

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,950

2

00:00:04,950 --> 00:00:09,100

(film slating)

3

00:00:09,100 --> 00:00:11,540

As you remember, I mentioned  
that quite a few times,

4

00:00:11,540 --> 00:00:14,250

the words world Jewry.

5

00:00:14,250 --> 00:00:18,170

That has some thing really  
very important how it happens.

6

00:00:18,170 --> 00:00:19,170

And that is interesting.

7

00:00:19,170 --> 00:00:22,230

That is the creation  
of Weissmandel.

8

00:00:22,230 --> 00:00:26,010

Because Weissmandel  
told Hochberg

9

00:00:26,010 --> 00:00:30,060

to emphasize that a  
Mr. {Personal name]

10

00:00:30,060 --> 00:00:35,200

came to Hochberg and told him  
that he represents the world

11

00:00:35,200 --> 00:00:39,670

Jewry, and he should try  
now to make some deal

12

00:00:39,670 --> 00:00:42,120

with the Germans, and  
there will be lots of money

13  
00:00:42,120 --> 00:00:45,258  
available if the Germans  
would be willing to do that.

14  
00:00:45,258 --> 00:00:46,752  
(film logistics)

15  
00:00:46,752 --> 00:00:50,040  
(film slating)

16  
00:00:50,040 --> 00:00:54,450  
In this whole negotiation with  
Wisliceny as I told you before,

17  
00:00:54,450 --> 00:00:57,750  
the emphasis, that not only we,  
the Slovak Jews, are behind it,

18  
00:00:57,750 --> 00:01:01,240  
but the world Jewry is  
behind it was very important.

19  
00:01:01,240 --> 00:01:06,100  
And to make it really  
sure and really strong,

20  
00:01:06,100 --> 00:01:09,870  
Weissmandel created  
the figure of Rott.

21  
00:01:09,870 --> 00:01:10,510  
Rott.

22  
00:01:10,510 --> 00:01:11,470  
Rott.

23  
00:01:11,470 --> 00:01:11,970  
Yeah.

24

00:01:11,970 --> 00:01:12,720

A man called Rott.

25

00:01:12,720 --> 00:01:20,050

A man called Rott who was  
supposed to be from Switzerland

26

00:01:20,050 --> 00:01:24,150

and would give and  
negotiate money

27

00:01:24,150 --> 00:01:27,855

for the reconstruction, if  
we are able to [INAUDIBLE]..

28

00:01:27,855 --> 00:01:29,160

You mean rescue.

29

00:01:29,160 --> 00:01:31,380

Yeah, the rescue operation.

30

00:01:31,380 --> 00:01:36,000

And to emphasize how it is,  
even Weissmandel and Gisi

31

00:01:36,000 --> 00:01:42,090

Fleischmann forged letters  
coming from Switzerland,

32

00:01:42,090 --> 00:01:49,460

written in a big Swiss hotel,  
with coming in with Swiss

33

00:01:49,460 --> 00:01:52,702

letterhead, and so on and so on,  
and that they had been showing

34

00:01:52,702 --> 00:01:53,910

to Wisliceny, showing that --

35

00:01:53,910 --> 00:01:55,710

And signed by Joseph Rott.

36

00:01:55,710 --> 00:01:57,090

And signed by Joseph Roth.

37

00:01:57,090 --> 00:01:58,710

And Joseph Rott, was--

38

00:01:58,710 --> 00:01:59,970

supposed to be what?

39

00:01:59,970 --> 00:02:01,700

To be the representative?

40

00:02:01,700 --> 00:02:04,365

He was supposed to be the  
representative of the world

41

00:02:04,365 --> 00:02:08,520

Jewry, the connection, the  
contact man between the Slovak

42

00:02:08,520 --> 00:02:11,310

Jews and the world Jewry when --

43

00:02:11,310 --> 00:02:15,760

settled and headquartered  
in Switzerland.

44

00:02:15,760 --> 00:02:19,890

And yourself, during your  
talks with Wisliceny you--

45

00:02:19,890 --> 00:02:22,230

I emphasized then, too,  
that it was natural

46

00:02:22,230 --> 00:02:25,770

that we are constantly  
in contact with Rott

47

00:02:25,770 --> 00:02:28,230

and the others in Switzerland,  
and with the representative

48  
00:02:28,230 --> 00:02:29,970  
of American Joint.

49  
00:02:29,970 --> 00:02:32,190  
We really played  
it very strongly

50  
00:02:32,190 --> 00:02:36,300  
that he should has a feeling  
that if he speaks with me--

51  
00:02:36,300 --> 00:02:38,670  
and he knew from me that  
Gisi Fleischmann lived there,

52  
00:02:38,670 --> 00:02:41,370  
and Rabbi Weissmandel is  
there, and Rabbi [? Frieda. ?]

53  
00:02:41,370 --> 00:02:43,110  
He knew the whole set-up.

54  
00:02:43,110 --> 00:02:46,980  
But here, what we tried to  
explain to him and emphasize,

55  
00:02:46,980 --> 00:02:50,790  
that we Slovak Jews  
right now are not only

56  
00:02:50,790 --> 00:02:55,190  
the groups of Slovaks, but  
we represent the connection

57  
00:02:55,190 --> 00:02:56,800  
to the world Jewry.

58  
00:02:56,800 --> 00:03:00,990  
And this character of  
Rott was purely imaginary?

59

00:03:00,990 --> 00:03:04,050

Purely imaginary,  
invented by Weissmandel.

60

00:03:04,050 --> 00:03:05,940

So he's a fantastic thing, no?

61

00:03:05,940 --> 00:03:08,040

And a fantastic thing,  
just like many other things

62

00:03:08,040 --> 00:03:11,560

this Weissmandel that  
Weissmandel brought up

63

00:03:11,560 --> 00:03:14,010

were fantastic.

64

00:03:14,010 --> 00:03:17,730

For instance, his  
whole financial dreams,

65

00:03:17,730 --> 00:03:22,170

that he absolutely had no  
feeling what really dollar,

66

00:03:22,170 --> 00:03:23,250

what really money is.

67

00:03:23,250 --> 00:03:28,890

He was constantly dreaming  
and being up in the air,

68

00:03:28,890 --> 00:03:30,150

not down on the ground.

69

00:03:30,150 --> 00:03:32,970

That was constantly a  
discussion between the group too

70

00:03:32,970 --> 00:03:37,230

and between Weissmandel, that we  
the other members of the group

71  
00:03:37,230 --> 00:03:40,320  
thought that \$1,000  
is a lots of money.

72  
00:03:40,320 --> 00:03:42,870  
And any time, if Weissmandel  
had some proposal,

73  
00:03:42,870 --> 00:03:45,840  
he started out with  
40,000, 50,000, 100,000,

74  
00:03:45,840 --> 00:03:47,690  
and if necessary,  
a million dollars.

75  
00:03:47,690 --> 00:03:49,893  
And for where it  
comes from, it doesn't

76  
00:03:49,893 --> 00:03:51,060  
make any difference for him.

77  
00:03:51,060 --> 00:03:52,960  
He all the time said,  
don't worry about it.

78  
00:03:52,960 --> 00:03:53,970  
It will be here.

79  
00:03:53,970 --> 00:03:55,740  
When they will be, will be fine.

80  
00:03:55,740 --> 00:03:57,150  
Yeah.

81  
00:03:57,150 --> 00:04:00,960  
If necessary, if he can produce  
some of these rescue actions,

82  
00:04:00,960 --> 00:04:02,700

the money will be here.

83

00:04:02,700 --> 00:04:06,630

He had no idea at  
all about, say, let's

84

00:04:06,630 --> 00:04:09,180

say the money mathematics?

85

00:04:09,180 --> 00:04:11,160

Money mathematics  
didn't exist for him,

86

00:04:11,160 --> 00:04:14,610

because his  
philosophy was saving.

87

00:04:14,610 --> 00:04:18,390

If you can buy with money,  
which is just a piece of paper,

88

00:04:18,390 --> 00:04:22,770

human life, money, and  
paper should be here.

