And as it was not possible
to send money from America

156
00:06:23,850 --> 00:06:25,860
to Shanghai, because
it was occupied

157
00:06:25,860 --> 00:06:32,460
by the Japanese military,
the American Vaad Hatzala

158
00:06:32,460 --> 00:06:33,480
sent the money to us.

159
00:06:33,480 --> 00:06:36,300
And we transferred it
to Shanghai every month.

160
00:06:36,300 --> 00:06:38,198
You were the one who
transferred this money.

161
00:06:38,198 --> 00:06:39,240
We transferred the money.

162
00:06:39,240 --> 00:06:40,240
To Sternbuchs.

163
00:06:40,240 --> 00:06:43,200
Yeah, it came to Sternbuchs
and we transferred.

164
00:06:43,200 --> 00:06:48,370
And that way, the cooperation
between Vaad Hatzala in America

165
00:06:48,370 --> 00:06:51,120
and our organization, which
was called [INAUDIBLE],,

166
00:06:51,120 --> 00:06:53,790
[NON-ENGLISH] in Shanghai.

167
00:06:53,790 --> 00:06:59,010
That means Rescue Organization
for Refugees in Shanghai.

168
00:06:59,010 --> 00:07:00,360
This was the name.

169
00:07:00,360 --> 00:07:04,060
That was the name of our
organization in Switzerland.

170
00:07:04,060 --> 00:07:09,000
And so the cooperation between
Switzerland and the United

171
00:07:09,000 --> 00:07:10,110
States started.

172
00:07:10,110 --> 00:07:12,810
But Rabbi Silver,
in his book, talks

173
00:07:12,810 --> 00:07:14,820
about two different things.

174
00:07:14,820 --> 00:07:18,400
He talks about the
rescue of the Torah.

175
00:07:18,400 --> 00:07:19,560

That was the beginning.

176

00:07:19,560 --> 00:07:21,960

There was also the
rescue of the nation.

177

00:07:21,960 --> 00:07:23,130

That was later on.

178

00:07:23,130 --> 00:07:28,320

Later on, when we saw in America
that the whole Judaism is

179

00:07:28,320 --> 00:07:31,920

in danger, they tried to not
only save the orthodox Jews,

180

00:07:31,920 --> 00:07:33,750

to save whoever they could.

181

00:07:33,750 --> 00:07:34,860

And we tried our best.

182

00:07:34,860 --> 00:07:36,820

We never made any exception.

183

00:07:36,820 --> 00:07:39,330

If it's orthodox are
not orthodox Jew,

184

00:07:39,330 --> 00:07:41,670

we work the same thing as--

185

00:07:41,670 --> 00:07:43,810

Weissmandel worked together
with Gisi Fleischmann.

186

00:07:43,810 --> 00:07:46,783

You can't imagine two more--

187

00:07:46,783 --> 00:07:47,550

Different.

188
00:07:47,550 --> 00:07:51,930
--different people as
Weissmandel and Gisi

189
00:07:51,930 --> 00:07:52,600
Fleischmann.

190
00:07:52,600 --> 00:07:54,600
But in the rescue work,
there was no difference.

191
00:07:54,600 --> 00:07:55,475
They worked together.

192
00:07:55,475 --> 00:07:56,820
Gisi Fleischmann was a woman.

193
00:07:56,820 --> 00:07:57,872
And she was a--

194
00:07:57,872 --> 00:07:58,830
First, she was a woman.

195
00:07:58,830 --> 00:08:00,305
And first, she was a leftist.

196
00:08:00,305 --> 00:08:04,043
She was a representative of the
Hashomer Hatzair and the joint.

197
00:08:04,043 --> 00:08:04,710
She was Zionist.

198
00:08:04,710 --> 00:08:06,000
A Zionist, yeah.

199
00:08:06,000 --> 00:08:08,930
And Rabbi Weissmandel
is a rabbi.

200

00:08:08,930 --> 00:08:10,440
He worked together with him--

201
00:08:10,440 --> 00:08:12,570
signed letters together,
were sitting together--

202
00:08:12,570 --> 00:08:16,050
because in this time, in
a time of danger for life,

203
00:08:16,050 --> 00:08:17,490
it don't make any difference.

204
00:08:17,490 --> 00:08:20,150
But what is-- it's
difficult to understand

205
00:08:20,150 --> 00:08:26,150
this division between
the Torah and the nation.

206
00:08:26,150 --> 00:08:27,150
I don't think there is--

207
00:08:27,150 --> 00:08:28,690
Because there are
no Jews anymore,

208
00:08:28,690 --> 00:08:29,976
there is no Judaism, too.

209
00:08:29,976 --> 00:08:32,309
You say that, if there is no
Torah, there is no Judaism.

210
00:08:32,309 --> 00:08:33,090
It's the other way around.

211
00:08:33,090 --> 00:08:34,257
I say, the other way around.

212

00:08:34,257 --> 00:08:37,080

If there is no Torah,
there's no Judaism.

213

00:08:37,080 --> 00:08:39,135

Even if there are
no Jews anymore.

214

00:08:39,135 --> 00:08:42,690

If there are no Jews anymore,
the Torah has to exist.

215

00:08:42,690 --> 00:08:45,090

It never happened
that there is no Jews.

216

00:08:45,090 --> 00:08:48,510

It will never happen,
because the Lord promised us

217

00:08:48,510 --> 00:08:52,380

that he would never destroy
Torah, Israel, completely.

218

00:08:52,380 --> 00:08:53,730

He did.

219

00:08:53,730 --> 00:08:55,320

He promised not to destroy.

220

00:08:55,320 --> 00:08:55,980

He promised.

221

00:08:55,980 --> 00:08:57,060

He promised.

222

00:08:57,060 --> 00:08:59,120

When?

223

00:08:59,120 --> 00:09:02,010

He told Abraham.

224

00:09:02,010 --> 00:09:02,970
And he told Isaac.

225
00:09:02,970 --> 00:09:09,630
And he told Jacob that your
descendants will multiply,

226
00:09:09,630 --> 00:09:10,230
multiply.

227
00:09:10,230 --> 00:09:13,990
So we know even if it--
and it was always true.

228
00:09:13,990 --> 00:09:17,910
If the Jews were
persecuted in one country,

229
00:09:17,910 --> 00:09:20,850
they found a refuge
in another country.

230
00:09:20,850 --> 00:09:22,920
There was a time
of the persecution

231
00:09:22,920 --> 00:09:24,120
of the Jews in Spain.

