

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,740

2

00:00:02,740 --> 00:00:04,499
(film slating)

3

00:00:04,499 --> 00:00:07,380

4

00:00:07,380 --> 00:00:14,850
One day, after about
one month, the children

5

00:00:14,850 --> 00:00:19,230
were gathered again with
the doctors and the nurses

6

00:00:19,230 --> 00:00:22,170
as they boarded a train.

7

00:00:22,170 --> 00:00:24,480
And the train was
bound to Auschwitz.

8

00:00:24,480 --> 00:00:27,960
And as soon as they
arrived in Auschwitz,

9

00:00:27,960 --> 00:00:31,380
the thousand children and
the nurses and the doctors

10

00:00:31,380 --> 00:00:34,290
were immediately gassed.

11

00:00:34,290 --> 00:00:38,160
And when this story was told
to me in Theresienstadt.

12

00:00:38,160 --> 00:00:42,900
The man who did it didn't

understand what happened.

13

00:00:42,900 --> 00:00:49,510

For him, it was an
ununderstandable story,

14

00:00:49,510 --> 00:00:51,600

a complete mystery.

15

00:00:51,600 --> 00:00:55,740

And after a while,
I made for the film,

16

00:00:55,740 --> 00:01:01,950

too, an interview with
the last president

17

00:01:01,950 --> 00:01:04,545

of the Judenrate
of Theresienstadt,

18

00:01:04,545 --> 00:01:11,340

also the Judenaelteste,
Dr. Benjamin Marmelstein.

19

00:01:11,340 --> 00:01:14,292

And I asked him if he knew--

20

00:01:14,292 --> 00:01:15,000

He knew about it.

21

00:01:15,000 --> 00:01:18,630

If he knew the truth with the--

22

00:01:18,630 --> 00:01:19,830

did he know?

23

00:01:19,830 --> 00:01:22,740

And he just told
me the same, but he

24

00:01:22,740 --> 00:01:25,470

didn't know the reasons why.

25

00:01:25,470 --> 00:01:31,260

You are the one who were,
here in Atlanta, to give me

26

00:01:31,260 --> 00:01:36,900

the key of this mystery.

27

00:01:36,900 --> 00:01:41,740

And you think that it is
because you didn't pay to--

28

00:01:41,740 --> 00:01:48,630

this Wisliency is a first
installment of \$100,000

29

00:01:48,630 --> 00:01:54,000

that the children were shipped
to Auschwitz and gassed.

30

00:01:54,000 --> 00:01:56,130

No doubt about.

31

00:01:56,130 --> 00:01:59,040

That time, already that
what made us really

32

00:01:59,040 --> 00:02:02,430

the first and very,
very angry to see

33

00:02:02,430 --> 00:02:06,750

this absolute misunderstanding
about our situation

34

00:02:06,750 --> 00:02:10,710

and the lack of confidence
which we seemingly had in us.

35

00:02:10,710 --> 00:02:14,490

Because Gisi, Gisi Fleischmann,
Rabbi Weissmandel, and myself,

36
00:02:14,490 --> 00:02:18,630
too, have been saying,
so, God damn it, here we

37
00:02:18,630 --> 00:02:20,970
are doing nearly the incredible.

38
00:02:20,970 --> 00:02:23,520
And those who have
nothing else to do just

39
00:02:23,520 --> 00:02:25,710
sent us a few hundred
thousand dollars.

40
00:02:25,710 --> 00:02:29,250
Don't believe us and be
covered for formalities

41
00:02:29,250 --> 00:02:33,090
are not helping us to make
this so-called saving action.

42
00:02:33,090 --> 00:02:34,810
You say formalities.

43
00:02:34,810 --> 00:02:37,290
You mean that the
people of the Joint,

44
00:02:37,290 --> 00:02:40,920
and particularly Saly
Mayer in Switzerland,

45
00:02:40,920 --> 00:02:43,480
didn't understand at
all what was at stake.

46
00:02:43,480 --> 00:02:46,920
I think that, because if he
would have understood it,

47

00:02:46,920 --> 00:02:52,350
it was impossible that he would
ask for so many formalities

48

00:02:52,350 --> 00:02:54,030
before he's willing
to give the money.

49

00:02:54,030 --> 00:02:56,010
What did he ask exactly?

50

00:02:56,010 --> 00:03:00,540
He said that time that
Gisi Fleischmann wrote him

51

00:03:00,540 --> 00:03:02,340
that according to
our information,

52

00:03:02,340 --> 00:03:04,980
the children arrived
in Theresienstadt.

53

00:03:04,980 --> 00:03:08,220
And the first hundred thousand
dollars should be given.

54

00:03:08,220 --> 00:03:12,600
And again, some answer
came from Saly Mayer

55

00:03:12,600 --> 00:03:15,450
which was sounding
that, in his opinion,

56

00:03:15,450 --> 00:03:16,830
the Germans are playing with us.

57

00:03:16,830 --> 00:03:21,150
It is not true, and he
cannot believe that--

58

00:03:21,150 --> 00:03:24,600

59

00:03:24,600 --> 00:03:26,340

simply the money was
not here because he

60

00:03:26,340 --> 00:03:27,660

didn't believe in it.

61

00:03:27,660 --> 00:03:30,060

And what makes us
angry so, that here

62

00:03:30,060 --> 00:03:32,100

was Gisi Fleischmann,
a representative

63

00:03:32,100 --> 00:03:36,780

of American Joint in WIZO
an old Zionist worker.

64

00:03:36,780 --> 00:03:40,080

Then he was Weissmandel who was
in the absolutely the finest

65

00:03:40,080 --> 00:03:42,300

reputation in orthodoxy.

66

00:03:42,300 --> 00:03:47,250

And then myself who everybody
knew that I have connections

67

00:03:47,250 --> 00:03:48,090

to the Germans.

68

00:03:48,090 --> 00:03:51,480

And up to now, everything
what we did was true,

69

00:03:51,480 --> 00:03:55,890

and it was, we thought, checked
and rechecked that it was true.

70
00:03:55,890 --> 00:03:59,280
And suddenly, in the most
crucial moment, that we already

71
00:03:59,280 --> 00:04:02,610
had the first time
saving 1,000 children,

72
00:04:02,610 --> 00:04:07,260
suddenly we couldn't confirm,
couldn't implement it,

73
00:04:07,260 --> 00:04:12,390
because Saly Mayer was not
willing to give us \$100,000.

74
00:04:12,390 --> 00:04:14,130
Because of this
angriness, I think

75
00:04:14,130 --> 00:04:16,155
that was the time that
Gisi Fleischmann too

76
00:04:16,155 --> 00:04:18,959
and Weissmandel started
to write really very

77
00:04:18,959 --> 00:04:21,060
angry letters outside.

78
00:04:21,060 --> 00:04:24,240
And I very much like to
quote from one of the letters

79
00:04:24,240 --> 00:04:25,680
which Gisi Fleischmann
wrote where

80
00:04:25,680 --> 00:04:28,620
she lets us the following.

81

00:04:28,620 --> 00:04:32,370

And I want to read it
first for you in German.