89

00:04:22,770 --> 00:04:25,120

And if [INAUDIBLE]  
credit [INAUDIBLE]

90

00:04:25,120 --> 00:04:28,470

and Slovakia is not enough,  
so he will be bringing it

91

00:04:28,470 --> 00:04:31,158

from any place of the world.

92

00:04:31,158 --> 00:04:31,950

Yes, but this is --

93

00:04:31,950 --> 00:04:36,018

Because it was not so, but  
because he, very often, said--



94

00:04:36,018 --> 00:04:37,185  
and it was real interesting.

95

00:04:37,185 --> 00:04:39,180  
It was my philosophy, too.

96

00:04:39,180 --> 00:04:44,610  
We thought that if the  
information goes out abroad

97

00:04:44,610 --> 00:04:48,090  
to the English and  
American and Switzerland,

98

00:04:48,090 --> 00:04:50,460  
what really deportation  
means, that it really

99

00:04:50,460 --> 00:04:53,770  
means any relation.

100

00:04:53,770 --> 00:04:54,600  
Yes.

101

00:04:54,600 --> 00:04:58,140  
Then after, outside,  
that they know it,

102

00:04:58,140 --> 00:05:00,990  
suddenly every pocket  
is going to be opened,

103

00:05:00,990 --> 00:05:03,680  
and we are just going  
to inundated with money.

104

00:05:03,680 --> 00:05:04,640  
But it didn't happen.

105

00:05:04,640 --> 00:05:05,780  
Every Jewish pocket.

106

00:05:05,780 --> 00:05:08,630

Every Jewish pocket, yeah  
will be open, But it didn't.

107

00:05:08,630 --> 00:05:09,920

It didn't?

108

00:05:09,920 --> 00:05:12,710

Why-- and that's what  
that was miscalculation,

109

00:05:12,710 --> 00:05:15,080

which really we really --

110

00:05:15,080 --> 00:05:17,080

I still don't understand  
how it happened

111

00:05:17,080 --> 00:05:20,210

and why it didn't came, as  
Weissmandel had said so.

112

00:05:20,210 --> 00:05:23,600

This is really absolutely  
tragic, because the letters

113

00:05:23,600 --> 00:05:28,700

that Weissmandel sent abroad,  
asking for money, absolutely

114

00:05:28,700 --> 00:05:30,560

heartbreaking.

115

00:05:30,560 --> 00:05:36,220

And so people, simply  
they didn't answer.

116

00:05:36,220 --> 00:05:38,630

Yeah.

117

00:05:38,630 --> 00:05:41,090

Just as we see nowadays,

there's a lot of things

118  
00:05:41,090 --> 00:05:46,190  
that we don't understand,  
and realistically,

119  
00:05:46,190 --> 00:05:49,460  
the outside reaction  
should be something

120  
00:05:49,460 --> 00:05:53,300  
which we, in our moral stance,  
feel it just don't happen.

121  
00:05:53,300 --> 00:05:55,710  
And we saw it after  
the Second World War.

122  
00:05:55,710 --> 00:05:57,750  
We see what goes on right  
now in the world, too.

123  
00:05:57,750 --> 00:06:01,470  
A lot of things don't happen in  
spite of it should definitely.

124  
00:06:01,470 --> 00:06:01,970  
Yes.

125  
00:06:01,970 --> 00:06:08,160  
And the point is that the  
world Jewry, because the world

126  
00:06:08,160 --> 00:06:11,150  
Jewry existed  
somehow, in some way.

127  
00:06:11,150 --> 00:06:15,230  
But did not react as we expected  
that the world Jewry would

128  
00:06:15,230 --> 00:06:16,040  
react.

129  
00:06:16,040 --> 00:06:20,120  
Because we really thought  
what is a few thousand

130  
00:06:20,120 --> 00:06:22,200  
for the world jewelry  
or the American Joint?

131  
00:06:22,200 --> 00:06:22,970  
Nothing.

132  
00:06:22,970 --> 00:06:23,570  
Yes.

133  
00:06:23,570 --> 00:06:27,290  
But seemingly, I  
really don't know.

134  
00:06:27,290 --> 00:06:32,510  
I still don't understand why  
this money was not available.

135  
00:06:32,510 --> 00:06:35,180  
Yes, because the  
answer to Weissmandel,

136  
00:06:35,180 --> 00:06:41,420  
with asking for accounts, asking  
how this money will be used--

137  
00:06:41,420 --> 00:06:43,820  
they wanted absolutely  
precise details.

138  
00:06:43,820 --> 00:06:45,120  
Details, [INAUDIBLE], yeah.

139  
00:06:45,120 --> 00:06:45,620  
Just --

140  
00:06:45,620 --> 00:06:46,900

--like a bookkeeping about it.

141

00:06:46,900 --> 00:06:47,900

Yes, a bureaucratic way.

142

00:06:47,900 --> 00:06:49,220

A bureaucratic way.

143

00:06:49,220 --> 00:06:51,950

But we told them that  
there's no such thing.

144

00:06:51,950 --> 00:06:55,820

Here, we speak about human  
lives, not about some

145

00:06:55,820 --> 00:06:58,700

bureaucratic programs.

146

00:06:58,700 --> 00:07:01,370

Yes.

147

00:07:01,370 --> 00:07:09,470

And well, what happened  
when the first news?

148

00:07:09,470 --> 00:07:14,320

Because at this time, you didn't  
know about the extermination.

149

00:07:14,320 --> 00:07:19,250

Yeah, now that came, I  
think, in '42, in November,

150

00:07:19,250 --> 00:07:22,460

that one day, we had been  
sitting in Gisi Fleischmann's

151

00:07:22,460 --> 00:07:25,100

office, and suddenly,  
Weissmandel came in,

152

00:07:25,100 --> 00:07:28,190  
but that time, really  
incredible, upset.

153  
00:07:28,190 --> 00:07:30,030  
And he was crying.

154  
00:07:30,030 --> 00:07:35,420  
And his eyes was just  
completely full with tears.

155  
00:07:35,420 --> 00:07:40,970  
And he was trembling in his  
whole body and telling us,

156  
00:07:40,970 --> 00:07:43,100  
something horrible,  
something horrible happened.

157  
00:07:43,100 --> 00:07:46,500  
And we tried to tell him to  
sit down, be quiet, and tell us

158  
00:07:46,500 --> 00:07:47,820  
really what it is.

159  
00:07:47,820 --> 00:07:50,540  
And he gave us a  
piece of paper, where

160  
00:07:50,540 --> 00:07:53,810  
the first time, really, in  
this piece of paper, somebody

161  
00:07:53,810 --> 00:07:57,260  
from Poland writes us that--

162  
00:07:57,260 --> 00:07:58,350  
Wrote [? way? ?]

163  
00:07:58,350 --> 00:07:58,850  
Pardon?

164

00:07:58,850 --> 00:08:00,770

Wrote to Weissmandel?

165

00:08:00,770 --> 00:08:02,495

[? Who ?] wrote

it to Weissmandel?

166

00:08:02,495 --> 00:08:04,070

Oh, I don't know.

167

00:08:04,070 --> 00:08:05,750

Weissmandel had

it only, because I

168

00:08:05,750 --> 00:08:10,310

think Weissmandel had a

constant connection to Poland,

169

00:08:10,310 --> 00:08:13,820

and some of his [INAUDIBLE],,

who went constantly to Poland

170

00:08:13,820 --> 00:08:16,430

to bring him back

again some news,

171

00:08:16,430 --> 00:08:18,840

there have been some

changes which he had.

172

00:08:18,840 --> 00:08:21,470

We didn't even know

what the channels are.

173

00:08:21,470 --> 00:08:24,020

But we have been

glad that he has it,

174

00:08:24,020 --> 00:08:26,030

and we didn't even

worry about it.

175

00:08:26,030 --> 00:08:29,780

And he had some channels  
who brought him constantly

176

00:08:29,780 --> 00:08:30,860

news from Poland.