232
00:09:24,120 --> 00:09:25,470
They were accepted in Holland.

233
00:09:25,470 --> 00:09:26,700
They were accepted in Poland.

234
00:09:26,700 --> 00:09:29,820
And the Jews were
persecuted in Germany.

235
00:09:29,820 --> 00:09:31,780
They fled to the
eastern countries.

236

00:09:31,780 --> 00:09:34,030

Is this the deep
meaning of the diaspora?

237

00:09:34,030 --> 00:09:34,530

Yeah.

238

00:09:34,530 --> 00:09:35,470

That's what.

239

00:09:35,470 --> 00:09:40,440

We'd never we never doubt
that Israel didn't exist.

240

00:09:40,440 --> 00:09:43,830

But for you, the
Torah comes first.

241

00:09:43,830 --> 00:09:45,780

With respect, I don't
understand this.

242

00:09:45,780 --> 00:09:48,330

No, no, what you said.

243

00:09:48,330 --> 00:09:52,920

The Torah is the
basis of the nation.

244

00:09:52,920 --> 00:09:55,260

Without the Torah,
there's no nation.

245

00:09:55,260 --> 00:09:57,390

And if the Torah
wouldn't have existed,

246

00:09:57,390 --> 00:09:59,290

there would be no
one Jews today.

247

00:09:59,290 --> 00:09:59,790

Yeah.

248

00:09:59,790 --> 00:10:00,915

[NON-ENGLISH RADIO CHATTER]

249

00:10:00,915 --> 00:10:01,979

[INAUDIBLE]

250

00:10:01,979 --> 00:10:05,262

[NON-ENGLISH RADIO CHATTER]

251

00:10:05,262 --> 00:10:06,669

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

252

00:10:06,669 --> 00:10:07,607

253

00:10:07,607 --> 00:10:08,726

What happened?

254

00:10:08,726 --> 00:10:09,970

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

255

00:10:09,970 --> 00:10:12,294

256

00:10:12,294 --> 00:10:13,785

[AUDIO OUT]

257

00:10:13,785 --> 00:11:10,443

258

00:11:10,443 --> 00:11:11,932

(film slating)

259

00:11:11,932 --> 00:11:15,096

260

00:11:15,096 --> 00:11:17,450

Was the letters of
Rabbi Weissmandel

261
00:11:17,450 --> 00:11:21,450
written in a clear language,
completely understandable?

262
00:11:21,450 --> 00:11:25,710
The letters usually were quite
clear, with some exceptions.

263
00:11:25,710 --> 00:11:27,360
But the cables
were not so clear.

264
00:11:27,360 --> 00:11:28,770
He used a code.

265
00:11:28,770 --> 00:11:31,560
But this was his own code,
which was not known to us.

266
00:11:31,560 --> 00:11:35,070
And we had to work on it to
understand what he meant.

267
00:11:35,070 --> 00:11:37,168
This means he concealed this.

268
00:11:37,168 --> 00:11:37,710
He concealed.

269
00:11:37,710 --> 00:11:38,640
Sure.

270
00:11:38,640 --> 00:11:41,940
He couldn't-- for instance,
he couldn't cable us bombs,

271
00:11:41,940 --> 00:11:46,650
this city of bombs, these
bridge bombs, a train.

272
00:11:46,650 --> 00:11:51,050

So he concealed
it in some words.

273
00:11:51,050 --> 00:11:52,380
And you didn't know.

274
00:11:52,380 --> 00:11:54,160
And we had no idea
what it meant.

275
00:11:54,160 --> 00:11:55,050
And we were sitting.

276
00:11:55,050 --> 00:11:58,440
Sometimes, it was
easy to decipher it

277
00:11:58,440 --> 00:12:00,130
within an hour or half an hour.

278
00:12:00,130 --> 00:12:04,540
But I remember, once a case, it
must have been in May or June.

279
00:12:04,540 --> 00:12:08,400
I think it was in May '44.

280
00:12:08,400 --> 00:12:11,350
We got a cable on
a Friday morning.

281
00:12:11,350 --> 00:12:17,070
It was addressed to his
friend Asher in Melbourne.

282
00:12:17,070 --> 00:12:19,230
And he brought it to
Mr. Hugo Donovan, who

283
00:12:19,230 --> 00:12:21,660
was a member of our committee.

284

00:12:21,660 --> 00:12:25,620

And I was sitting with Mr.
Donovan for quite a while,

285

00:12:25,620 --> 00:12:26,620

three or four hours.

286

00:12:26,620 --> 00:12:28,410

We couldn't decipher it.

287

00:12:28,410 --> 00:12:30,780

In the afternoon, in
the late afternoon,

288

00:12:30,780 --> 00:12:32,820

Mr. Donovan came back
to me in the office.

289

00:12:32,820 --> 00:12:33,780

I was in the office.

290

00:12:33,780 --> 00:12:35,910

He said, I think we have it now.

291

00:12:35,910 --> 00:12:37,410

And we understood what it meant.

292

00:12:37,410 --> 00:12:42,090

He gave us names of cities
and bridges, two cities

293

00:12:42,090 --> 00:12:44,220

and two bridges which
should have been bombed.

294

00:12:44,220 --> 00:12:50,160

And he cabled us, and if
these two bridges were bombed,

295

00:12:50,160 --> 00:12:53,310

the deportation would
stop at least six months,

296

00:12:53,310 --> 00:12:55,570

because it would take
six months to repair

297

00:12:55,570 --> 00:12:58,955

those way, those bridges.

298

00:12:58,955 --> 00:13:01,080

Meantime, it became already--
this was on a Friday.

299

00:13:01,080 --> 00:13:02,640

It became already Shabbat.

300

00:13:02,640 --> 00:13:06,360

And as you know, a Orthodox
Jew wouldn't work on Shabbat.

301

00:13:06,360 --> 00:13:10,560

But in this case, it was
[NON-ENGLISH],, as I said,

302

00:13:10,560 --> 00:13:11,640

danger of life.

303

00:13:11,640 --> 00:13:15,210

Mr. Sternbuch took the
train to Bern, Switzerland,

304

00:13:15,210 --> 00:13:18,630

the capital of
Switzerland, and called

305

00:13:18,630 --> 00:13:21,120

another member of our
committee, Dr. [? Cool, ?]

306

00:13:21,120 --> 00:13:25,350

who was secretary of the
Polish consulate there.

307

00:13:25,350 --> 00:13:30,040

And all those posts went to the
military attaches of the United

308
00:13:30,040 --> 00:13:34,170
States, Russia, and England.