82

00:04:32,370 --> 00:04:34,320

[SPEAKING GERMAN]

83

00:04:34,320 --> 00:04:51,512

84

00:04:51,512 --> 00:04:52,470

Would you translate it?

85

00:04:52,470 --> 00:04:57,720

Which means, Dear uncle, my--

86

00:04:57,720 --> 00:04:58,500

Excuse me.

87

00:04:58,500 --> 00:05:00,270

Saly Mayer was called Uncle.

88

00:05:00,270 --> 00:05:01,500

It was a code name.

89

00:05:01,500 --> 00:05:02,410

That was a code name.

90

00:05:02,410 --> 00:05:05,040

That's right.

91

00:05:05,040 --> 00:05:08,160

I don't accuse you, dear
Uncle, that you don't

92

00:05:08,160 --> 00:05:11,730

have an understanding
for us, and still

93

00:05:11,730 --> 00:05:15,810

speaking about

old formulas which

94

00:05:15,810 --> 00:05:18,850

so often in the
history of mankind,

95

00:05:18,850 --> 00:05:21,000

but especially in the
story of the Jews,

96

00:05:21,000 --> 00:05:25,230

made it impossible to say
what he wanted to say.

97

00:05:25,230 --> 00:05:28,260

But Weissmandel, I heard,
I didn't read his letters,

98

00:05:28,260 --> 00:05:33,450

have been even much, much
more beautiful and much more

99

00:05:33,450 --> 00:05:34,920

emotional.

100

00:05:34,920 --> 00:05:40,320

And we hoped that even if that
suddenly didn't come through

101

00:05:40,320 --> 00:05:42,630

that we would be
able to say and go

102

00:05:42,630 --> 00:05:47,080

back again to the Europa Plan
and make that really a reality.

103

00:05:47,080 --> 00:05:51,390

What Wisliency exactly
told you about the gassing

104

00:05:51,390 --> 00:05:53,250

of the children?

105
00:05:53,250 --> 00:05:58,170
Wisliency simply said that at
the very moment if you cannot

106
00:05:58,170 --> 00:06:00,405
pay, so you are not going
to get the children.

107
00:06:00,405 --> 00:06:02,280
What happens that year
and if you didn't know

108
00:06:02,280 --> 00:06:04,440
I don't know whether
Wisliency knew

109
00:06:04,440 --> 00:06:07,150
that what you told me
right now or he didn't want

110
00:06:07,150 --> 00:06:10,090
to go tell us, I don't know.

111
00:06:10,090 --> 00:06:12,510
In truth of the matter
is if, I remember right,

112
00:06:12,510 --> 00:06:13,440
we didn't even press.

113
00:06:13,440 --> 00:06:18,060
We have been so
absolutely stunned

114
00:06:18,060 --> 00:06:22,350
that we couldn't bring up this
\$200,000 for 1,000 children,

115
00:06:22,350 --> 00:06:23,820
that we completely dropped it.

116

00:06:23,820 --> 00:06:28,110
And you couldn't find the
money with the so-called--

117
00:06:28,110 --> 00:06:29,880
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

118
00:06:29,880 --> 00:06:32,880
No, because they didn't
have that type of money.

119
00:06:32,880 --> 00:06:35,850
Even if you would take out
everything what Slovakia had,

120
00:06:35,850 --> 00:06:38,130
we just couldn't
get it together.

121
00:06:38,130 --> 00:06:41,190
We hoped that through the
Gisi Fleischmann, as you know,

122
00:06:41,190 --> 00:06:43,860
was twice in Budapest
and tried to get money

123
00:06:43,860 --> 00:06:46,090
and tried to get
money from there.

124
00:06:46,090 --> 00:06:47,330
From the Jews from Hungary.

125
00:06:47,330 --> 00:06:49,050
From the Jews from
Hungary because we

126
00:06:49,050 --> 00:06:51,900
knew that the Jews from Hungary
have been very, very rich,

127
00:06:51,900 --> 00:06:55,920

and even \$200,000 would
have been easy to get it.

128
00:06:55,920 --> 00:06:58,230
It was rather quiet at the time.

129
00:06:58,230 --> 00:07:00,510
And that time, it
was quiet, and they

130
00:07:00,510 --> 00:07:04,170
didn't believe that
the whole trouble going

131
00:07:04,170 --> 00:07:05,160
to be in Hungary, too.

132
00:07:05,160 --> 00:07:08,550
And we told them, don't try now
to think, and don't be naive.

133
00:07:08,550 --> 00:07:10,410
There's not going to
happen to you, too,

134
00:07:10,410 --> 00:07:12,840
so that everything
what you would give us

135
00:07:12,840 --> 00:07:17,640
would be a saving action
for different children.

136
00:07:17,640 --> 00:07:21,270
But Hungary, again, wanted
to send us money officially,

137
00:07:21,270 --> 00:07:23,610
goes to the National Bank.

138
00:07:23,610 --> 00:07:26,190
And from the Hungarian
National Bank,

139
00:07:26,190 --> 00:07:28,320
send it to the
Slovak National Bank.

140
00:07:28,320 --> 00:07:29,360
You mean that the Jews.

141
00:07:29,360 --> 00:07:31,120
The Jews, yeah.

142
00:07:31,120 --> 00:07:33,583
So they wanted to do the
thing in a bureaucratic way.

143
00:07:33,583 --> 00:07:34,500
In a bureaucratic way.

144
00:07:34,500 --> 00:07:37,020
And they don't understand
that we cannot use that type

145
00:07:37,020 --> 00:07:39,130
of money.

146
00:07:39,130 --> 00:07:41,010
So that really we just
didn't have the money,

147
00:07:41,010 --> 00:07:44,580
but we really hoped
that by having children,

148
00:07:44,580 --> 00:07:48,330
by having that first
test, what can Wisliency

149
00:07:48,330 --> 00:07:53,430
really do to implement would be
important enough in connection

150
00:07:53,430 --> 00:07:58,230

with the whole Europa plan
to put it down and later have

151
00:07:58,230 --> 00:08:00,870
time enough to bring
the \$2 million,

152
00:08:00,870 --> 00:08:06,180
which was supposed to be given
to them for the Europa plan.

153
00:08:06,180 --> 00:08:09,450
Did Gisi Fleischmann
told you exactly

154
00:08:09,450 --> 00:08:11,760
about her trip in Hungaria?

155
00:08:11,760 --> 00:08:12,960
How was she received?

156
00:08:12,960 --> 00:08:17,940

157
00:08:17,940 --> 00:08:20,970
Oh, how she was
received in Hungary?

158
00:08:20,970 --> 00:08:22,140
Oh, yeah, sure.

159
00:08:22,140 --> 00:08:25,260
She was first, one
of the first visit

160
00:08:25,260 --> 00:08:27,750
was and just like
Hungarians, I know

161
00:08:27,750 --> 00:08:31,980
that every pomp and every
glory was given to her.

162

00:08:31,980 --> 00:08:33,973

And she told us after that she--

163

00:08:33,973 --> 00:08:34,890

The Jews from Hungary.

164

00:08:34,890 --> 00:08:36,240

The Jews from Hungary.