177

00:08:30,860 --> 00:08:33,919

And that was the last  
thing, the horrifying news,

178

00:08:33,919 --> 00:08:37,100

that the first time it  
was said, that deportation

179

00:08:37,100 --> 00:08:41,210

means really annihilation, that  
concentration camps are there,

180

00:08:41,210 --> 00:08:43,940

where Jews are gassed.

181

00:08:43,940 --> 00:08:46,190

And not only that, --

182

00:08:46,190 --> 00:08:49,160

in that little paper,  
he had, as I remember,

183

00:08:49,160 --> 00:08:51,290

not only that one paper  
[INAUDIBLE],, he had,

184

00:08:51,290 --> 00:08:53,600

all the time, in the  
kaftan full of so-called--

185

00:08:53,600 --> 00:08:56,330

Gisi Fleischmann used  
to say this dynamite.

186

00:08:56,330 --> 00:09:00,470

And dynamite means, that



if you go to the street--

187

00:09:00,470 --> 00:09:02,360

and you know I never  
knew in the street

188

00:09:02,360 --> 00:09:05,540

in Slovakia, whether there is  
somebody doesn't catch you.

189

00:09:05,540 --> 00:09:06,980

And if somebody  
would have caught,

190

00:09:06,980 --> 00:09:10,460

especially him, by  
his exterior, it's

191

00:09:10,460 --> 00:09:15,020

very possible the Hlinka man,  
or some Nazi, is catching him

192

00:09:15,020 --> 00:09:18,050

and tries now to demolish him.

193

00:09:18,050 --> 00:09:21,410

And if they find in  
his pockets there

194

00:09:21,410 --> 00:09:24,090

had been so-called  
dynamite, because there

195

00:09:24,090 --> 00:09:26,180

was proof what type  
of connections,

196

00:09:26,180 --> 00:09:27,980

illegal connections,  
he constantly had.

197

00:09:27,980 --> 00:09:28,940

was the dynamite was the papers.

198  
00:09:28,940 --> 00:09:29,750  
He has, all the time--

199  
00:09:29,750 --> 00:09:30,230  
Those were papers, yeah.

200  
00:09:30,230 --> 00:09:32,870  
--all the time, papers all  
his pockets, in the kaftan,

201  
00:09:32,870 --> 00:09:34,880  
in his pockets, in the  
back and the front.

202  
00:09:34,880 --> 00:09:37,250  
Every pocket was full of papers.

203  
00:09:37,250 --> 00:09:41,480  
And he used to say that  
he is his own archive.

204  
00:09:41,480 --> 00:09:44,090  
And Gisi Fleischmann  
even ask him now--

205  
00:09:44,090 --> 00:09:48,020  
and he opened another pockets  
and gave us, not only this one,

206  
00:09:48,020 --> 00:09:51,980  
but I think two or three  
more different news,

207  
00:09:51,980 --> 00:09:55,250  
telling us truthfully  
what really goes on,

208  
00:09:55,250 --> 00:10:00,350  
that concentration means  
to be sent from that camp

209

00:10:00,350 --> 00:10:04,070  
further to east, to different  
concentration camps--

210  
00:10:04,070 --> 00:10:04,700  
Extermination.

211  
00:10:04,700 --> 00:10:06,230  
--extermination camps.

212  
00:10:06,230 --> 00:10:09,290  
Now, that is the first time  
that we heard about it.

213  
00:10:09,290 --> 00:10:11,600  
Now, that news,  
immediately Weissmandel

214  
00:10:11,600 --> 00:10:14,150  
said that has to go  
out to the world.

215  
00:10:14,150 --> 00:10:17,750  
And immediately, he, I  
think Rabbi Weissmandel,

216  
00:10:17,750 --> 00:10:20,660  
Rabbi [? Frieda ?] and Gisi  
Fleischmann immediately

217  
00:10:20,660 --> 00:10:23,630  
wrote letters, giving  
the whole story,

218  
00:10:23,630 --> 00:10:26,150  
what we heard, and  
sent it out all over,

219  
00:10:26,150 --> 00:10:29,120  
even I think to the  
Vatican and to Switzerland,

220  
00:10:29,120 --> 00:10:32,240

to Constantinople,  
and to the American

221  
00:10:32,240 --> 00:10:33,980  
Joint, all over the world.

222  
00:10:33,980 --> 00:10:38,870  
And he emphasized, all the time,  
that after this will be known

223  
00:10:38,870 --> 00:10:42,200  
outside, all the pockets,  
all the Jewish money,

224  
00:10:42,200 --> 00:10:46,190  
will just flow us, because  
that will help us to save what

225  
00:10:46,190 --> 00:10:48,290  
[? the ?] [? others ?]  
can be saved.

226  
00:10:48,290 --> 00:10:50,900  
And he was crying?

227  
00:10:50,900 --> 00:10:51,770  
It didn't happen.

228  
00:10:51,770 --> 00:10:52,430  
And why?

229  
00:10:52,430 --> 00:10:55,730  
We still don't know  
why it didn't happen.

230  
00:10:55,730 --> 00:10:59,930  
Now, that is now the question.

231  
00:10:59,930 --> 00:11:03,380  
Did some of our  
proposals to Wisliceny

232

00:11:03,380 --> 00:11:06,500  
didn't work, because we  
didn't have the money

233  
00:11:06,500 --> 00:11:11,660  
or was the political  
situation part of it?

234  
00:11:11,660 --> 00:11:19,922

235  
00:11:19,922 --> 00:11:23,180  
(iflm slating)

236  
00:11:23,180 --> 00:11:24,996

237  
00:11:24,996 --> 00:11:28,135  
In the same time, as  
you know, we strong --

238  
00:11:28,135 --> 00:11:31,000  
we worked very strongly  
and very vehemently to stop

239  
00:11:31,000 --> 00:11:33,760  
the deportation of Slovakia,  
which we succeeded.

240  
00:11:33,760 --> 00:11:36,640  
After the three last  
transports in September

241  
00:11:36,640 --> 00:11:39,370  
and the beginning of  
October, deportation really

242  
00:11:39,370 --> 00:11:45,340  
stopped in Slovakia  
till October 1944.

243  
00:11:45,340 --> 00:11:48,310  
That is nearly almost two

years the deportations stopped.

244

00:11:48,310 --> 00:11:51,100

And there were only  
20,000 Jews left?

245

00:11:51,100 --> 00:11:52,000

20,000.

246

00:11:52,000 --> 00:11:57,160

We think still that more, but  
based on the official numbers,

247

00:11:57,160 --> 00:12:00,230

it was only 20,000 left.

248

00:12:00,230 --> 00:12:05,080

Now, the question came up now,  
that after the fact, already,

249

00:12:05,080 --> 00:12:09,400

more or less, a little  
safe and secure, what now?

250

00:12:09,400 --> 00:12:11,830

And again, Weissmandel  
came with a big idea.

251

00:12:11,830 --> 00:12:13,000

And one, by one of the --

252

00:12:13,000 --> 00:12:15,070

It was after the  
news from Poland?

253

00:12:15,070 --> 00:12:16,600

After the news from Poland.

254

00:12:16,600 --> 00:12:20,177

And somehow, as I remember,  
we started now to receive it,

255

00:12:20,177 --> 00:12:21,760  
which we didn't know  
up to that point,

256  
00:12:21,760 --> 00:12:24,100  
there's not only  
deportation from here,

257  
00:12:24,100 --> 00:12:26,770  
from Slovakia--  
from Czechoslovakia,

258  
00:12:26,770 --> 00:12:30,850  
plus from Germany, but  
that deportation goes on

259  
00:12:30,850 --> 00:12:33,550  
from different other countries,  
like Belgium, France,

260  
00:12:33,550 --> 00:12:35,050  
and many other countries, too.

261  
00:12:35,050 --> 00:12:36,430  
That you knew?

262  
00:12:36,430 --> 00:12:37,030  
Yes.

263  
00:12:37,030 --> 00:12:37,960  
That time, we knew.

264  
00:12:37,960 --> 00:12:42,310  
But I can tell you, again,  
I know that the news came.