309
00:13:34,170 --> 00:13:38,610
And also, he promised
to transmit his request

310
00:13:38,610 --> 00:13:41,350
right away to the--

311
00:13:41,350 --> 00:13:42,790
To the government.

312
00:13:42,790 --> 00:13:44,730
--to their government.

313
00:13:44,730 --> 00:13:47,940
The Russian never replied,
never gave a reply.

314
00:13:47,940 --> 00:13:51,420
The Americans replied that
it's not their [INAUDIBLE]

315
00:13:51,420 --> 00:13:52,890
on the operation.

316
00:13:52,890 --> 00:13:54,090
So the military attache.

317
00:13:54,090 --> 00:13:54,990
The military attache.

318
00:13:54,990 --> 00:13:57,060
But no, he got a
reply from New York.

319
00:13:57,060 --> 00:13:57,750
He transmitted it to New York.

320
00:13:57,750 --> 00:13:59,000
He transmitted it to New York.

321
00:13:59,000 --> 00:14:01,080
And New York replied them,
sorry they can't help,

322
00:14:01,080 --> 00:14:02,376
because it's not our--

323
00:14:02,376 --> 00:14:03,626
It's out of the range of the--

324
00:14:03,626 --> 00:14:05,490
--of the range of operation.

325
00:14:05,490 --> 00:14:08,760
And the English replied,
we are leading the war

326
00:14:08,760 --> 00:14:12,450
after strategic and not
humanitarian point of view.

327
00:14:12,450 --> 00:14:13,800
After strategy?

328
00:14:13,800 --> 00:14:15,840
Strategic, and not--

329
00:14:15,840 --> 00:14:19,000
Humanitarian. --humanitarian
point of view.

330
00:14:19,000 --> 00:14:19,840
[INAUDIBLE]

331
00:14:19,840 --> 00:14:26,250
And that was-- this
cable, I sent it

332

00:14:26,250 --> 00:14:28,080
to quite a few newspaper.

333

00:14:28,080 --> 00:14:32,120
And they all were shocked when
they heard this after the war.

334

00:14:32,120 --> 00:14:34,540
During the war, of course,
we couldn't do anything.

335

00:14:34,540 --> 00:14:35,580
And we cabled this.

336

00:14:35,580 --> 00:14:39,220
He said the content of the
cable be sent also to New York.

337

00:14:39,220 --> 00:14:40,560
And they tried the same thing.

338

00:14:40,560 --> 00:14:42,630
They got from the
Americans the same reply,

339

00:14:42,630 --> 00:14:44,940
that they can't do
anything, because it's out

340

00:14:44,940 --> 00:14:46,330
of the range of their operation.

341

00:14:46,330 --> 00:14:48,510
What kind of code did he--

342

00:14:48,510 --> 00:14:50,350
He used names.

343

00:14:50,350 --> 00:14:53,190
I have a similar cable here.

344

00:14:53,190 --> 00:14:55,470
I can decode a little bit.

345
00:14:55,470 --> 00:15:00,600
For instance, he
writes here, "Gyula."

346
00:15:00,600 --> 00:15:04,150
It was a name of a friend
of him who was from Hungary.

347
00:15:04,150 --> 00:15:06,810
So we understood
Gyula is Hungary.

348
00:15:06,810 --> 00:15:09,300
"Gyula" export to Misha Wagner.

349
00:15:09,300 --> 00:15:11,100
Fix [NON-ENGLISH].

350
00:15:11,100 --> 00:15:13,080
It meant Gyula was Hungary.

351
00:15:13,080 --> 00:15:16,050
And export means
crossing of the border.

352
00:15:16,050 --> 00:15:19,050
And [? Misha ?] Wagner
was [INAUDIBLE]..

353
00:15:19,050 --> 00:15:22,530
And Mr. Wagner was a
friend of his in Slovakia.

354
00:15:22,530 --> 00:15:25,230
So we understand that
this means the crossing

355
00:15:25,230 --> 00:15:27,690
of the border from
Hungary to Slovakia

356
00:15:27,690 --> 00:15:28,980
was fixed up [INAUDIBLE].

357
00:15:28,980 --> 00:15:32,790
He has a possibility
to save people.

358
00:15:32,790 --> 00:15:33,965
"10 [INAUDIBLE] are dead.

359
00:15:33,965 --> 00:15:36,390
[INAUDIBLE]."

360
00:15:36,390 --> 00:15:37,860
We didn't understand completely.

361
00:15:37,860 --> 00:15:39,750
It could have meant
do it both ways.

362
00:15:39,750 --> 00:15:40,690
And I can't remember.

363
00:15:40,690 --> 00:15:43,230
I think I asked Mr. Weissmandel
after, Rabbi Weissmandel.

364
00:15:43,230 --> 00:15:44,850
And I can't remember
what he said.

365
00:15:44,850 --> 00:15:47,310
We understood that
the German are

366
00:15:47,310 --> 00:15:52,170
sending, from Hungary
over the Slovakian border,

367
00:15:52,170 --> 00:15:53,970
10,000 people daily.

368

00:15:53,970 --> 00:15:56,880

And another gentleman
of our committee

369

00:15:56,880 --> 00:15:58,500

understood it the
other way-- that it

370

00:15:58,500 --> 00:16:01,600

would be possible to
save 10 people daily.

371

00:16:01,600 --> 00:16:04,620

I still think it meant
that 10,000 people daily

372

00:16:04,620 --> 00:16:07,590

were at the border,
and so on, so on.

373

00:16:07,590 --> 00:16:11,850

He used names of people,
which we knew they

374

00:16:11,850 --> 00:16:13,300

are living in this country.

375

00:16:13,300 --> 00:16:14,920

And so we decoded it.

376

00:16:14,920 --> 00:16:18,280

How would you decode for
Eichmann, for instance.

377

00:16:18,280 --> 00:16:19,020

How would you--

378

00:16:19,020 --> 00:16:21,870

Eichmann, he never
mentioned this in a cable,

379

00:16:21,870 --> 00:16:22,830
only in the letters.

380
00:16:22,830 --> 00:16:26,150
He said, Eich,
E-I-C-H, Eichmann.

381
00:16:26,150 --> 00:16:30,840
Or he mentioned Himmler,
either Himmler or him.

382
00:16:30,840 --> 00:16:31,620
Himmler.

383
00:16:31,620 --> 00:16:32,580
Himmler, yeah.

384
00:16:32,580 --> 00:16:36,295
And for airplane, he used
the birds, the birds and--

385
00:16:36,295 --> 00:16:37,100
For bombers.