165

00:08:36,240 --> 00:08:39,010

That Freudiger and

Kasztner and all

166

00:08:39,010 --> 00:08:41,669

lived, so that it's

again the orthodoxy

167

00:08:41,669 --> 00:08:45,060

and the Zionist had a

wonderful meeting with her.

168

00:08:45,060 --> 00:08:47,985

There was a big dinner

with all the ladies

169

00:08:47,985 --> 00:08:50,912

there with beautiful dresses

and the diamonds and so on,

170

00:08:50,912 --> 00:08:52,620

just like in a good

old time like nothing

171

00:08:52,620 --> 00:08:54,190

would go on in the whole world.

172

00:08:54,190 --> 00:08:54,750

Unbelievable.

173

00:08:54,750 --> 00:08:55,530

Unbelievable.

174

00:08:55,530 --> 00:08:58,170

She came back exactly,
and she said the same word

175

00:08:58,170 --> 00:09:01,590

that she just couldn't
believe that in the same time

176

00:09:01,590 --> 00:09:04,740

as we are going through that
type of difficulty a little bit

177

00:09:04,740 --> 00:09:08,190

away from the border,
that kind of behavior

178

00:09:08,190 --> 00:09:12,130

went on in the Hungarian Jews.

179

00:09:12,130 --> 00:09:13,590

They gave her a big dinner.

180

00:09:13,590 --> 00:09:17,940

They gave her a big dinner and
a big pomp and big speeches

181

00:09:17,940 --> 00:09:21,900

and promises that they are
going to make a fundraising.

182

00:09:21,900 --> 00:09:24,000

But after the
fundraising was promised,

183

00:09:24,000 --> 00:09:26,160

it was said, yes,
brown fundraising,

184

00:09:26,160 --> 00:09:29,580

but the money we can send to you
only on the official channels.

185

00:09:29,580 --> 00:09:32,595

We cannot give it to you
for underground activities

186

00:09:32,595 --> 00:09:33,630

in underground channels.

187

00:09:33,630 --> 00:09:35,700

But why, because
they were afraid?

188

00:09:35,700 --> 00:09:36,990

Because it was not legal?

189

00:09:36,990 --> 00:09:38,050

What?

190

00:09:38,050 --> 00:09:39,450

But because it was illegal.

191

00:09:39,450 --> 00:09:42,630

And therefore, they
foolishly thought

192

00:09:42,630 --> 00:09:46,350

that they are going to
hurt their position if that

193

00:09:46,350 --> 00:09:48,000

would do some illegal actions.

194

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:49,110

To harm their position.

195

00:09:49,110 --> 00:09:50,640

To harm their own position.

196

00:09:50,640 --> 00:09:52,830

And Gisi Fleischmann
tried to explain to them

197

00:09:52,830 --> 00:09:55,950

that it is absolutely,
first of all, not true.

198
00:09:55,950 --> 00:09:59,280
That it would not harm,
and just the contrary.

199
00:09:59,280 --> 00:10:03,930
They would eventually be
able to see similar things

200
00:10:03,930 --> 00:10:06,350
and to do similar
things in Hungary

201
00:10:06,350 --> 00:10:09,740
if the same action
comes to them to, too.

202
00:10:09,740 --> 00:10:13,530
Yes, and one year and a
half later, it was after.

203
00:10:13,530 --> 00:10:15,740
A half a year later,
it happened what

204
00:10:15,740 --> 00:10:17,630
we had a feeling
that whether they

205
00:10:17,630 --> 00:10:24,950
are able to stop deportation
and make it not only to a Slovak

206
00:10:24,950 --> 00:10:29,510
venture, but the Slovak
sample, an example,

207
00:10:29,510 --> 00:10:32,530
could be carried to the
other countries, too.

208

00:10:32,530 --> 00:10:33,830

Yes.

209

00:10:33,830 --> 00:10:39,320

And there is something which
I find very, very interesting

210

00:10:39,320 --> 00:10:43,160

and very unique because these
ideas or the Europa plan,

211

00:10:43,160 --> 00:10:49,147

this means to save all the
Jews who could be saved.

212

00:10:49,147 --> 00:10:50,480

Remained in Europe at that time.

213

00:10:50,480 --> 00:10:50,980

Yes.

214

00:10:50,980 --> 00:10:54,680

Without choosing
who will be saved.

215

00:10:54,680 --> 00:10:56,690

The idea was to save everybody.

216

00:10:56,690 --> 00:10:57,290

Yeah.

217

00:10:57,290 --> 00:10:58,832

Now that is really
interesting for me

218

00:10:58,832 --> 00:11:05,390

because we, in Slovakia, we
felt that we have been really

219

00:11:05,390 --> 00:11:09,980

not after saving a selected
persons or selected families.

220

00:11:09,980 --> 00:11:14,453

221

00:11:14,453 --> 00:11:16,275

(film slating)

222

00:11:16,275 --> 00:11:18,880

223

00:11:18,880 --> 00:11:23,650

I think that this Europa
plan as fantastic as it

224

00:11:23,650 --> 00:11:29,560

can be as well as something
unique because the idea was

225

00:11:29,560 --> 00:11:33,520

to save everybody,
not to choose,

226

00:11:33,520 --> 00:11:38,990

not to select a sample of Jews.

227

00:11:38,990 --> 00:11:39,490

No?

228

00:11:39,490 --> 00:11:40,450

That correct.

229

00:11:40,450 --> 00:11:45,820

The other group, the working
group's idea was that we cannot

230

00:11:45,820 --> 00:11:47,290

play God.

231

00:11:47,290 --> 00:11:48,250

God, you mean.

232

00:11:48,250 --> 00:11:48,790

Pardon?

233
00:11:48,790 --> 00:11:49,290
God.

234
00:11:49,290 --> 00:11:51,520
God, yeah, we cannot play God.

235
00:11:51,520 --> 00:11:54,280
And that why we
all the time said

236
00:11:54,280 --> 00:11:55,930
we speak about the communities.

237
00:11:55,930 --> 00:11:57,700
We speak about the
Jewish community

238
00:11:57,700 --> 00:12:00,310
in the different
European countries

239
00:12:00,310 --> 00:12:02,450
without making selections.

240
00:12:02,450 --> 00:12:05,470
And that was, basically,
the big moral difference

241
00:12:05,470 --> 00:12:11,710
between how we worked and how
the Hungarian Jews worked.

242
00:12:11,710 --> 00:12:15,730
Because from the beginning,
we heard about it

243
00:12:15,730 --> 00:12:18,890
that Kasztner and
even Freudiger,

244

00:12:18,890 --> 00:12:23,120
too, started to put together
a special transport, I think,

245
00:12:23,120 --> 00:12:26,330
for 1,600 or 2,000 people.

246
00:12:26,330 --> 00:12:26,830
No, no, no.

247
00:12:26,830 --> 00:12:28,620
It was, yeah, 1,600.

248
00:12:28,620 --> 00:12:29,120
1,600.

249
00:12:29,120 --> 00:12:30,070
Yes.