265  
00:12:42,310 --> 00:12:43,570  
Weissmandel brought IT us.

266  
00:12:43,570 --> 00:12:47,080  
But from there he received  
it and where the source was,

267

00:12:47,080 --> 00:12:48,970

I really don't know.

268

00:12:48,970 --> 00:12:51,130

Why I'm telling you,  
because that basically

269

00:12:51,130 --> 00:12:53,650

was induced the  
so-called Europa Plan,

270

00:12:53,650 --> 00:12:56,500

which was Weissmandel's idea.

271

00:12:56,500 --> 00:12:58,360

So one day, by one  
of the meeting,

272

00:12:58,360 --> 00:13:02,260

Weissmandel came with  
this plan and said, now,

273

00:13:02,260 --> 00:13:08,950

if after we succeeded to stop  
the deportation of Slovakia,

274

00:13:08,950 --> 00:13:11,560

why don't we try now  
to do the same thing

275

00:13:11,560 --> 00:13:15,400

and try now to stop  
deportation all over Europe.

276

00:13:15,400 --> 00:13:17,930

And that is what he  
called the Europa Plan.

277

00:13:17,930 --> 00:13:18,790

Europe plan.

278

00:13:18,790 --> 00:13:19,540



Europa Plan.

279

00:13:19,540 --> 00:13:20,200

Europe Plan.

280

00:13:20,200 --> 00:13:22,510

Europe Plan, Europa Plan.

281

00:13:22,510 --> 00:13:25,030

And now everybody,  
naturally, in the whole group

282

00:13:25,030 --> 00:13:27,340

said, now what do you mean?

283

00:13:27,340 --> 00:13:30,110

Can you imagine how much  
money it would cost?

284

00:13:30,110 --> 00:13:33,430

And he suddenly  
said, I can imagine.

285

00:13:33,430 --> 00:13:36,760

I would say, and I would go  
to Wisliceny and tell him,

286

00:13:36,760 --> 00:13:39,730

I give you, we give  
you, \$2 million.

287

00:13:39,730 --> 00:13:43,180

288

00:13:43,180 --> 00:13:45,100

The very moment he  
said the \$2 million,

289

00:13:45,100 --> 00:13:48,610

you just couldn't believe what  
happened in this whole group.

290

00:13:48,610 --> 00:13:51,550  
Everybody said, now,  
Rabbi, everything

291  
00:13:51,550 --> 00:13:53,830  
we knew already your  
great, crazy ideas,

292  
00:13:53,830 --> 00:13:56,200  
but that is really the craziest.

293  
00:13:56,200 --> 00:13:59,470  
Don't forget about it,  
that we are afraid,

294  
00:13:59,470 --> 00:14:01,270  
that if you go through  
something like that,

295  
00:14:01,270 --> 00:14:04,070  
you can eventually ruin,  
if it doesn't work.

296  
00:14:04,070 --> 00:14:07,480  
You can eventually ruin  
the menucha which we

297  
00:14:07,480 --> 00:14:09,910  
have here in Slovakia already.

298  
00:14:09,910 --> 00:14:11,630  
You can, what --

299  
00:14:11,630 --> 00:14:14,000  
We have been already  
a little bit peaceful.

300  
00:14:14,000 --> 00:14:14,500  
Ah, yes.

301  
00:14:14,500 --> 00:14:16,600  
Menucha-- you don't  
know what is menucha is?

302  
00:14:16,600 --> 00:14:18,550  
Yes, Yes, I do.

303  
00:14:18,550 --> 00:14:25,150  
No, and after, the rabbi  
said, let's give it a try.

304  
00:14:25,150 --> 00:14:29,800  
Andre should go up and see  
Wisliceny and submit it to him.

305  
00:14:29,800 --> 00:14:31,510  
Now, it was quite  
a big discussion.

306  
00:14:31,510 --> 00:14:33,540  
Everybody was very  
much against it.

307  
00:14:33,540 --> 00:14:34,040  
[INAUDIBLE]

308  
00:14:34,040 --> 00:14:36,770  
And the only one, Gisi  
Fleischmann, Gisi Fleischmann

309  
00:14:36,770 --> 00:14:40,810  
said, listen, we tried  
to, so often happened,

310  
00:14:40,810 --> 00:14:45,160  
that we told Rabbi  
Weissmandel, your crazy ideas,

311  
00:14:45,160 --> 00:14:48,640  
and these crazy ideas  
sometimes helped us,

312  
00:14:48,640 --> 00:14:50,890  
which we wouldn't  
have-- he wouldn't

313

00:14:50,890 --> 00:14:53,830  
have thought possible to do.

314

00:14:53,830 --> 00:14:57,160  
And after, Gisi Fleischmann,  
Rabbi Weissmandel, and myself,

315

00:14:57,160 --> 00:14:58,490  
we had been for it.

316

00:14:58,490 --> 00:15:02,800  
So we decided that we are going  
to submit it to Wisliceny.

317

00:15:02,800 --> 00:15:07,240  
And his idea was to rescue  
all the Jews from [INAUDIBLE]??

318

00:15:07,240 --> 00:15:08,705  
All the Jews--

319

00:15:08,705 --> 00:15:09,330  
For \$2 million.

320

00:15:09,330 --> 00:15:10,330  
For \$2 million.

321

00:15:10,330 --> 00:15:16,060  
And even if you start  
now to make mathematics,

322

00:15:16,060 --> 00:15:18,760  
it's \$2 million are nothing.

323

00:15:18,760 --> 00:15:21,610  
But they gave us the  
question how to get

324

00:15:21,610 --> 00:15:23,590  
and who should give it to us.

325

00:15:23,590 --> 00:15:27,400  
And Weissmandel's idea  
was, if we send now

326  
00:15:27,400 --> 00:15:30,640  
the news out to the  
world that deportation

327  
00:15:30,640 --> 00:15:35,120  
means extermination, then  
the \$2 million will be here.

328  
00:15:35,120 --> 00:15:37,220  
There's no question about it.

329  
00:15:37,220 --> 00:15:42,520  
And Andre can go and say this  
and say that, promise this,

330  
00:15:42,520 --> 00:15:45,745  
and we are, we will see to it  
that it should [INAUDIBLE]..

331  
00:15:45,745 --> 00:15:46,510  
Andre is you.

332  
00:15:46,510 --> 00:15:49,600  
Andre is me, yes.

333  
00:15:49,600 --> 00:15:55,860  
And I really, following, again,  
the magic influence which

334  
00:15:55,860 --> 00:15:58,030  
Weissmandel had on me,  
I went up to Wisliceny

335  
00:15:58,030 --> 00:15:59,380  
and submitted to him.

336  
00:15:59,380 --> 00:16:00,700  
What did you say exactly?

337

00:16:00,700 --> 00:16:06,310

Exactly what Fleischmann told  
me again, that we [INAUDIBLE],,

338

00:16:06,310 --> 00:16:08,530

we have to do something else.

339

00:16:08,530 --> 00:16:10,480

Would they be interested,  
because he knows

340

00:16:10,480 --> 00:16:13,270

the Germans need some money.

341

00:16:13,270 --> 00:16:16,300

Would they be willing  
for we give them money,

342

00:16:16,300 --> 00:16:18,915

and they actually give us Jewish  
life, because the Jewish life

343

00:16:18,915 --> 00:16:19,665

is in their hands.

344

00:16:19,665 --> 00:16:21,140

And we have the money.

345

00:16:21,140 --> 00:16:23,470

So can we do a deal?

346

00:16:23,470 --> 00:16:26,850

And interesting, after that  
I told Wisliceny, he said,

347

00:16:26,850 --> 00:16:27,930

that is too big.

348

00:16:27,930 --> 00:16:31,260

I cannot say yes or no,  
and I cannot even submit it

349

00:16:31,260 --> 00:16:32,580  
to Eichmann.

350

00:16:32,580 --> 00:16:35,610  
But I have direct access  
and direct possibility

351

00:16:35,610 --> 00:16:37,380  
to speak with Himmler.