386
00:16:37,100 --> 00:16:41,190
For bomber airplanes,
he used the word birds.

387
00:16:41,190 --> 00:16:45,240

388
00:16:45,240 --> 00:16:47,310
Once, he said he
said Schaffhausen,

389
00:16:47,310 --> 00:16:51,200
because Schaffhausen-- by
mistake, the English bombed

390
00:16:51,200 --> 00:16:54,880
Schaffhausen, which is
a city in Switzerland.

391

00:16:54,880 --> 00:16:57,600

And so when he
wrote Schaffhausen,

392

00:16:57,600 --> 00:17:05,460

we understood that he meant to
bomb this city or this bridge.

393

00:17:05,460 --> 00:17:09,569

It was not easy,
but we understood,

394

00:17:09,569 --> 00:17:12,074

but without any success.

395

00:17:12,074 --> 00:17:15,030

I see it was a--

396

00:17:15,030 --> 00:17:18,790

some of these cables are
really heartbreaking.

397

00:17:18,790 --> 00:17:23,185

I mean, the codes, this famous
letter from Warsaw in 1942.

398

00:17:23,185 --> 00:17:24,810

It was sent to
[? Eliyahu ?] Sternbuch.

399

00:17:24,810 --> 00:17:26,130

To Mr. Sternbuch, yeah.

400

00:17:26,130 --> 00:17:26,834

Yes.

401

00:17:26,834 --> 00:17:27,334

[INAUDIBLE]

402

00:17:27,334 --> 00:17:30,690

But in fact, it's interesting
that Rabbi Weissmandel,

403
00:17:30,690 --> 00:17:33,390
after the war, he told
me that one of the cables

404
00:17:33,390 --> 00:17:34,340
he gave to a minister.

405
00:17:34,340 --> 00:17:35,640
It was blocked, of course.

406
00:17:35,640 --> 00:17:38,640
A minister of the
Slovakian government

407
00:17:38,640 --> 00:17:40,540
sent a cable to [INAUDIBLE].

408
00:17:40,540 --> 00:17:41,220
He was bribed.

409
00:17:41,220 --> 00:17:41,840
He was bribed.

410
00:17:41,840 --> 00:17:47,610

411
00:17:47,610 --> 00:17:59,460
(film slating)

412
00:17:59,460 --> 00:18:01,950
I have read in the
[INAUDIBLE] book,

413
00:18:01,950 --> 00:18:07,200
I think that when Weissmandel
was in hiding in Bratislava,

414
00:18:07,200 --> 00:18:08,760
it was already in '45.

415

00:18:08,760 --> 00:18:12,030

The war was over before Kasztner
took him to Switzerland.

416

00:18:12,030 --> 00:18:14,070

From January to April.

417

00:18:14,070 --> 00:18:16,590

Yes, that he was still,
in spite of the fact

418

00:18:16,590 --> 00:18:20,340

that he knew that his
wife and his children

419

00:18:20,340 --> 00:18:22,680

had been sent to Auschwitz,
although the fact

420

00:18:22,680 --> 00:18:28,620

that he knew what was
the meaning of Auschwitz,

421

00:18:28,620 --> 00:18:31,650

he was still hoping
to see them again.

422

00:18:31,650 --> 00:18:35,460

Oh, that's quite
understandable, because we Jews,

423

00:18:35,460 --> 00:18:37,980

we live always in hope.

424

00:18:37,980 --> 00:18:40,140

We always think on a miracle.

425

00:18:40,140 --> 00:18:43,260

And the best hope is that
some children survived,

426

00:18:43,260 --> 00:18:45,240

even after Auschwitz,

and after Birkenau,

427

00:18:45,240 --> 00:18:47,460

and after all the camps.

428

00:18:47,460 --> 00:18:50,010

I remember I have

read an article

429

00:18:50,010 --> 00:18:57,415

from Polish priest written in

beginning of '46 or end '45.

430

00:18:57,415 --> 00:19:01,590

He writes in it, if you

ask me why the Jews never

431

00:19:01,590 --> 00:19:04,560

showed any resistance,

they're led

432

00:19:04,560 --> 00:19:07,290

like sheep bring

to the execution

433

00:19:07,290 --> 00:19:10,080

here to the gas chambers,

I can explain it.

434

00:19:10,080 --> 00:19:10,890

[INAUDIBLE]

435

00:19:10,890 --> 00:19:13,920

I think it is because

the Jews is a believer.

436

00:19:13,920 --> 00:19:15,600

He always believes in miracles.

437

00:19:15,600 --> 00:19:19,500

And he always thinks that, even

the last minute, the good Lord

438

00:19:19,500 --> 00:19:21,300
will help him and save him.

439

00:19:21,300 --> 00:19:24,180
And maybe that was the reason
why Rabbi Weissmandel was still

440

00:19:24,180 --> 00:19:28,290
hoping maybe that his wife and
his children will be saved.

441

00:19:28,290 --> 00:19:31,920
Do you think that it is
true that there is a--

442

00:19:31,920 --> 00:19:36,420
one of the reasons why the
Jews are in the mass graves

443

00:19:36,420 --> 00:19:37,470
[INAUDIBLE]?

444

00:19:37,470 --> 00:19:39,390
I think this was
one of the reasons.

445

00:19:39,390 --> 00:19:43,085
They still thought maybe
something will happen,

446

00:19:43,085 --> 00:19:45,210
and the military will come,
and they will be saved.

447

00:19:45,210 --> 00:19:47,857
And then what kind of a--

448

00:19:47,857 --> 00:19:48,690
they had no weapons.

449

00:19:48,690 --> 00:19:49,800
How could they resist?

450
00:19:49,800 --> 00:19:50,780
[INAUDIBLE]

451
00:19:50,780 --> 00:19:51,750
That's understandable.

452
00:19:51,750 --> 00:19:55,380
But I think the main
reason was that they still

453
00:19:55,380 --> 00:19:57,960
didn't believe that they would
be killed, that God will do

454
00:19:57,960 --> 00:20:00,450
a miracle and will save them.

455
00:20:00,450 --> 00:20:02,070
God will do something.

456
00:20:02,070 --> 00:20:03,390
He didn't do.

457
00:20:03,390 --> 00:20:04,950
That, we can't understand.

458
00:20:04,950 --> 00:20:06,310
We have to hope.

459
00:20:06,310 --> 00:20:08,410
And that was the same
thing in the middle age.

460
00:20:08,410 --> 00:20:10,260
And it was always like this.