250
00:12:30,070 --> 00:12:32,840
And we heard that,
from the beginning,

251
00:12:32,840 --> 00:12:37,060
they tried to make selection,
and not only selection

252
00:12:37,060 --> 00:12:41,050
from some special
meritable Jews who

253
00:12:41,050 --> 00:12:44,740
merited for some reason,
many of the rich Jews who

254
00:12:44,740 --> 00:12:49,840
had been able to pay for it,
then selected Zionist leaders

255
00:12:49,840 --> 00:12:53,420
and selected artists and
so-called high intellectuals.

256

00:12:53,420 --> 00:12:54,940

And their own families, too.

257

00:12:54,940 --> 00:12:56,770

And their own families, too.

258

00:12:56,770 --> 00:13:00,410

And we had been absolutely
against that type of action.

259

00:13:00,410 --> 00:13:02,770

And I think, if I not
I am not mistaken,

260

00:13:02,770 --> 00:13:08,230

even Wisliency told me
once that he appreciated

261

00:13:08,230 --> 00:13:12,640

our fact that the only
special transport we asked

262

00:13:12,640 --> 00:13:16,360

was children, a group children.

263

00:13:16,360 --> 00:13:19,270

But we never ask anybody
anything for ourselves,

264

00:13:19,270 --> 00:13:22,360

and we never ask anything for
our friends or some selected

265

00:13:22,360 --> 00:13:24,190

individuals.

266

00:13:24,190 --> 00:13:26,950

And that why we, very
often, even wrote

267

00:13:26,950 --> 00:13:30,535

to Kasztner and Freudiger that

there should follow the way how

268

00:13:30,535 --> 00:13:33,760

we had been working because
this is already, even

269

00:13:33,760 --> 00:13:35,710

from moral standpoint
that I had seen,

270

00:13:35,710 --> 00:13:38,710

and that is the accepted
route from the Germans, too.

271

00:13:38,710 --> 00:13:40,570

And that should not
spoil it because we

272

00:13:40,570 --> 00:13:43,810

are afraid that that just
wouldn't work in the ways

273

00:13:43,810 --> 00:13:46,370

as we had we had it in mind.

274

00:13:46,370 --> 00:13:49,720

And the Hungarian Jews, I
mean, the Hungarian Judenrat,

275

00:13:49,720 --> 00:13:55,690

as a matter of fact, Kasztner,
Philip von Freudiger, all

276

00:13:55,690 --> 00:13:58,630

these people, when they
were already what you mean,

277

00:13:58,630 --> 00:14:02,900

when they were in
negotiations with Eichmann.

278

00:14:02,900 --> 00:14:05,710

This was much later.

279
00:14:05,710 --> 00:14:10,210
It was in 1944 when the
deportations from Hungaria

280
00:14:10,210 --> 00:14:13,210
were going at full speed.

281
00:14:13,210 --> 00:14:15,025
They decided to select--

282
00:14:15,025 --> 00:14:18,640
it's what they called the
kind of Ark of Noah of Jews.

283
00:14:18,640 --> 00:14:20,140
That's right.

284
00:14:20,140 --> 00:14:23,020
And knew it was completely
it was a way around.

285
00:14:23,020 --> 00:14:24,200
The other way around.

286
00:14:24,200 --> 00:14:26,230
We didn't want to
make an Ark of Noah.

287
00:14:26,230 --> 00:14:28,000
We didn't want to
select anybody.

288
00:14:28,000 --> 00:14:30,700
We wanted to have
the community, and we

289
00:14:30,700 --> 00:14:34,270
thought if for any reason
that wouldn't go, then

290
00:14:34,270 --> 00:14:38,950

we have time enough to arrange
later to make some compromise.

291
00:14:38,950 --> 00:14:41,890
But from the
beginning, our aim was

292
00:14:41,890 --> 00:14:44,650
to stop deportation for the
different Jewish communities

293
00:14:44,650 --> 00:14:46,780
in different European States.

294
00:14:46,780 --> 00:14:51,490
But what do you think
it was say that one

295
00:14:51,490 --> 00:14:57,400
of the main concern
of Weissmandel

296
00:14:57,400 --> 00:15:01,420
and generally speaking
of the Orthodox Jews

297
00:15:01,420 --> 00:15:07,330
was to save the Orthodox
Jews mostly for Weissmandel.

298
00:15:07,330 --> 00:15:09,970
It was said that he
wanted to save mostly

299
00:15:09,970 --> 00:15:12,520
the people of the yeshiva.

300
00:15:12,520 --> 00:15:14,260
I didn't have this
impression, though.

301
00:15:14,260 --> 00:15:18,340
I had the impression that

Weissmandel, too, was not only

302

00:15:18,340 --> 00:15:23,530

he, but he was one of those
who said we should not play God

303

00:15:23,530 --> 00:15:26,140

by selecting, that
we are going to speak

304

00:15:26,140 --> 00:15:29,230

about the Jewish community.

305

00:15:29,230 --> 00:15:32,500

I don't think so that he
even he never proposed.

306

00:15:32,500 --> 00:15:36,280

I don't know of any case where
he proposed in any saving

307

00:15:36,280 --> 00:15:39,180

action to make special mention
about the Orthodox Jews.

308

00:15:39,180 --> 00:15:41,614

Is formula, we cannot play God?

309

00:15:41,614 --> 00:15:42,562

That's a formula.

310

00:15:42,562 --> 00:15:43,510

That's correct.

311

00:15:43,510 --> 00:15:46,690

That's Weissmandel's formula
that we cannot select,

312

00:15:46,690 --> 00:15:50,080

we cannot play God,
and let we speak about

313

00:15:50,080 --> 00:15:51,720
for the communities.

314
00:15:51,720 --> 00:15:53,470
And you think that he
would have preferred

315
00:15:53,470 --> 00:15:56,680
to have the whole
community destroyed

316
00:15:56,680 --> 00:16:00,130
than to save just a small part?

317
00:16:00,130 --> 00:16:04,330
The idea was that
if it doesn't work,

318
00:16:04,330 --> 00:16:06,820
we are not able to save
the whole community.

319
00:16:06,820 --> 00:16:09,550
And the Germans would say we
cannot give you one million

320
00:16:09,550 --> 00:16:14,080
Jews, that we will be able
to give you 500,000 Jews.

321
00:16:14,080 --> 00:16:16,050
That it's time
enough to tell, OK.

322
00:16:16,050 --> 00:16:18,740
So first, send us
all the children,

323
00:16:18,740 --> 00:16:21,020
then send us another category.

324
00:16:21,020 --> 00:16:23,420
But again, we never

showed in terms

325

00:16:23,420 --> 00:16:26,030
of families or selected
personal friends

326

00:16:26,030 --> 00:16:30,110
and not in selecting
our own families.

327

00:16:30,110 --> 00:16:31,880
It must have been
really horrible

328

00:16:31,880 --> 00:16:34,520
when you didn't get
the money for a while.

329

00:16:34,520 --> 00:16:36,320
No, it was more than horrible.

330

00:16:36,320 --> 00:16:38,570
That was the time
really that all of us

331

00:16:38,570 --> 00:16:42,020
we have been just flabbergasted
that I didn't understand

332

00:16:42,020 --> 00:16:47,750
that \$2 for one Jewish life
would not be able because we

333

00:16:47,750 --> 00:16:53,330
had been thinking that
the not to believe us

334

00:16:53,330 --> 00:16:55,790
was not enough argument
from the other side.