352

00:16:37,380 --> 00:16:39,420  
Because that is something  
which only Himmler

353

00:16:39,420 --> 00:16:41,670  
could say yes or no.

354

00:16:41,670 --> 00:16:44,430  
And sure enough,  
he called Himmler--

355

00:16:44,430 --> 00:16:45,300  
In front of you?

356

00:16:45,300 --> 00:16:46,840  
In front of [INAUDIBLE],,  
but not that time.

357

00:16:46,840 --> 00:16:47,670  
That was only later.

358

00:16:47,670 --> 00:16:48,962  
He said, let me think about it.

359

00:16:48,962 --> 00:16:51,540  
I want to prepare it,  
and I give you a call.

360

00:16:51,540 --> 00:16:53,610  
And a few days  
later, he called me.

361

00:16:53,610 --> 00:16:55,980

I should come in  
again to his office.

362

00:16:55,980 --> 00:16:58,650

And he said that he  
already spoke with Himmler,

363

00:16:58,650 --> 00:17:00,630

and Himmler and  
[INAUDIBLE] said no.

364

00:17:00,630 --> 00:17:05,750

Now, I told Wisliceny  
that, please,

365

00:17:05,750 --> 00:17:09,210

that must be absolutely sure,  
because I just cannot go back

366

00:17:09,210 --> 00:17:13,020

to my group telling them that  
you said that is true and was

367

00:17:13,020 --> 00:17:17,040

even accepted by Himmler, if  
it is not absolutely true.

368

00:17:17,040 --> 00:17:19,260

And he told me,  
now, wait a minute.

369

00:17:19,260 --> 00:17:23,369

If you want to have to prove  
that I really played fair,

370

00:17:23,369 --> 00:17:24,690

I call Berlin.

371

00:17:24,690 --> 00:17:28,274

Maybe I can get contact  
with Himmler, if he if,



372

00:17:28,274 --> 00:17:29,730  
by chance, in his office.

373

00:17:29,730 --> 00:17:31,440  
And I'll let you hear it.

374

00:17:31,440 --> 00:17:32,940  
And sure enough, he called--

375

00:17:32,940 --> 00:17:34,980  
Now, excuse me, I think  
that you made a mistake.

376

00:17:34,980 --> 00:17:39,060  
Because you said that he told  
you that Himmler had said no.

377

00:17:39,060 --> 00:17:40,680  
And so It was the  
other way around.

378

00:17:40,680 --> 00:17:41,640  
No, no, no, no.

379

00:17:41,640 --> 00:17:43,320  
[INAUDIBLE] Himmler said yes.

380

00:17:43,320 --> 00:17:44,280  
Himmler said yes.

381

00:17:44,280 --> 00:17:47,190  
He gave authorization  
to him to--

382

00:17:47,190 --> 00:17:50,520  
he told me that Himmler gave  
him authorization to proceed.

383

00:17:50,520 --> 00:17:52,330  
Now, I didn't believe it.

384

00:17:52,330 --> 00:17:55,080

Because it was so  
fantastic, that, again,

385

00:17:55,080 --> 00:17:59,970

here is a great  
idea of Weissmandel,

386

00:17:59,970 --> 00:18:02,820

that Himmler would be willing  
to make a deal with us

387

00:18:02,820 --> 00:18:04,230

to stop deportation in Europe.

388

00:18:04,230 --> 00:18:07,720

That was so fantastic, I  
just didn't believe it.

389

00:18:07,720 --> 00:18:10,410

So I ask him, you must  
give me some proof,

390

00:18:10,410 --> 00:18:13,410

that I can go back to my  
group and tell him, yes, that

391

00:18:13,410 --> 00:18:14,670

is really true.

392

00:18:14,670 --> 00:18:17,820

And that's why he proposed,  
OK, I'm going to call Berlin.

393

00:18:17,820 --> 00:18:18,840

And he really did.

394

00:18:18,840 --> 00:18:19,830

It was a real call?

395

00:18:19,830 --> 00:18:21,780

It wasn't a fake  
call in order to--

396  
00:18:21,780 --> 00:18:22,860  
It cannot be call.

397  
00:18:22,860 --> 00:18:25,500  
I don't know whether  
it was fake or not.

398  
00:18:25,500 --> 00:18:26,490  
That I cannot say.

399  
00:18:26,490 --> 00:18:27,450  
But I was there.

400  
00:18:27,450 --> 00:18:28,710  
He called.

401  
00:18:28,710 --> 00:18:30,060  
And I understood what he called.

402  
00:18:30,060 --> 00:18:35,220  
Give me a call me so  
and so, and Hauptfuhrer.

403  
00:18:35,220 --> 00:18:37,320  
I don't know what it  
was, Himmler there.

404  
00:18:37,320 --> 00:18:40,800  
And after he waited a little  
bit, he spoke with somebody.

405  
00:18:40,800 --> 00:18:45,300  
And he told me, gave  
me the second receiver

406  
00:18:45,300 --> 00:18:46,950  
and let me listen to it.

407  
00:18:46,950 --> 00:18:48,000  
And I listened to it.

408

00:18:48,000 --> 00:18:49,170

He spoke with somebody.

409

00:18:49,170 --> 00:18:50,430

He told me it was Himmler.

410

00:18:50,430 --> 00:18:51,330

You heard the voice?

411

00:18:51,330 --> 00:18:52,890

I heard the voice, naturally.

412

00:18:52,890 --> 00:18:55,690

And he said that here is a  
representative for the world,

413

00:18:55,690 --> 00:19:01,050

the Jewry again, and he  
wanted to be sure that can I

414

00:19:01,050 --> 00:19:02,880

proceed to discuss with him.

415

00:19:02,880 --> 00:19:05,910

And that voice again  
said, I told you so.

416

00:19:05,910 --> 00:19:06,875

Go ahead.

417

00:19:06,875 --> 00:19:08,250

Can you say this in German?

418

00:19:08,250 --> 00:19:11,395

419

00:19:11,395 --> 00:19:18,980

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

something like this.

420

00:19:18,980 --> 00:19:19,740

[GERMAN]

421

00:19:19,740 --> 00:19:21,090

Did the voice say [INAUDIBLE].

422

00:19:21,090 --> 00:19:22,110

The voice said [GERMAN].

423

00:19:22,110 --> 00:19:22,610

Proceed.

424

00:19:22,610 --> 00:19:24,540

Proceed.

425

00:19:24,540 --> 00:19:28,740

Now, again, whether it is really  
Himmler, that I don't know.

426

00:19:28,740 --> 00:19:30,900

I never heard, never  
heard his voice.

427

00:19:30,900 --> 00:19:34,740

But Wisliceny told me, you  
just heard what Himmler said.

428

00:19:34,740 --> 00:19:36,950

So what about the money?

429

00:19:36,950 --> 00:19:38,120

How did he talk to Himmler?

430

00:19:38,120 --> 00:19:39,570

He was respectful?

431

00:19:39,570 --> 00:19:40,440

Oh, very.

432

00:19:40,440 --> 00:19:41,880

Oh, sure.

433

00:19:41,880 --> 00:19:42,620  
Very respectful.

434  
00:19:42,620 --> 00:19:44,640  
Did he say Reichsfuhrer?

435  
00:19:44,640 --> 00:19:45,840  
Reichsfuhrer?

436  
00:19:45,840 --> 00:19:46,520  
The details.

437  
00:19:46,520 --> 00:19:48,390  
I really don't remember.

438  
00:19:48,390 --> 00:19:50,700  
He spoke [? with ?] not only --

439  
00:19:50,700 --> 00:19:53,850  
How he even addressed  
him, I don't remember now.

440  
00:19:53,850 --> 00:19:57,480  
He must have said Reichsfuhrer,  
because that what he was.

441  
00:19:57,480 --> 00:20:00,090  
But that was the reason, too.

442  
00:20:00,090 --> 00:20:03,180  
After that, I told  
him, would you

443  
00:20:03,180 --> 00:20:07,890  
be permitting me next time to  
bring Gisi Fleischmann with me?