461
00:20:10,260 --> 00:20:14,880
The Jews had hope, and
believed in miracles,

462

00:20:14,880 --> 00:20:16,170
and still believe in miracles.

463
00:20:16,170 --> 00:20:20,640
And if you look at the war, and
even the war today in Israel

464
00:20:20,640 --> 00:20:25,860
in '48 and '76, they tell
about a lot of miracles.

465
00:20:25,860 --> 00:20:26,730
Is there a--

466
00:20:26,730 --> 00:20:30,365
Even the non-religious people,
believing in a lot of miracles.

467
00:20:30,365 --> 00:20:32,640
Is there a big difference,
according to you,

468
00:20:32,640 --> 00:20:36,840
between the Holocaust
and the persecutions

469
00:20:36,840 --> 00:20:39,090
of the Jews in the [INAUDIBLE]?

470
00:20:39,090 --> 00:20:41,370
Oh, yeah, it's quite
a big difference,

471
00:20:41,370 --> 00:20:42,600
because the Holocaust--

472
00:20:42,600 --> 00:20:46,380
the goal was to destroy
Jew in the whole world,

473
00:20:46,380 --> 00:20:48,720
whereas in the middle
ages, there always

474
00:20:48,720 --> 00:20:50,250
was a certain part--

475
00:20:50,250 --> 00:20:52,560
only country, or a certain
part of the country.

476
00:20:52,560 --> 00:20:54,840
And they were not
interested to destroy

477
00:20:54,840 --> 00:20:56,690
the Jews in other countries.

478
00:20:56,690 --> 00:20:57,190
Yes.

479
00:20:57,190 --> 00:21:01,940

480
00:21:01,940 --> 00:21:03,290
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

481
00:21:03,290 --> 00:21:11,524

482
00:21:11,524 --> 00:21:13,540
McClelland.

483
00:21:13,540 --> 00:21:15,280
You didn't talk
about McClelland.

484
00:21:15,280 --> 00:21:15,950
No.

485
00:21:15,950 --> 00:21:17,120
Yes, you did.

486
00:21:17,120 --> 00:21:18,830

No.

487
00:21:18,830 --> 00:21:21,370
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

488
00:21:21,370 --> 00:21:21,880
McClelland.

489
00:21:21,880 --> 00:21:22,450
McClelland.

490
00:21:22,450 --> 00:21:23,060
McClelland.

491
00:21:23,060 --> 00:21:23,560
McClelland.

492
00:21:23,560 --> 00:21:24,545
Ah, McClelland.

493
00:21:24,545 --> 00:21:25,045
OK.

494
00:21:25,045 --> 00:21:28,015

495
00:21:28,015 --> 00:22:14,610
[AUDIO OUT]

496
00:22:14,610 --> 00:22:15,814
(film slating)

497
00:22:15,814 --> 00:22:18,300

498
00:22:18,300 --> 00:22:21,060
Of course, we were
used to the codes,

499
00:22:21,060 --> 00:22:25,200
because as you know,

before the war,

500

00:22:25,200 --> 00:22:28,260

the persecution of the Jews
started in 1933 already

501

00:22:28,260 --> 00:22:29,100

in Germany.

502

00:22:29,100 --> 00:22:30,450

But everything was open.

503

00:22:30,450 --> 00:22:33,510

It was already a
little bit of a censor.

504

00:22:33,510 --> 00:22:35,760

People knew that some of
the letters were opened.

505

00:22:35,760 --> 00:22:38,690

But everybody wrote quite
openly what's going on

506

00:22:38,690 --> 00:22:39,730

and what happens.

507

00:22:39,730 --> 00:22:41,250

But with September '39--

508

00:22:41,250 --> 00:22:42,617

The persecution was public.

509

00:22:42,617 --> 00:22:43,200

It was public.

510

00:22:43,200 --> 00:22:44,880

Everybody knew about.

511

00:22:44,880 --> 00:22:49,500

But '39, when the war
started, a curtain

512
00:22:49,500 --> 00:22:52,410
was around Germany and
the occupied countries.

513
00:22:52,410 --> 00:22:53,790
People could still
write letters,

514
00:22:53,790 --> 00:22:56,460
but they were afraid
to write the truth.

515
00:22:56,460 --> 00:22:59,700
So everybody wrote
letters in a certain code.

516
00:22:59,700 --> 00:23:02,130
I remember, myself,
when I got a letter--

517
00:23:02,130 --> 00:23:07,107
my mother was in the
ghetto in Kraków-Plaszów.

518
00:23:07,107 --> 00:23:08,190
And she wrote us a letter.

519
00:23:08,190 --> 00:23:10,190
And she wanted to let us
know that my father was

520
00:23:10,190 --> 00:23:11,970
deported to Belzec.

521
00:23:11,970 --> 00:23:12,570
She wrote--

522
00:23:12,570 --> 00:23:13,900
And your father was--

523
00:23:13,900 --> 00:23:19,050

My father was in the
ghetto in Kraków.

524
00:23:19,050 --> 00:23:21,992
And in '42, he was
deported to Belzec.

525
00:23:21,992 --> 00:23:22,950
He was killed in there.

526
00:23:22,950 --> 00:23:24,810
He was killed in
it, unfortunately.

527
00:23:24,810 --> 00:23:27,030
And my mother wrote to me.

528
00:23:27,030 --> 00:23:29,490
Unfortunately, your
father can't write.

529
00:23:29,490 --> 00:23:31,080
He is not here anymore.

530
00:23:31,080 --> 00:23:32,620
So we understood.

531
00:23:32,620 --> 00:23:34,710
We didn't know, of course,
that he went to Belzec.

532
00:23:34,710 --> 00:23:38,230
But we understood
that he was sent away.

533
00:23:38,230 --> 00:23:43,380
And I have here a letter, which
was sent to Mr. Sternbuch,

534
00:23:43,380 --> 00:23:45,680
to Mr. [? Eliyahu ?]
Sternbuch, the father of--

535

00:23:45,680 --> 00:23:46,180

Yitzchak.

536

00:23:46,180 --> 00:23:49,080

--Yitzchak Sternbuch, which was
also a member of our committee.

537

00:23:49,080 --> 00:23:51,010

If I may read it to you.

538

00:23:51,010 --> 00:23:51,820

It is written in--

539

00:23:51,820 --> 00:23:53,070

It is written in German.

540

00:23:53,070 --> 00:23:54,350

Can I read it in German or--

541

00:23:54,350 --> 00:23:54,540

Yes.

542

00:23:54,540 --> 00:23:54,920

Yes.