335

00:16:55,790 --> 00:17:00,320
Our argument was go ahead, put

the money, and give it a try

336

00:17:00,320 --> 00:17:02,040

and see why it is true.

337

00:17:02,040 --> 00:17:05,839

Then deal with it by trying it
out all these children action.

338

00:17:05,839 --> 00:17:09,829

If you give us \$200,000 and
if the 1,000 children come,

339

00:17:09,829 --> 00:17:12,800

then you will be able to see,
yes, the whole Europa plan

340

00:17:12,800 --> 00:17:14,480

is something a reality.

341

00:17:14,480 --> 00:17:16,550

And that what
makes us very angry

342

00:17:16,550 --> 00:17:20,960

that not even the smaller
part of the whole plan

343

00:17:20,960 --> 00:17:24,609

was made impossible because
of the bureaucracy which

344

00:17:24,609 --> 00:17:26,630

Saly Mayer represented
in Switzerland.

345

00:17:26,630 --> 00:17:29,120

Because there is a
very astonishing letter

346

00:17:29,120 --> 00:17:33,810

of Weissmandel which he
wrote, as a matter of fact,

347
00:17:33,810 --> 00:17:39,890
much later already in the
letter, I mean, in 1944.

348
00:17:39,890 --> 00:17:44,450
A was very intelligent
and very answer

349
00:17:44,450 --> 00:17:48,110
is literally written in
a complete Talmudic way.

350
00:17:48,110 --> 00:17:53,060
He says even if the
Germans wanted to save us,

351
00:17:53,060 --> 00:17:57,950
we have to play
as if they meant--

352
00:17:57,950 --> 00:18:00,920
Yeah, they meant
to, that's right.

353
00:18:00,920 --> 00:18:01,580
Yes.

354
00:18:01,580 --> 00:18:04,280
And did he talk to
you about this point?

355
00:18:04,280 --> 00:18:06,800
We have to act as
if the German--

356
00:18:06,800 --> 00:18:08,970
Would be really doing
what they promised.

357
00:18:08,970 --> 00:18:09,470
Yes.

358

00:18:09,470 --> 00:18:11,820

Yeah, that's right.

359

00:18:11,820 --> 00:18:12,320

All of us.

360

00:18:12,320 --> 00:18:15,050

He said so, and everybody
said so that that

361

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

is one of the reasons
which was incredible to us

362

00:18:18,020 --> 00:18:20,930

that we had been
willing to give it a try

363

00:18:20,930 --> 00:18:23,840

naturally because it was
part of our whole activity,

364

00:18:23,840 --> 00:18:27,650

that for the crucial moment of
our activity because we thought

365

00:18:27,650 --> 00:18:35,010

that if the children are
really go through Switzerland,

366

00:18:35,010 --> 00:18:38,510

and even if they wouldn't
be able to send to Israel,

367

00:18:38,510 --> 00:18:40,500

at least they are
in Switzerland.

368

00:18:40,500 --> 00:18:42,560

And it would not be
nothing, nothing wrong,

369

00:18:42,560 --> 00:18:45,350
so that eventually we
would wait till the end

370
00:18:45,350 --> 00:18:46,520
of the war in Switzerland.

371
00:18:46,520 --> 00:18:53,120
But do you think that is a
truth will be known one day?

372
00:18:53,120 --> 00:18:56,930
I mean, what do you think
you personally today

373
00:18:56,930 --> 00:18:59,390
that the Germans
were playing with you

374
00:18:59,390 --> 00:19:00,740
or that they were sincere?

375
00:19:00,740 --> 00:19:03,740
In that way, absolutely,
we have been convinced,

376
00:19:03,740 --> 00:19:06,230
and I'm convinced now that,
too, that at that point,

377
00:19:06,230 --> 00:19:08,510
the Germans were sincere.

378
00:19:08,510 --> 00:19:14,330
And just because we couldn't
do what we promised,

379
00:19:14,330 --> 00:19:19,730
then the Germans started
now to back up and instead

380
00:19:19,730 --> 00:19:21,770
of doing and playing

with us in connection

381

00:19:21,770 --> 00:19:25,730

with the Europa plan, started
to a little bit to be lukewarm.

382

00:19:25,730 --> 00:19:29,480

And I think a few months
later, Wisliency told us, too,

383

00:19:29,480 --> 00:19:33,560

that Himmler is
not going to agree

384

00:19:33,560 --> 00:19:35,480

on the further negotiation
of the Europa plan.

385

00:19:35,480 --> 00:19:40,790

Yeah, because there is a very
strong argument against you,

386

00:19:40,790 --> 00:19:47,420

I mean, against your belief
in the German's sincerity.

387

00:19:47,420 --> 00:19:50,600

It is completely true that
in all the extermination

388

00:19:50,600 --> 00:19:57,080

camps, in Treblinka, Sobibor,
Auschwitz, all the Jews came.

389

00:19:57,080 --> 00:19:59,810

They didn't know that
they were going to die,

390

00:19:59,810 --> 00:20:04,490

and they came with money,
with jewelry, with valuables,

391

00:20:04,490 --> 00:20:07,010

with dollars, with everything.

392

00:20:07,010 --> 00:20:15,680

And it is true that the people
were at the entrance of the gas

393

00:20:15,680 --> 00:20:19,640

chamber, they were robbed
of everything they had.

394

00:20:19,640 --> 00:20:21,590

And these extermination
camps were

395

00:20:21,590 --> 00:20:26,480

absolutely full with money,
with valuables, and so on.

396

00:20:26,480 --> 00:20:30,470

And it was not \$200,000,
but millions and millions

397

00:20:30,470 --> 00:20:32,150

and millions of dollars.

398

00:20:32,150 --> 00:20:35,280

And why did the Germans
need your money,

399

00:20:35,280 --> 00:20:38,270

the many of the Europa plan?

400

00:20:38,270 --> 00:20:39,380

Do you see the argument?

401

00:20:39,380 --> 00:20:44,450

I see the argument, too,
but I would say German,

402

00:20:44,450 --> 00:20:48,530

Germany at that time was
really in a little bit harder

403

00:20:48,530 --> 00:20:50,600
pressed for many other places.

404

00:20:50,600 --> 00:20:55,820
And very possibly, that that's
time to buy certain goods,

405

00:20:55,820 --> 00:20:57,950
they needed dollars.

406

00:20:57,950 --> 00:20:59,720
And interesting
enough, you remember

407

00:20:59,720 --> 00:21:02,990
that later on after the
Europa plan was transferred

408

00:21:02,990 --> 00:21:06,020
from Slovakia to
Hungary, even the Germans

409

00:21:06,020 --> 00:21:09,500
changed the conditions
from the Europa plan.

410

00:21:09,500 --> 00:21:13,310
And instead of money, they
asked different goods.

411

00:21:13,310 --> 00:21:14,430
Yes, but you cannot--

412

00:21:14,430 --> 00:21:16,240
but this Europa
plan at the time,

413

00:21:16,240 --> 00:21:20,530
because the question was only
to rescue the Hungarian Jew.