444  
00:20:07,890 --> 00:20:11,400  
And I did this because  
somehow, the intervention

445  
00:20:11,400 --> 00:20:14,100

in my discussion with  
Wisliceny started

446  
00:20:14,100 --> 00:20:17,880  
to be so important, that I  
didn't want to carry alone

447  
00:20:17,880 --> 00:20:21,030  
the responsibility, because  
that was too big for me to,

448  
00:20:21,030 --> 00:20:23,820  
and I wanted to have  
somebody with me

449  
00:20:23,820 --> 00:20:28,140  
to hear all those things,  
which Wisliceny tells me.

450  
00:20:28,140 --> 00:20:30,420  
And I couldn't  
propose Weissmandel,

451  
00:20:30,420 --> 00:20:32,420  
because I wouldn't dare  
to go with Weissmandel

452  
00:20:32,420 --> 00:20:33,900  
into the German embassy.

453  
00:20:33,900 --> 00:20:35,880  
But with Gisi Fleischmann,  
it was no problem.

454  
00:20:35,880 --> 00:20:36,913  
You met Wisliceny where?

455  
00:20:36,913 --> 00:20:37,830  
In the German embassy?

456  
00:20:37,830 --> 00:20:39,900  
In the German embassy,  
yeah, all the time.

457

00:20:39,900 --> 00:20:43,560

He had one little house very  
near to the German embassy,

458

00:20:43,560 --> 00:20:45,270

which was part of  
the German embassy.

459

00:20:45,270 --> 00:20:47,370

And this is where  
I met all the time.

460

00:20:47,370 --> 00:20:50,560

And I ask him, would he  
permit that I introduce to him

461

00:20:50,560 --> 00:20:52,290

Gisi Fleischmann personally?

462

00:20:52,290 --> 00:20:56,040

And by some of the meeting, Gisi  
Fleischmann should be with me.

463

00:20:56,040 --> 00:20:57,780

And surprisingly, he said fine.

464

00:20:57,780 --> 00:20:58,350

Bring her.

465

00:20:58,350 --> 00:21:00,210

How was she, Gisi Fleischmann?

466

00:21:00,210 --> 00:21:01,920

Gisi Fleischmann was excellent.

467

00:21:01,920 --> 00:21:06,630

Really, if you would ask  
me, what is my opinion?

468

00:21:06,630 --> 00:21:11,370

The person who really was



holding the group together

469

00:21:11,370 --> 00:21:16,440  
and made a very fine working  
group, where everybody listens

470

00:21:16,440 --> 00:21:20,640  
to each other, and  
some of the animosities

471

00:21:20,640 --> 00:21:23,670  
disappeared, was only  
Gisi Fleischmann.

472

00:21:23,670 --> 00:21:25,040  
She was a Zionist?

473

00:21:25,040 --> 00:21:25,875  
She was a Zionist.

474

00:21:25,875 --> 00:21:27,417  
She was the head  
of the [INAUDIBLE],,

475

00:21:27,417 --> 00:21:30,920  
world congress for the --

476

00:21:30,920 --> 00:21:32,130  
How did she do?

477

00:21:32,130 --> 00:21:32,810  
Pardon?

478

00:21:32,810 --> 00:21:34,430  
How did she look?

479

00:21:34,430 --> 00:21:36,350  
No, she was not a  
pretty woman at all.

480

00:21:36,350 --> 00:21:40,370  
She was a little stocky

and a little stocky woman,

481

00:21:40,370 --> 00:21:43,530

but very beautiful smile

and again, was typical.

482

00:21:43,530 --> 00:21:46,640

I would say, Gisi

Fleischmann was partly what,

483

00:21:46,640 --> 00:21:49,550

in a woman, what

Weissmandel was in men.

484

00:21:49,550 --> 00:21:53,570

She was a tremendously

idealistic person,

485

00:21:53,570 --> 00:21:58,820

tremendously high

morals, and she

486

00:21:58,820 --> 00:22:02,120

was willing to give her life

for the Jewish cause, especially

487

00:22:02,120 --> 00:22:04,580

for the Zionist cause.

488

00:22:04,580 --> 00:22:07,290

So what I would

say, was Weissmandel

489

00:22:07,290 --> 00:22:10,580

was on the orthodox

side, in my opinion,

490

00:22:10,580 --> 00:22:13,460

Gisi Fleischmann was on

the Zionist side, much more

491

00:22:13,460 --> 00:22:16,363

like all the others involved,

much more like Dr. Neumann

492

00:22:16,363 --> 00:22:17,780  
and much more the  
Dr. Winterstein.

493

00:22:17,780 --> 00:22:19,310  
How old was she?

494

00:22:19,310 --> 00:22:22,650  
She must have been,  
that time, maybe 45.

495

00:22:22,650 --> 00:22:23,270  
45?

496

00:22:23,270 --> 00:22:23,770  
Yeah.

497

00:22:23,770 --> 00:22:31,150

498

00:22:31,150 --> 00:22:34,594  
(film slating)

499

00:22:34,594 --> 00:22:35,600

500

00:22:35,600 --> 00:22:41,450  
The Europa Plan was our  
proposal to the Germans

501

00:22:41,450 --> 00:22:46,830  
that for \$2 million, that would  
stop deportation in Europe,

502

00:22:46,830 --> 00:22:53,540  
including France, France,  
the Scandinavian countries,

503

00:22:53,540 --> 00:22:58,010  
Hungary, in other words, all the

different countries in Europe

504

00:22:58,010 --> 00:23:00,980

where he knew the deportation  
that this time was done.

505

00:23:00,980 --> 00:23:04,590

And for Poland, too, the  
Jews will remain in Poland.

506

00:23:04,590 --> 00:23:05,090

Yeah.

507

00:23:05,090 --> 00:23:08,210

And somewhere, I don't know how  
he arrived to this mathematics,

508

00:23:08,210 --> 00:23:10,730

that approximately one  
million Jews are still

509

00:23:10,730 --> 00:23:12,150

in these countries.

510

00:23:12,150 --> 00:23:15,050

And if we paid \$2  
million, we called

511

00:23:15,050 --> 00:23:17,030

this the so-called  
divine arithmetic

512

00:23:17,030 --> 00:23:21,320

from Rabbi Weissmandel,  
that for \$2 million,

513

00:23:21,320 --> 00:23:23,720

that could stop the deportation.

514

00:23:23,720 --> 00:23:27,066

(film logistics - cut)

515

00:23:27,066 --> 00:23:29,770  
(film slating)

516  
00:23:29,770 --> 00:23:33,250  
The Europa Plan was a  
proposal to the Germans

517  
00:23:33,250 --> 00:23:35,890  
to stop deportation  
all over Europe--

518  
00:23:35,890 --> 00:23:42,310  
the remaining Jews in Poland, in  
France, Scandinavian countries,

519  
00:23:42,310 --> 00:23:44,500  
Romania, Hungary, and  
many other places--

520  
00:23:44,500 --> 00:23:45,880  
And [INAUDIBLE] Poland?

521  
00:23:45,880 --> 00:23:46,780  
And so on.

522  
00:23:46,780 --> 00:23:48,010  
That's right.

523  
00:23:48,010 --> 00:23:51,610  
And that was what we  
submitted to Wisliceny.

524  
00:23:51,610 --> 00:23:55,360  
And Wisliceny was  
supposed to give

525  
00:23:55,360 --> 00:23:57,760  
this message, the  
proposal, to Himmler.

526  
00:23:57,760 --> 00:24:01,120  
And he did.

527

00:24:01,120 --> 00:24:05,320

And he said that he have  
authorization from Himmler

528

00:24:05,320 --> 00:24:12,100

to proceed and negotiate with  
us this whole Europa Plan.