543

00:23:54,920 --> 00:23:55,300

[INAUDIBLE]

544

00:23:55,300 --> 00:23:56,467

No, you wouldn't understand.

545

00:23:56,467 --> 00:23:57,510

But it comes from where?

546

00:23:57,510 --> 00:23:59,670

It comes from Warsaw
on the day where

547

00:23:59,670 --> 00:24:05,610

the deportations from Warsaw
to Treblinka started there.

548

00:24:05,610 --> 00:24:08,490

And she writes-- it's an
acquaintance of Mr. Sternbuch.

549

00:24:08,490 --> 00:24:11,550

And she writes
him, [NON-ENGLISH]..

550

00:24:11,550 --> 00:24:13,860

[NON-ENGLISH] is
an English hunter.

551

00:24:13,860 --> 00:24:17,310

That means that the Jews
were hunted and deported.

552

00:24:17,310 --> 00:24:25,530

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

553

00:24:25,530 --> 00:24:27,120

That means, the family.

554

00:24:27,120 --> 00:24:30,330

[HEBREW],, it means-- [HEBREW]
is Hebrew, our brother.

555

00:24:30,330 --> 00:24:36,540

That means all the Jews, he
invites them to his country

556

00:24:36,540 --> 00:24:37,630

side [NON-ENGLISH].

557

00:24:37,630 --> 00:24:38,880

[NON-ENGLISH] is grave.

558

00:24:38,880 --> 00:24:41,400

So Mr. Sternbuch
understood right away

559

00:24:41,400 --> 00:24:45,930

that the people from Warsaw
were deported and killed.

560
00:24:45,930 --> 00:24:48,180
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

561
00:24:48,180 --> 00:24:49,170
I am here alone.

562
00:24:49,170 --> 00:24:51,210
I'm feeling very lonely.

563
00:24:51,210 --> 00:24:55,950
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

564
00:24:55,950 --> 00:24:58,500
That's not so important here.

565
00:24:58,500 --> 00:25:01,760
Mr. Sternbuch sent
some etrogim fruits.

566
00:25:01,760 --> 00:25:03,510
That's the citrus
fruits which we orthodox

567
00:25:03,510 --> 00:25:07,170
Jews use on Sukkot holidays.

568
00:25:07,170 --> 00:25:10,860
And Mr. Sternbuch sent
some for them to Warsaw.

569
00:25:10,860 --> 00:25:13,590
And in September, they were
not-- they didn't arrive.

570
00:25:13,590 --> 00:25:17,370
And she writes,
[NON-ENGLISH], I'm very weak.

571
00:25:17,370 --> 00:25:25,950

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

572

00:25:25,950 --> 00:25:28,500

Gerush means
deportation in Hebrew.

573

00:25:28,500 --> 00:25:30,080

It's a Hebrew word, gerush.

574

00:25:30,080 --> 00:25:31,260

And it means deportation.

575

00:25:31,260 --> 00:25:33,540

She wants to let
Mr. Sternbuch know

576

00:25:33,540 --> 00:25:37,020

that all the people out of the
ghetto in Warsaw are deported.

577

00:25:37,020 --> 00:25:37,790

Uncle Gerush.

578

00:25:37,790 --> 00:25:44,130

Uncle gerush It says
here, [NON-ENGLISH]..

579

00:25:44,130 --> 00:25:45,452

[? Miso ?] is dead.

580

00:25:45,452 --> 00:25:48,660

[NON-ENGLISH].

581

00:25:48,660 --> 00:25:50,410

That means his friend is dead.

582

00:25:50,410 --> 00:25:51,960

No.

583

00:25:51,960 --> 00:25:53,280

[NON-ENGLISH].

584

00:25:53,280 --> 00:25:54,810

It says, [NON-ENGLISH].

585

00:25:54,810 --> 00:25:57,000

That means he's a
very capable worker.

586

00:25:57,000 --> 00:25:57,875

That means that the--

587

00:25:57,875 --> 00:25:58,833

The deportations were--

588

00:25:58,833 --> 00:26:00,900

--the German deportation
is going very smoothly.

589

00:26:00,900 --> 00:26:02,760

He knows what to do.

590

00:26:02,760 --> 00:26:04,210

And [NON-ENGLISH].

591

00:26:04,210 --> 00:26:06,560

592

00:26:06,560 --> 00:26:08,310

That means his friend,
[? Miso, ?] did not

593

00:26:08,310 --> 00:26:10,650

go to deportation, not
to the working camp.

594

00:26:10,650 --> 00:26:13,305

Then they knew that they were
sent to the working camp.

595

00:26:13,305 --> 00:26:15,060

Miso means in Hebrew death?-

596

00:26:15,060 --> 00:26:17,020

That is-- [? Miso ?]

is death in Hebrew.

597

00:26:17,020 --> 00:26:19,870

Which means that [INAUDIBLE]--

598

00:26:19,870 --> 00:26:24,420

The man gerush the
deportation leading to death.

599

00:26:24,420 --> 00:26:26,560

It means the deportation,
not to the working camp.

600

00:26:26,560 --> 00:26:27,060

His friend [? Des-- ?]

601

00:26:27,060 --> 00:26:28,020

His friend [? Des-- ?]

602

00:26:28,020 --> 00:26:28,800

--works with him.

603

00:26:28,800 --> 00:26:32,130

--is working with him together.

604

00:26:32,130 --> 00:26:33,210

[NON-ENGLISH].

605

00:26:33,210 --> 00:26:34,530

Please pray for me.

606

00:26:34,530 --> 00:26:37,170

In such letters, we
can find quite a few.

607

00:26:37,170 --> 00:26:40,020

So we were used to
all those codes.

608

00:26:40,020 --> 00:26:43,120

And we could read the letters.

609

00:26:43,120 --> 00:26:45,150

[INAUDIBLE] come away from that.

610

00:26:45,150 --> 00:26:47,864

It's very heart
breaking, these letters.

611

00:26:47,864 --> 00:26:50,670

They're such letters.

612

00:26:50,670 --> 00:26:52,470

When I got such
letters from my mother,

613

00:26:52,470 --> 00:26:55,450

I was sick for weeks and weeks.

614

00:26:55,450 --> 00:26:58,230

I got them-- first, I got
those letters into Belgium.

615

00:26:58,230 --> 00:26:59,948

And later on, even
to Switzerland,

616

00:26:59,948 --> 00:27:00,990

I still got some letters.

617

00:27:00,990 --> 00:27:03,190

She proceeded to
write from the ghetto.