414

00:21:20,530 --> 00:21:24,160

No, it was it was still with us
because you remember Wisliency,

415
00:21:24,160 --> 00:21:27,520
after he left Slovakia
went to Greece.

416
00:21:27,520 --> 00:21:30,350
But immediately, every
month, once he came back,

417
00:21:30,350 --> 00:21:32,550
and we had a meeting, Gisi
Fleischmann and myself,

418
00:21:32,550 --> 00:21:33,710
met Wisliency.

419
00:21:33,710 --> 00:21:38,620
And we constantly kept him
asking that we should not

420
00:21:38,620 --> 00:21:41,080
forget about the Europa plan.

421
00:21:41,080 --> 00:21:44,017
Wisliency went to Greece
in order to organize--

422
00:21:44,017 --> 00:21:45,100
Organize and deportations.

423
00:21:45,100 --> 00:21:46,240
And deportations of Jews.

424
00:21:46,240 --> 00:21:46,910
That's right.

425
00:21:46,910 --> 00:21:49,210
To ship them to Auschwitz.

426
00:21:49,210 --> 00:21:51,730

That's right.

427

00:21:51,730 --> 00:21:55,450

How could you go and
negotiating with Wisliency

428

00:21:55,450 --> 00:22:00,250

when you saw the
transport of Greek Jews

429

00:22:00,250 --> 00:22:04,870

passing Slovakia, as a matter
of fact, because it was a way.

430

00:22:04,870 --> 00:22:07,720

How could you
believe in Wisliency

431

00:22:07,720 --> 00:22:11,740

when you saw in the same
times as the deportations were

432

00:22:11,740 --> 00:22:13,120

going on?

433

00:22:13,120 --> 00:22:15,790

No, that from the
Greek deportation

434

00:22:15,790 --> 00:22:19,600

was, for us, a
question mark. we still

435

00:22:19,600 --> 00:22:22,120

didn't understand why
it happened that way.

436

00:22:22,120 --> 00:22:23,020

Wisliency--

437

00:22:23,020 --> 00:22:27,860

438

00:22:27,860 --> 00:22:30,290
(film slating)

439

00:22:30,290 --> 00:22:32,690
I guess, my question
is, how could you

440

00:22:32,690 --> 00:22:36,440
go on believing in the
sincerity of Wisliency

441

00:22:36,440 --> 00:22:46,040
because Wisliency left Slovakia
for Greece in February 1943.

442

00:22:46,040 --> 00:22:50,300
And he was a organizer with
the deportations of Greek Jews

443

00:22:50,300 --> 00:22:53,510
from Thessaloniki.

444

00:22:53,510 --> 00:22:56,330
And they were all
shipped to Auschwitz.

445

00:22:56,330 --> 00:23:00,350
And you say that
Wisliency was coming

446

00:23:00,350 --> 00:23:04,520
back every month from
Greece to Slovakia

447

00:23:04,520 --> 00:23:07,823
on the transport
of the Greek Jews.

448

00:23:07,823 --> 00:23:09,240
As a matter of
fact, had to pass--

449

00:23:09,240 --> 00:23:10,157
Went through Slovakia.

450
00:23:10,157 --> 00:23:11,270
--through Slovakia.

451
00:23:11,270 --> 00:23:13,850
This means that
you witnessed this.

452
00:23:13,850 --> 00:23:18,800
How could you go on believing
in the sincerity of this man?

453
00:23:18,800 --> 00:23:24,530
Now, that for the
following, after in Greece,

454
00:23:24,530 --> 00:23:27,230
we didn't have direct connection
neither to the Zionist,

455
00:23:27,230 --> 00:23:29,480
neither to the orthodoxy.

456
00:23:29,480 --> 00:23:34,520
So we ask Wisliency that the
moment he comes to Greece he

457
00:23:34,520 --> 00:23:36,980
should get now and
find out who are

458
00:23:36,980 --> 00:23:38,810
the leaders of the
Zionists, who are

459
00:23:38,810 --> 00:23:40,610
the leaders of the
assimilated Jews,

460
00:23:40,610 --> 00:23:42,485
and who are the leaders

of the Orthodox Jews.

461
00:23:42,485 --> 00:23:43,068
You asked him.

462
00:23:43,068 --> 00:23:44,060
We asked him, sure.

463
00:23:44,060 --> 00:23:46,010
But you were in a very
close relationship.

464
00:23:46,010 --> 00:23:47,510
That time, in a
very close relation.

465
00:23:47,510 --> 00:23:50,570
We have been speaking with
Wisliency, both of us,

466
00:23:50,570 --> 00:23:53,880
Gisi Fleischmann and myself,
just like in the same way

467
00:23:53,880 --> 00:23:56,220
as I'm speaking now with you.

468
00:23:56,220 --> 00:23:57,482
Unbelievable.

469
00:23:57,482 --> 00:24:00,620
And he came back,
and we ask him that.

470
00:24:00,620 --> 00:24:01,640
What happened?

471
00:24:01,640 --> 00:24:04,580
Why couldn't you do the
same thing what we did here

472
00:24:04,580 --> 00:24:07,010

and you helped us to do it here?

473

00:24:07,010 --> 00:24:10,610

And Wisliency's answer all
time, you cannot compare

474

00:24:10,610 --> 00:24:13,010

the situation with Greece.

475

00:24:13,010 --> 00:24:16,280

And he made us
believe that he had

476

00:24:16,280 --> 00:24:19,440

so strict orders
and the man somebody

477

00:24:19,440 --> 00:24:21,200

was there on top of him.

478

00:24:21,200 --> 00:24:22,730

He was in Slovakia.

479

00:24:22,730 --> 00:24:27,140

He was the only [INAUDIBLE]
for the Jewish question

480

00:24:27,140 --> 00:24:29,060

on the German side.

481

00:24:29,060 --> 00:24:34,460

But in Greece, he had, as
he told us, two others.

482

00:24:34,460 --> 00:24:36,320

And he told us
that he absolutely

483

00:24:36,320 --> 00:24:39,500

couldn't make any contact
with the Jewish leadership

484

00:24:39,500 --> 00:24:41,270
in Greece.

485
00:24:41,270 --> 00:24:46,190
That is for us a question
mark all the time it was why.

486
00:24:46,190 --> 00:24:49,100
He never gave us the answer,
and we never found out,

487
00:24:49,100 --> 00:24:51,020
not even after the war.

488
00:24:51,020 --> 00:24:51,895
But his credibility--

489
00:24:51,895 --> 00:24:55,910
But the credibility,
granted, the idea

490
00:24:55,910 --> 00:24:57,620
was following saying
we have a feeling

491
00:24:57,620 --> 00:25:02,960
that the credibility from our
side was not that good neither.

492
00:25:02,960 --> 00:25:07,110
We didn't with any of
our promises to them.

493
00:25:07,110 --> 00:25:09,440
And that's why we took that.

494
00:25:09,440 --> 00:25:12,770
We said all the time, even
if that happened in Greece,

495
00:25:12,770 --> 00:25:16,370
we still would like to save if
we are not able to save Greece.