529

00:24:12,100 --> 00:24:16,060

Because the importance  
of all the meetings now

530

00:24:16,060 --> 00:24:18,370

with Wisliceny,  
and I didn't want

531

00:24:18,370 --> 00:24:20,800

to have the whole  
responsibility for that--

532

00:24:20,800 --> 00:24:24,350

(film logistics - cut)

533

00:24:24,350 --> 00:24:27,400

(film slating)

534

00:24:27,400 --> 00:24:31,480

The Europa Plan was a  
proposal to the Germans

535

00:24:31,480 --> 00:24:35,500

to stop the deportation all  
over Europe, the remaining

536

00:24:35,500 --> 00:24:39,190

Jews in Poland, from  
France, Belgium,

537

00:24:39,190 --> 00:24:41,710

Scandinavian countries, and  
all the other countries where

538

00:24:41,710 --> 00:24:45,040  
deportation was supposed to be.

539  
00:24:45,040 --> 00:24:47,600  
The idea was that  
we would pay for it.

540  
00:24:47,600 --> 00:24:50,320  
The world Jewry would  
pay for it \$2 million.

541  
00:24:50,320 --> 00:24:53,770  
And that's what we call  
the divine arithmetic

542  
00:24:53,770 --> 00:24:59,620  
from Weissmandel, where he  
would be able to buy \$2 apiece

543  
00:24:59,620 --> 00:25:00,940  
for the living Jews.

544  
00:25:00,940 --> 00:25:03,110  
Because these, for  
some, from somewhere,

545  
00:25:03,110 --> 00:25:05,080  
they had the information  
that all the remaining

546  
00:25:05,080 --> 00:25:07,180  
Jews in these European  
countries have been,

547  
00:25:07,180 --> 00:25:08,600  
more or less, a million.

548  
00:25:08,600 --> 00:25:11,230  
It was not very expensive  
to the [INAUDIBLE]??

549  
00:25:11,230 --> 00:25:13,210  
No, that was one

of the reasons why

550

00:25:13,210 --> 00:25:16,300

Weissmandel was so, so upset.

551

00:25:16,300 --> 00:25:18,430

Because we knew that  
it is really nothing.

552

00:25:18,430 --> 00:25:21,340

And he wrote and  
Gisi Fleischmann

553

00:25:21,340 --> 00:25:26,410

wrote very, very heartbreaking  
appeals and letters,

554

00:25:26,410 --> 00:25:28,220

sent out all over the country.

555

00:25:28,220 --> 00:25:30,160

And he really thought  
that everybody

556

00:25:30,160 --> 00:25:32,950

would realize what a good  
deal that basically is,

557

00:25:32,950 --> 00:25:35,210

and the money will be  
available right away.

558

00:25:35,210 --> 00:25:36,340

But it was not.

559

00:25:36,340 --> 00:25:37,030

Yes.

560

00:25:37,030 --> 00:25:41,980

And what did you ask  
to the Germans to do?

561



00:25:41,980 --> 00:25:47,050  
Because they said, yes, OK,  
we agree to the Europa Plan.

562  
00:25:47,050 --> 00:25:49,630  
This has been asked now, how  
we are going to finance it,

563  
00:25:49,630 --> 00:25:52,060  
how the whole situation  
is going to be?

564  
00:25:52,060 --> 00:25:57,550  
And we said that the first  
installment of \$200,000

565  
00:25:57,550 --> 00:26:00,730  
would be given to him by  
Saly Mayer, in Switzerland.

566  
00:26:00,730 --> 00:26:03,250  
Saly Mayer was a  
representative of the --

567  
00:26:03,250 --> 00:26:05,260  
Representative for  
American Joint.

568  
00:26:05,260 --> 00:26:07,600  
And we thought that the  
American Joint would

569  
00:26:07,600 --> 00:26:11,060  
be able to quickest us to  
get this money together

570  
00:26:11,060 --> 00:26:14,810  
and that that might  
be proposed this way.

571  
00:26:14,810 --> 00:26:17,830  
But again, now, it was  
Weissmandel's and Gisi

572

00:26:17,830 --> 00:26:19,030

Fleischmann's idea.

573

00:26:19,030 --> 00:26:21,280

And we knew that  
the Europa Plan,

574

00:26:21,280 --> 00:26:23,110

even if it will be  
successful, will

575

00:26:23,110 --> 00:26:26,530

take a long time to realize.

576

00:26:26,530 --> 00:26:28,480

What should we do in between?

577

00:26:28,480 --> 00:26:32,520

And this is how the idea came  
about the children transport

578

00:26:32,520 --> 00:26:38,920

and to save 1,000 children from  
any of the concentration camp

579

00:26:38,920 --> 00:26:40,670

from Poland.

580

00:26:40,670 --> 00:26:45,280

I think it was supposed to  
be coming from Bialystok.

581

00:26:45,280 --> 00:26:48,790

No, but excuse me-- this idea  
of the children transport

582

00:26:48,790 --> 00:26:53,345

was given to Wisliceny,  
and it was a [? German ?]

583

00:26:53,345 --> 00:26:55,090

by who, by you?

584  
00:26:55,090 --> 00:26:57,430  
By me.

585  
00:26:57,430 --> 00:27:01,430  
The idea was that we must  
start now to find out,

586  
00:27:01,430 --> 00:27:05,620  
is Wisliceny able to perform  
what he's told us to perform.

587  
00:27:05,620 --> 00:27:06,280  
As a test.

588  
00:27:06,280 --> 00:27:09,520  
And that was really  
thought about as a test.

589  
00:27:09,520 --> 00:27:11,650  
Can he do it or can't he do it?

590  
00:27:11,650 --> 00:27:16,450  
And we proposed to him,  
that for this \$200,000,

591  
00:27:16,450 --> 00:27:18,670  
he should show us  
that he is going

592  
00:27:18,670 --> 00:27:25,720  
to send to Israel, to Palestine,  
transport of 1,000 children.

593  
00:27:25,720 --> 00:27:29,722  
But did you have  
already the \$200,000?

594  
00:27:29,722 --> 00:27:31,480  
No, we didn't.

595  
00:27:31,480 --> 00:27:35,080

We hoped, that especially, if  
we will tell Saly Mayer, that

596  
00:27:35,080 --> 00:27:37,300  
is a children's transport  
which is supposed

597  
00:27:37,300 --> 00:27:41,080  
to go first to Theresienstadt,  
and from Theresienstadt

598  
00:27:41,080 --> 00:27:43,390  
to the Swiss border,  
that that would

599  
00:27:43,390 --> 00:27:46,210  
be strong enough  
and important enough

600  
00:27:46,210 --> 00:27:48,430  
to Saly Mayer and the  
others who are there,

601  
00:27:48,430 --> 00:27:52,690  
that without any delay, they  
will tell us, fine, do it.

602  
00:27:52,690 --> 00:27:56,080  
But Wisliceny was agreeable,  
and he said, OK, he

603  
00:27:56,080 --> 00:27:59,020  
is going to speak  
again with Berlin

604  
00:27:59,020 --> 00:28:01,030  
and try to find out  
whether something like this

605  
00:28:01,030 --> 00:28:02,320  
could be done.

606  
00:28:02,320 --> 00:28:05,330

And to our big surprise,  
he came one day.

607  
00:28:05,330 --> 00:28:07,730  
He said, yes, we will do it.

608  
00:28:07,730 --> 00:28:10,450  
And the idea was that  
half of the money

609  
00:28:10,450 --> 00:28:14,380  
would have to be paid to him the  
time that the children arrived

610  
00:28:14,380 --> 00:28:15,760  
to Theresienstadt.

611  
00:28:15,760 --> 00:28:18,730  
And he said that  
he will assure us

612  
00:28:18,730 --> 00:28:22,180  
that we will be able to  
get from Jewish positions

613  
00:28:22,180 --> 00:28:27,010  
in Jewish leaders  
from Theresienstadt,

614  
00:28:27,010 --> 00:28:31,500  
they will tell us whether  
children arrived there or not.

615  
00:28:31,500 --> 00:28:35,860  
The truth of the matter is, that  
according to our information,

616  
00:28:35,860 --> 00:28:39,940  
really the children transport  
arrived to Theresienstadt.

617  
00:28:39,940 --> 00:28:42,970  
And the children received

some special treatment

618  
00:28:42,970 --> 00:28:45,850  
and tried [? to ?]  
get into better shape

619  
00:28:45,850 --> 00:28:49,390  
to be sent to Switzerland.