618

00:27:03,190 --> 00:27:05,760

From the ghetto in Krak³w,
she wrote me, until '42.

619

00:27:05,760 --> 00:27:06,702

And she died, too.

620

00:27:06,702 --> 00:27:07,785

And she was also deported.

621
00:27:07,785 --> 00:27:10,910

622
00:27:10,910 --> 00:27:12,840
I tried to save her.

623
00:27:12,840 --> 00:27:15,620
We sent passports
from our committee.

624
00:27:15,620 --> 00:27:20,300
We sent passports of
South American countries

625
00:27:20,300 --> 00:27:24,890
to all the people we knew
or when we were requested.

626
00:27:24,890 --> 00:27:27,170
People asked us
to send passports.

627
00:27:27,170 --> 00:27:33,605
We bought those passports either
from Paraguay or from Chile.

628
00:27:33,605 --> 00:27:35,960
Even the South
American countries.

629
00:27:35,960 --> 00:27:38,720
And later on, some of
them were really saved.

630
00:27:38,720 --> 00:27:42,960
They were brought into
internment camps in France

631
00:27:42,960 --> 00:27:43,460
and in--

632

00:27:43,460 --> 00:27:43,960

[INAUDIBLE]

633

00:27:43,960 --> 00:27:46,380

--[INAUDIBLE], also in Germany.

634

00:27:46,380 --> 00:27:48,740

For instance, the two
passes of Mrs. Sternbuch,

635

00:27:48,740 --> 00:27:52,310

which Mr. Musy
bought her as a proof

636

00:27:52,310 --> 00:27:53,670

that he could do something.

637

00:27:53,670 --> 00:27:55,503

He brought them out
from the internment camp

638

00:27:55,503 --> 00:27:57,210

and brought them to Switzerland.

639

00:27:57,210 --> 00:27:59,395

And when we sent
out those passports,

640

00:27:59,395 --> 00:28:01,770

we didn't ask if the people
are orthodox or not orthodox.

641

00:28:01,770 --> 00:28:04,130

But did you buy a lot of
passports, many passports?

642

00:28:04,130 --> 00:28:05,550

Oh, yeah, hundreds and hundreds.

643

00:28:05,550 --> 00:28:08,270

I still have two in my archive.

644

00:28:08,270 --> 00:28:10,550

And it was easy to buy them?

645

00:28:10,550 --> 00:28:12,110

But we have to pay for.

646

00:28:12,110 --> 00:28:16,220

The Paraguay visa
passports were very cheap,

647

00:28:16,220 --> 00:28:19,854

because Mr. Montello was a
secretary of the Paraguay

648

00:28:19,854 --> 00:28:20,354

consulate.

649

00:28:20,354 --> 00:28:22,940

It was the passports
from San Salvador.

650

00:28:22,940 --> 00:28:24,146

San Salvador yeah.

651

00:28:24,146 --> 00:28:28,370

San Salvador he was a
secretary in the consulate.

652

00:28:28,370 --> 00:28:29,580

It was for George Montello.

653

00:28:29,580 --> 00:28:30,076

George Montello.

654

00:28:30,076 --> 00:28:31,070

But his real name was Mandel.

655

00:28:31,070 --> 00:28:31,450

He's Mandel.

656

00:28:31,450 --> 00:28:32,030

He was a Jew.

657

00:28:32,030 --> 00:28:33,830

He called himself Montello.

658

00:28:33,830 --> 00:28:37,160

And the passports
of Paraguay, there

659

00:28:37,160 --> 00:28:41,540

was a representative,
one of the employees

660

00:28:41,540 --> 00:28:44,570

of the delegation
of Paraguay in Bern,

661

00:28:44,570 --> 00:28:47,210

which was a friend
of Mr. Sternbuch.

662

00:28:47,210 --> 00:28:50,840

Of course, we had to pay for
it, \$50 to \$100 a passport.

663

00:28:50,840 --> 00:28:51,823

But still, it helped.

664

00:28:51,823 --> 00:28:53,240

And some of the
people were saved.

665

00:28:53,240 --> 00:28:56,100

It was possible to send the
passports inside the ghetto.

666

00:28:56,100 --> 00:28:57,020

Some arrived.

667

00:28:57,020 --> 00:28:57,920

Some didn't arrive.

668

00:28:57,920 --> 00:28:59,240
And some were shot.

669
00:28:59,240 --> 00:29:02,360
Some people were shot when
they got the passport.

670
00:29:02,360 --> 00:29:05,925
The Germans said, you are in
connections with the enemy,

671
00:29:05,925 --> 00:29:06,800
and they killed them.

672
00:29:06,800 --> 00:29:10,640
And then, some they sent
to internment camps.

673
00:29:10,640 --> 00:29:13,330
Unfortunately, later on, they
didn't recognize them anymore

674
00:29:13,330 --> 00:29:14,910
and deported also those people.

675
00:29:14,910 --> 00:29:17,770
The parents of Mrs.
Sternbuch, for instance,

676
00:29:17,770 --> 00:29:19,700
had also Paraguayan passports.

677
00:29:19,700 --> 00:29:20,780
But--

678
00:29:20,780 --> 00:29:21,520
They didn't have.

679
00:29:21,520 --> 00:29:22,820
They didn't have.

680
00:29:22,820 --> 00:29:26,030

In the beginning, they were
interned and recognized,

681
00:29:26,030 --> 00:29:29,470
until somebody of the--

682
00:29:29,470 --> 00:29:31,100
they say, I don't
know if it's true,

683
00:29:31,100 --> 00:29:36,110
that one of the people who
were interned in this camp

684
00:29:36,110 --> 00:29:38,990
denounced them and said that
their passports are not real.

685
00:29:38,990 --> 00:29:39,650
In Italy.

686
00:29:39,650 --> 00:29:40,440
In Italy.

687
00:29:40,440 --> 00:29:42,410
But--

688
00:29:42,410 --> 00:29:44,870
There's a whole
chapter about Vittel

689
00:29:44,870 --> 00:29:48,500
I could talk and talk to you
for hours about Vittel But--

690
00:29:48,500 --> 00:29:52,250
As a matter of fact, part
of the Vittel transport

691
00:29:52,250 --> 00:29:53,930
were, after a while,
sent to Auschwitz.

692

00:29:53,930 --> 00:29:56,360

To Auschwitz,
yeah, most of them.

693

00:29:56,360 --> 00:29:57,870

Most of them were
sent to Auschwitz.

694

00:29:57,870 --> 00:29:59,810

And how long did they
stay in the ghetto?