496
00:25:16,370 --> 00:25:20,180
So there are still others
here who should be saved,

497
00:25:20,180 --> 00:25:22,520
and we cannot give up
just because in Greece it

498
00:25:22,520 --> 00:25:23,780
didn't work.

499
00:25:23,780 --> 00:25:26,600
So that's why, for instance,
even Weissmandel ask me,

500
00:25:26,600 --> 00:25:30,470
I remember now,
to tell Wisliency

501
00:25:30,470 --> 00:25:32,960
that his credibility
was very much hurt

502
00:25:32,960 --> 00:25:38,480
and the word Jew is going to
put that in a black mark for him

503
00:25:38,480 --> 00:25:41,510
because he did deportation
in spite of in the same time

504
00:25:41,510 --> 00:25:45,350
that we started to negotiate
with him for the Europa plan.

505
00:25:45,350 --> 00:25:47,480
But that was all.

506
00:25:47,480 --> 00:25:51,230
And interesting
enough, really, I just

507

00:25:51,230 --> 00:25:54,680
don't understand why we couldn't
make any contact with not

508

00:25:54,680 --> 00:25:57,080
even the Jewish people there.

509

00:25:57,080 --> 00:25:59,420
Weissmandel himself had no
contacts with him in Greece.

510

00:25:59,420 --> 00:26:00,860
No, we had--

511

00:26:00,860 --> 00:26:01,880
Weissmandel personally?

512

00:26:01,880 --> 00:26:04,190
No, personally, he didn't.

513

00:26:04,190 --> 00:26:05,420
But the contact--

514

00:26:05,420 --> 00:26:09,710
I would say I was Weissmandel's
sprecher as you called it.

515

00:26:09,710 --> 00:26:12,680
I was the guy who
spoke what Weissmandel

516

00:26:12,680 --> 00:26:16,400
told me to say to Wisliency.

517

00:26:16,400 --> 00:26:20,090
And Wisliency knew
that Rabbi Weissmandel

518

00:26:20,090 --> 00:26:22,100
exist because I
very, very openly

519

00:26:22,100 --> 00:26:26,660

and frankly told him that who
are the members of the work

520

00:26:26,660 --> 00:26:28,460

camp.

521

00:26:28,460 --> 00:26:29,360

All right.

522

00:26:29,360 --> 00:26:31,790

And now, I would like
to come to another point

523

00:26:31,790 --> 00:26:35,600

and to ask you what is
your feeling about this.

524

00:26:35,600 --> 00:26:41,930

In September 1944, when the
deportations from Slovakia

525

00:26:41,930 --> 00:26:48,440

were resumed and started
again, Weissmandel himself

526

00:26:48,440 --> 00:26:53,840

was shipped to Auschwitz with
his family, with his wife

527

00:26:53,840 --> 00:26:55,230

and with the children.

528

00:26:55,230 --> 00:26:56,210

That's right.

529

00:26:56,210 --> 00:27:00,185

And you know that he
escaped from the train.

530

00:27:00,185 --> 00:27:01,685

Yeah, he jumped from the train.

531
00:27:01,685 --> 00:27:02,330
He jumped.

532
00:27:02,330 --> 00:27:03,800
He escaped alone.

533
00:27:03,800 --> 00:27:04,970
He left the--

534
00:27:04,970 --> 00:27:05,600
Family.

535
00:27:05,600 --> 00:27:09,150
--the family into the train.

536
00:27:09,150 --> 00:27:13,310
And he was very disturbed
after while according

537
00:27:13,310 --> 00:27:15,410
to all the testimonies we have.

538
00:27:15,410 --> 00:27:17,050
He called himself a murderer--

539
00:27:17,050 --> 00:27:21,320
Murderer and traitor of
the family, that's right.

540
00:27:21,320 --> 00:27:22,550
How do you explain this?

541
00:27:22,550 --> 00:27:25,070
What is your feeling about?

542
00:27:25,070 --> 00:27:27,080
You know, at that
time, I was already

543
00:27:27,080 --> 00:27:30,320

in the so-called partisan
land for Slovakia

544
00:27:30,320 --> 00:27:33,230
which was so that I
heard all this only

545
00:27:33,230 --> 00:27:35,240
after the liberation came.

546
00:27:35,240 --> 00:27:38,240
And I heard it just
exactly what you

547
00:27:38,240 --> 00:27:42,080
said that Weissmandel was sent
first to Sered and from Sered

548
00:27:42,080 --> 00:27:45,248
he was sent to Auschwitz.

549
00:27:45,248 --> 00:27:46,040
Concentration camp.

550
00:27:46,040 --> 00:27:46,910
Concentration camp.

551
00:27:46,910 --> 00:27:49,580
Sered, and from there, he
was deported to Auschwitz.

552
00:27:49,580 --> 00:27:51,800
And he jumped from
the train, and he

553
00:27:51,800 --> 00:27:57,390
was very disturbed state of
mind and cried constantly.

554
00:27:57,390 --> 00:28:00,530
And this mea culpa
was constantly here

555

00:28:00,530 --> 00:28:04,700

that he considered himself
the murder of his family.

556

00:28:04,700 --> 00:28:08,870

But we thought
that he did right.

557

00:28:08,870 --> 00:28:11,480

558

00:28:11,480 --> 00:28:15,380

We knew that only one
person who jumped the train

559

00:28:15,380 --> 00:28:20,750

could eventually save himself
and go slowly through and go

560

00:28:20,750 --> 00:28:23,330

back again to a place
where he felt safe.

561

00:28:23,330 --> 00:28:26,190

But we knew that if the family--

562

00:28:26,190 --> 00:28:27,920

these are family,
you cannot do it.

563

00:28:27,920 --> 00:28:31,550

And Weissmandel was
such an exceptional part

564

00:28:31,550 --> 00:28:34,580

of this whole Rettungsaktion
action, which are still going

565

00:28:34,580 --> 00:28:40,250

on, that we thought that his--

566

00:28:40,250 --> 00:28:45,170

I would say messianic--

567
00:28:45,170 --> 00:28:45,920
Mission.

568
00:28:45,920 --> 00:28:46,790
Yeah, that's right.

569
00:28:46,790 --> 00:28:49,730
Mission was so big
that made him even

570
00:28:49,730 --> 00:28:54,800
to leave this family to go back
again and try to be helpful

571
00:28:54,800 --> 00:28:56,250
as much as possible.

572
00:28:56,250 --> 00:28:57,170
This is your feeling?

573
00:28:57,170 --> 00:28:59,990
That was my feeling that I
understood that he did it

574
00:28:59,990 --> 00:29:04,800
because truth of the matter is I
would have done the same thing.

575
00:29:04,800 --> 00:29:06,440
Don't forget one thing.

576
00:29:06,440 --> 00:29:12,020
That in this work group, all
of us we didn't speak about,

577
00:29:12,020 --> 00:29:14,420
we didn't insult too
much about the families.

578
00:29:14,420 --> 00:29:18,140

We really somehow, we had
been transformed for some,

579
00:29:18,140 --> 00:29:23,150
I don't know all, that we are
here to save other people.

580
00:29:23,150 --> 00:29:26,760
We are here to be able
to organize something

581
00:29:26,760 --> 00:29:28,160
to other people.