620  
00:28:49,390 --> 00:28:52,360  
But in between, the money  
from Switzerland was not here.

621  
00:28:52,360 --> 00:28:54,730  
Because nobody really  
believed that it's true.

622  
00:28:54,730 --> 00:28:58,270  
And Saly Mayer, I  
think, wrote in a letter

623  
00:28:58,270 --> 00:29:01,750  
that he and the American  
Joint had the feeling

624  
00:29:01,750 --> 00:29:03,700  
that the Germans  
are playing with us.

625  
00:29:03,700 --> 00:29:05,410  
They have no  
intention to be sure

626  
00:29:05,410 --> 00:29:09,020  
they are going to get the money  
and after not going to deliver.

627  
00:29:09,020 --> 00:29:11,830  
So that the money was not here.

628  
00:29:11,830 --> 00:29:13,960  
And the day came  
that we promised

629  
00:29:13,960 --> 00:29:18,070  
to give a German envoy  
and the Swiss border

630  
00:29:18,070 --> 00:29:21,400  
these first \$100,000,  
was not here,

631  
00:29:21,400 --> 00:29:25,600  
and we had to tell  
Wisliceny to--

632  
00:29:25,600 --> 00:29:29,770  
I think that first, we ask  
him to wait, to give us

633  
00:29:29,770 --> 00:29:32,470  
a date a little bit delayed.

634  
00:29:32,470 --> 00:29:35,232  
And even after delay  
the money was not here,

635  
00:29:35,232 --> 00:29:36,940  
we had to tell him  
the truth that we just

636  
00:29:36,940 --> 00:29:38,440  
don't have the money.

637  
00:29:38,440 --> 00:29:39,160  
Who said this?

638  
00:29:39,160 --> 00:29:40,670  
You?

639  
00:29:40,670 --> 00:29:41,620  
To?

640  
00:29:41,620 --> 00:29:42,674  
To Wisliceny?

641  
00:29:42,674 --> 00:29:46,300  
Yeah, and because  
in that time, only I

642  
00:29:46,300 --> 00:29:48,970  
had the direct contact  
with Wisliceny.

643  
00:29:48,970 --> 00:29:51,040  
Sometimes Gisi  
Fleischmann came with me.

644  
00:29:51,040 --> 00:29:54,040  
But especially, the  
outside correspondents

645  
00:29:54,040 --> 00:29:57,880  
and the outside in contact, in  
connection with the children

646  
00:29:57,880 --> 00:30:00,250  
action, was  
completely Weissmandel

647  
00:30:00,250 --> 00:30:02,800  
and Gisi Fleischmann's duty.

648  
00:30:02,800 --> 00:30:07,810  
And my duty was to give all  
the information to Wisliceny

649  
00:30:07,810 --> 00:30:12,160  
and bring back what Wisliceny  
and the other German people

650  
00:30:12,160 --> 00:30:15,490  
involved had to say.

651  
00:30:15,490 --> 00:30:18,370  
Later on, interesting  
enough, we really



652

00:30:18,370 --> 00:30:20,470

saw that the children  
transport didn't come,

653

00:30:20,470 --> 00:30:23,770

because we haven't  
been able to pay.

654

00:30:23,770 --> 00:30:25,870

Later on, in  
Nuremberg, Wisliceny

655

00:30:25,870 --> 00:30:29,710

made a statement that  
it did not come through,

656

00:30:29,710 --> 00:30:34,750

because the Mufti, the  
gang Mufti, from Jerusalem,

657

00:30:34,750 --> 00:30:43,270

was against it and objected  
to send children to Palestine.

658

00:30:43,270 --> 00:30:48,670

[? Israel ?] [INAUDIBLE]  
(film logistics - cut

659

00:30:48,670 --> 00:30:51,020

(film slating)

660

00:30:51,020 --> 00:30:53,090

Well, I want to  
tell you something

661

00:30:53,090 --> 00:30:58,100

about this story of  
the children transport

662

00:30:58,100 --> 00:31:01,600

who came from Bialystok  
to Theresienstadt.

663

00:31:01,600 --> 00:31:05,910

And I think this was  
in the winter of 1942.

664

00:31:05,910 --> 00:31:09,980

I think it was in December  
1942, because this

665

00:31:09,980 --> 00:31:15,950

is one of the surprises  
of such a film.

666

00:31:15,950 --> 00:31:19,970

I had to come here  
to you, in Atlanta,

667

00:31:19,970 --> 00:31:23,540

to find the truth about--

668

00:31:23,540 --> 00:31:27,130

it's a very astonishing  
story of this transport.

669

00:31:27,130 --> 00:31:29,090

The first time I  
heard about it, this

670

00:31:29,090 --> 00:31:33,050

was when I went myself  
to Theresienstadt.

671

00:31:33,050 --> 00:31:35,690

And I was there  
with a Czech Jew who

672

00:31:35,690 --> 00:31:40,130

was a former inmate of the  
ghetto of Theresienstadt.

673

00:31:40,130 --> 00:31:44,810

And it was a winter day,  
very cold and foggy.

674

00:31:44,810 --> 00:31:49,700

And we visited the town of  
Theresienstadt [INAUDIBLE],,

675

00:31:49,700 --> 00:31:51,650

and so on.

676

00:31:51,650 --> 00:31:57,380

And he told me that a  
transport of children

677

00:31:57,380 --> 00:31:58,580

came from [INAUDIBLE].

678

00:31:58,580 --> 00:32:01,070

This means from the east.

679

00:32:01,070 --> 00:32:02,570

And generally,  
these are transports

680

00:32:02,570 --> 00:32:05,750

where all are rolling  
from west to east and not

681

00:32:05,750 --> 00:32:07,730

from east to west.

682

00:32:07,730 --> 00:32:10,400

And these transports  
came from the east.

683

00:32:10,400 --> 00:32:13,260

It was a transport  
of Polish children.

684

00:32:13,260 --> 00:32:15,020

As they arrived  
in Theresienstadt,

685

00:32:15,020 --> 00:32:18,230

they were gathered

in a special block,

686

00:32:18,230 --> 00:32:26,450

and they were cut off from  
the population of the ghetto.

687

00:32:26,450 --> 00:32:31,580

And the Germans asked for  
some doctors and nurses

688

00:32:31,580 --> 00:32:37,580

to volunteer, in order to  
take care of these children.

689

00:32:37,580 --> 00:32:40,970

And there were some who did so.

690

00:32:40,970 --> 00:32:45,740

And he told me the  
following story.

691

00:32:45,740 --> 00:32:53,630

As they send the children to  
the bath, to the disinfection,

692

00:32:53,630 --> 00:32:55,940

and suddenly, the  
people of the ghetto

693

00:32:55,940 --> 00:32:59,900

heard a huge scream  
of the children.

694

00:32:59,900 --> 00:33:05,210

They said they screamed, gas,  
gas, when they heard the word

695

00:33:05,210 --> 00:33:07,580

disinfection.

696

00:33:07,580 --> 00:33:10,760

Well, this means that  
they had an idea already,

697

00:33:10,760 --> 00:33:14,940  
in Poland already, in Bialystok,  
about what was going on.

698

00:33:14,940 --> 00:33:18,860  
And this was during  
the winter of 1942.

699

00:33:18,860 --> 00:33:20,900  
And the children  
stayed for about one

700

00:33:20,900 --> 00:33:24,080  
month in Theresienstadt  
with the nurses

701

00:33:24,080 --> 00:33:26,930  
and with the doctors  
who had volunteered

702

00:33:26,930 --> 00:33:29,060  
to take care of them.

703

00:33:29,060 --> 00:33:32,660  
And after one month, the  
children, the doctors,

704

00:33:32,660 --> 00:33:36,600  
and the nurses were shipped.

705

00:33:36,600 --> 00:33:37,100  
--

706

00:33:37,100 --> 00:33:38,950  
Were shipped.

707

00:33:38,950 --> 00:34:01,000