695

00:29:59,810 --> 00:30:04,170

They stayed until 1944.

696

00:30:04,170 --> 00:30:08,060

I still have correspondence
that I had with my uncle

697

00:30:08,060 --> 00:30:11,690

died, [INAUDIBLE],,
who was my uncle.

698

00:30:11,690 --> 00:30:14,192

And I wrote him every month.

699

00:30:14,192 --> 00:30:14,900

And then he died.

700

00:30:14,900 --> 00:30:15,530

And he was saved?

701

00:30:15,530 --> 00:30:16,010

No.

702

00:30:16,010 --> 00:30:16,990

He also perished, unfortunately.

703

00:30:16,990 --> 00:30:17,532

In Auschwitz.

704

00:30:17,532 --> 00:30:21,050
In Auschwitz.

705
00:30:21,050 --> 00:30:22,700
(film slating)

706
00:30:22,700 --> 00:30:27,870

707
00:30:27,870 --> 00:30:30,870
I believe that the opinion
of Weissmandel that,

708
00:30:30,870 --> 00:30:34,140
his negotiations, you could
save lives were correct.

709
00:30:34,140 --> 00:30:36,180
And proof of it are
the negotiations

710
00:30:36,180 --> 00:30:39,060
of our committee with
Musy and Himmler.

711
00:30:39,060 --> 00:30:43,920
Mr. Musy, he was a
ex-president of Switzerland.

712
00:30:43,920 --> 00:30:45,700
He was a rightist.

713
00:30:45,700 --> 00:30:49,230
He was, you can say,
maybe an anti-Semite.

714
00:30:49,230 --> 00:30:52,290
But we used him to save lives.

715
00:30:52,290 --> 00:30:56,730
And when Musy went to Berlin,
and spoke with Himmler,

716

00:30:56,730 --> 00:30:59,550

and started the
negotiations, he succeeded.

717

00:30:59,550 --> 00:31:02,850

And in beginning
of February 1945,

718

00:31:02,850 --> 00:31:06,060

1,200 Jews from Theresienstadt
arrived in Switzerland.

719

00:31:06,060 --> 00:31:07,570

Of course, they were saved.

720

00:31:07,570 --> 00:31:13,560

And the negotiations, which Musy
had with us and with Himmler,

721

00:31:13,560 --> 00:31:16,950

should have led to another
transport every week

722

00:31:16,950 --> 00:31:18,360

of 1,200 people.

723

00:31:18,360 --> 00:31:20,520

But for the reason
of some obstacles,

724

00:31:20,520 --> 00:31:23,470

which I don't want to mention
here, the action were stopped.

725

00:31:23,470 --> 00:31:27,330

And only those 1,200
Jews were really saved.

726

00:31:27,330 --> 00:31:30,162

And the other ones couldn't
come to Switzerland.

727

00:31:30,162 --> 00:31:32,370
Yeah, but this was at the
very end when [INAUDIBLE]..

728
00:31:32,370 --> 00:31:33,328
It was at the very end.

729
00:31:33,328 --> 00:31:35,640
But still, they still
killed people there.

730
00:31:35,640 --> 00:31:36,140
Yes.

731
00:31:36,140 --> 00:31:37,710
And in fact, they had--

732
00:31:37,710 --> 00:31:40,230
all the concentration camps
had an order from Himmler

733
00:31:40,230 --> 00:31:42,240
to kill all the inhabitants.

734
00:31:42,240 --> 00:31:46,980
And Musy was working with
his connections in Germany

735
00:31:46,980 --> 00:31:51,900
and succeeded to arrange
that all the guardians

736
00:31:51,900 --> 00:31:55,110
in the concentration camps
were considered as prisoners

737
00:31:55,110 --> 00:31:58,110
of war against the
promise of the German

738
00:31:58,110 --> 00:32:01,680
not to kill the
inhabitants of the camps.

739
00:32:01,680 --> 00:32:04,050
And he came with
this request to us.

740
00:32:04,050 --> 00:32:05,760
We transmitted it to
the Mr. McClelland,

741
00:32:05,760 --> 00:32:08,370
who was the representative
of the refugee board.

742
00:32:08,370 --> 00:32:11,280
He sent a cable to New
York, to Washington.

743
00:32:11,280 --> 00:32:14,130
Washington cabled back that
we could give this promise.

744
00:32:14,130 --> 00:32:20,310
So it was still a work of
rescue with negotiations.

745
00:32:20,310 --> 00:32:22,335
But at the time, it
is clear that he never

746
00:32:22,335 --> 00:32:24,090
did receive any
letter from Himmler

747
00:32:24,090 --> 00:32:27,280
to Musy where [INAUDIBLE]
wanted to save his own skin.

748
00:32:27,280 --> 00:32:29,140
And he wanted an
opening [INAUDIBLE]..

749
00:32:29,140 --> 00:32:32,710
But we don't look

for what reason.

750

00:32:32,710 --> 00:32:34,710

We are looking, do
you save people,

751

00:32:34,710 --> 00:32:37,530

or don't you save people,
for whatever reason it is.

752

00:32:37,530 --> 00:32:39,630

And I could, I would
have promised him

753

00:32:39,630 --> 00:32:42,300

the [INAUDIBLE],,
the other world,

754

00:32:42,300 --> 00:32:45,850

if he would let the Jews free.

755

00:32:45,850 --> 00:32:46,350

Yes.

756

00:32:46,350 --> 00:32:48,582

And you were saying that,
without obstacles, it

757

00:32:48,582 --> 00:32:49,290

would have been--

758

00:32:49,290 --> 00:32:50,457

It would have been another--

759

00:32:50,457 --> 00:32:53,520

at least three or four trains
would have come to Switzerland.

760

00:32:53,520 --> 00:32:57,360

Of course, not all those 5,000
people would have been killed.

761

00:32:57,360 --> 00:33:00,048

But that's for sure, they
would have been saved.

762

00:33:00,048 --> 00:33:00,840

But you didn't pay.

763

00:33:00,840 --> 00:33:02,080

You just promised them money.

764

00:33:02,080 --> 00:33:02,610

We promised.

765

00:33:02,610 --> 00:33:05,730

We never paid a penny to them.

766

00:33:05,730 --> 00:33:10,005

We had some money, which we
got from Vaad Hatzala in--

767

00:33:10,005 --> 00:33:10,710

America.

768

00:33:10,710 --> 00:33:13,110

--America, me and
Mr. McClelland.

769

00:33:13,110 --> 00:33:17,120

And it was deposited
on the name of--