582
00:29:28,160 --> 00:29:31,678
Unknown people should be
saved, not we and our families.

583
00:29:31,678 --> 00:29:33,470
As a matter of fact,
it is very interesting

584
00:29:33,470 --> 00:29:37,550
because to come back to what we
said about the Hungarian Jews,

585
00:29:37,550 --> 00:29:39,840
they saved their families.

586
00:29:39,840 --> 00:29:43,063
And Weissmandel didn't
care about his own family.

587
00:29:43,063 --> 00:29:44,730
Yeah, no, but you
see, that's the reason

588
00:29:44,730 --> 00:29:48,290
why I understood why
Weissmandel did it this way.

589
00:29:48,290 --> 00:29:51,140
And I was told that a

lot of people who tried

590

00:29:51,140 --> 00:29:53,570

to help him with
that difficult time

591

00:29:53,570 --> 00:29:56,480

that he should not consider him
as a traitor, just a contrary.

592

00:29:56,480 --> 00:30:00,110

That his mission was to be
alive and not to try now

593

00:30:00,110 --> 00:30:02,780

to do something
what was impossible.

594

00:30:02,780 --> 00:30:04,670

So we considered
his action and he

595

00:30:04,670 --> 00:30:08,960

is doing that as something
the right thing to do.

596

00:30:08,960 --> 00:30:10,940

OK.

597

00:30:10,940 --> 00:30:13,100

Now, I come to
another point, and I

598

00:30:13,100 --> 00:30:16,460

would like to have you're
feeling, too, about this.

599

00:30:16,460 --> 00:30:20,060

600

00:30:20,060 --> 00:30:22,850

I made an interview
for this film

601
00:30:22,850 --> 00:30:33,260
with Rudolf Vrba who escaped
Auschwitz 7th of April 1944.

602
00:30:33,260 --> 00:30:37,280
And who arrived in Slovakia
on the 21 of April,

603
00:30:37,280 --> 00:30:41,480
who gave the first report
about what was Auschwitz.

604
00:30:41,480 --> 00:30:46,257
It's a gigantic
factory of murder.

605
00:30:46,257 --> 00:30:48,632
And he met people of the, call
it Judenrat or the rabbi's

606
00:30:48,632 --> 00:30:51,800
group in

607
00:30:51,800 --> 00:30:54,590

608
00:30:54,590 --> 00:30:59,600
In [Place name] the
23 of April 1944.

609
00:30:59,600 --> 00:31:01,040
And he met three people.

610
00:31:01,040 --> 00:31:04,980
He met Dr. Oskar
Neumann, Krasniansky--

611
00:31:04,980 --> 00:31:06,240
Krasniansky.

612
00:31:06,240 --> 00:31:08,400

And another Steiner.

613
00:31:08,400 --> 00:31:09,840
Erwin Steiner.

614
00:31:09,840 --> 00:31:10,950
Erwin Steiner.

615
00:31:10,950 --> 00:31:11,600
That's right.

616
00:31:11,600 --> 00:31:15,860
And he told me that the
meeting with these people

617
00:31:15,860 --> 00:31:22,730
was rather extraordinary
because they knew everything

618
00:31:22,730 --> 00:31:24,710
about Auschwitz.

619
00:31:24,710 --> 00:31:31,190
They checked what he
said very carefully,

620
00:31:31,190 --> 00:31:36,050
but in a kind of very cold the
way, in a matter of fact way,

621
00:31:36,050 --> 00:31:39,560
without showing any
kind of compassion.

622
00:31:39,560 --> 00:31:45,070
And it's what he said, and
he was very stoic about this.

623
00:31:45,070 --> 00:31:46,518
You knew these
people, of course.

624

00:31:46,518 --> 00:31:47,060

That's right.

625

00:31:47,060 --> 00:31:47,880

Yeah.

626

00:31:47,880 --> 00:31:54,630

And do you think that what
Vrba told me is the truth?

627

00:31:54,630 --> 00:31:56,480

It could be true
because all those three

628

00:31:56,480 --> 00:32:00,470

persons you mentioned are not
so emotional people like Gisi

629

00:32:00,470 --> 00:32:03,170

Fleischmann or Weissmandel was.

630

00:32:03,170 --> 00:32:06,020

And all the people
whom you are mentioned

631

00:32:06,020 --> 00:32:08,600

are really matter
of fact people.

632

00:32:08,600 --> 00:32:10,370

And that's what--

633

00:32:10,370 --> 00:32:11,990

I think I told you before.

634

00:32:11,990 --> 00:32:15,710

That was we already knew
that time and is really true,

635

00:32:15,710 --> 00:32:18,680

Dr. Neumann and Erwin
Steiner, and the others,

636

00:32:18,680 --> 00:32:20,390

we had really the
possibility to check

637

00:32:20,390 --> 00:32:24,112

whether Vrba and the other boy
who came with him, whether they

638

00:32:24,112 --> 00:32:26,070

are telling us the truth
because we had already

639

00:32:26,070 --> 00:32:28,260

information of what goes on.

640

00:32:28,260 --> 00:32:31,260

And that time,
maybe, if it would

641

00:32:31,260 --> 00:32:34,110

have been the first
revelation about what goes on,

642

00:32:34,110 --> 00:32:36,990

all would have been
eventually different other

643

00:32:36,990 --> 00:32:40,710

and, emotionally, would
react emotionally.

644

00:32:40,710 --> 00:32:44,910

But you know, it is
very hard for them

645

00:32:44,910 --> 00:32:50,460

to visualize that we have
been in it for so many months

646

00:32:50,460 --> 00:32:53,250

and fighting it
for so many years

647

00:32:53,250 --> 00:32:56,460

that the emotional part
was a little bit damped,

648

00:32:56,460 --> 00:32:57,420

really a little bit.

649

00:32:57,420 --> 00:33:03,330

And Vrba, maybe, he came out
with this full of the emotion.

650

00:33:03,330 --> 00:33:04,800

Here we are.

651

00:33:04,800 --> 00:33:06,330

We are bringing this news.

652

00:33:06,330 --> 00:33:08,470

And this is how
you react to that.

653

00:33:08,470 --> 00:33:11,610

Yes, but submitting
must have been fantasy

654

00:33:11,610 --> 00:33:14,280

because this man stayed
for two years in Auschwitz.

655

00:33:14,280 --> 00:33:14,780

Yeah.

656

00:33:14,780 --> 00:33:16,680

And he escaped.

657

00:33:16,680 --> 00:33:20,700

And to escape from
Auschwitz was not easy.

658

00:33:20,700 --> 00:33:24,270

And he met these people,
and they behaved towards him

659

00:33:24,270 --> 00:33:27,000

as bureaucratise what he said.

660

00:33:27,000 --> 00:33:29,130

No, you see there are
many bureaucratise

661

00:33:29,130 --> 00:33:30,360

in the Jewish bureaucrats.

662

00:33:30,360 --> 00:33:33,660

Bureaucracy doesn't it
doesn't stop by Jewish people.

663

00:33:33,660 --> 00:33:35,430

They are just the
same bureaucracy

664

00:33:35,430 --> 00:33:37,790

that we have by others.

665

00:33:37,790 --> 00:33:59,126