

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:10,160

2
00:00:10,160 --> 00:00:13,450
(film slating)

3
00:00:13,450 --> 00:00:14,400

4
00:00:14,400 --> 00:00:18,130
You know, bureaucracy
doesn't stop at the Jews.

5
00:00:18,130 --> 00:00:24,430
And Vrba seemingly
had the experience

6
00:00:24,430 --> 00:00:27,880
to meet first with three
typical bureaucrats--

7
00:00:27,880 --> 00:00:29,890
by chance Jewish bureaucrats.

8
00:00:29,890 --> 00:00:32,570
And that was maybe
he was experiencing

9
00:00:32,570 --> 00:00:35,390
the lack of emotional response.

10
00:00:35,390 --> 00:00:38,860
Which definitely, if he
would have met the first time

11
00:00:38,860 --> 00:00:41,260
Weissmandel Gisi
Fleischmann, he would

12
00:00:41,260 --> 00:00:44,470
have had a very different

type of experience,

13

00:00:44,470 --> 00:00:47,800

like he had it with these
three whom he met in Zilina.

14

00:00:47,800 --> 00:00:50,120

But you know that
after a few weeks later

15

00:00:50,120 --> 00:00:52,240

they came to Bratislava.

16

00:00:52,240 --> 00:00:56,650

And there have been
exposed to Weissmandel--

17

00:00:56,650 --> 00:00:58,660

He was very astonished
to find that.

18

00:00:58,660 --> 00:01:02,170

Because the yeshiva that
i was in Bratislava.

19

00:01:02,170 --> 00:01:04,750

And he was very
astonished to see

20

00:01:04,750 --> 00:01:09,010

after two years of Auschwitz
a Yeshiva in Bratislava

21

00:01:09,010 --> 00:01:10,903

with people studying the Talmud.

22

00:01:10,903 --> 00:01:12,070

He couldn't understand this.

23

00:01:12,070 --> 00:01:14,480

Understand it.

24

00:01:14,480 --> 00:01:16,360
But truth of the matter is--

25
00:01:16,360 --> 00:01:19,030
And he was very
fond of Weissmandel

26
00:01:19,030 --> 00:01:22,600
because Weissmandel reacted
in a complete other way

27
00:01:22,600 --> 00:01:25,980
than the three
bureaucrats of Zilina.

28
00:01:25,980 --> 00:01:27,370
Yeah.

29
00:01:27,370 --> 00:01:29,860
Then after they
came to Bratislava,

30
00:01:29,860 --> 00:01:34,210
there came Weissmandel
and Dr. Neumann,

31
00:01:34,210 --> 00:01:37,000
and two I didn't even know of
maybe I don't even remember.

32
00:01:37,000 --> 00:01:39,660
But it was the rabbi
and somebody else.

33
00:01:39,660 --> 00:01:40,420
[INAUDIBLE]

34
00:01:40,420 --> 00:01:43,270
But four people
came to my office

35
00:01:43,270 --> 00:01:47,560
and told me, Andre, here is

the description what goes on

36

00:01:47,560 --> 00:01:50,980
in Auschwitz, where the
different barracks are,

37

00:01:50,980 --> 00:01:53,680
where the crematorium
of Auschwitz

38

00:01:53,680 --> 00:01:55,600
is, and the railroads in--

39

00:01:55,600 --> 00:01:57,190
put everything down on paper.

40

00:01:57,190 --> 00:02:00,400
And we designed, made a plan,
from all this information.

41

00:02:00,400 --> 00:02:01,030
The map.

42

00:02:01,030 --> 00:02:01,540
The map.

43

00:02:01,540 --> 00:02:04,120
We made a map based
on that information.

44

00:02:04,120 --> 00:02:06,895
And made a few copies and
gave it to Gisi Fleischmann

45

00:02:06,895 --> 00:02:08,770
and to Rabbi Weissmandel.

46

00:02:08,770 --> 00:02:11,110
And it was their duty
now to send it out

47

00:02:11,110 --> 00:02:14,680

again to the whole world
as much as possible.

48
00:02:14,680 --> 00:02:17,290
And tell them, here
is the information,

49
00:02:17,290 --> 00:02:18,670
please tell the Allies.

50
00:02:18,670 --> 00:02:21,640
Because they have constantly
bombardment anyway--

51
00:02:21,640 --> 00:02:25,090
they should bombard, first
of all, the crematorium

52
00:02:25,090 --> 00:02:27,640
and bombard the railroad lines.

53
00:02:27,640 --> 00:02:31,210
Which, again, would at least if
it wouldn't make it impossible

54
00:02:31,210 --> 00:02:33,700
but at least it
would delay and delay

55
00:02:33,700 --> 00:02:38,170
the mass annihilation of Jews.

56
00:02:38,170 --> 00:02:42,070
And sure enough,
we did send it out,

57
00:02:42,070 --> 00:02:46,420
and we had been waiting
some type of response

58
00:02:46,420 --> 00:02:47,830
from the outside.

59

00:02:47,830 --> 00:02:50,410

And those who had been
constantly listening

60

00:02:50,410 --> 00:02:54,740

to the radio stations
from the outside

61

00:02:54,740 --> 00:02:56,530

have been waiting,
that if that is true

62

00:02:56,530 --> 00:03:01,360

and it reaches these positions,
it will be reflected somehow.

63

00:03:01,360 --> 00:03:08,500

And sure enough, one time
somebody came with the news

64

00:03:08,500 --> 00:03:12,160

that it was
mentioned by the BBC.

65

00:03:12,160 --> 00:03:13,320

It's true.

66

00:03:13,320 --> 00:03:14,830

But not-- is it really true?

67

00:03:14,830 --> 00:03:16,270

Yes, absolutely.

68

00:03:16,270 --> 00:03:19,180

But it was not
mentioned in totality.

69

00:03:19,180 --> 00:03:24,390

It was mentioned that there some
news are coming from Auschwitz

70

00:03:24,390 --> 00:03:26,260

that they think this goes on.

71

00:03:26,260 --> 00:03:29,470

But still with such an MO that
we had the feeling that they

72

00:03:29,470 --> 00:03:30,440

still don't believe it.

73

00:03:30,440 --> 00:03:31,940

They brought it
only just because it

74

00:03:31,940 --> 00:03:35,170

was a news item but without
really believing in it.

75

00:03:35,170 --> 00:03:36,880

Because if they
believed in it, it

76

00:03:36,880 --> 00:03:41,070

would have to be a big outcry,
not only just a news item.

77

00:03:41,070 --> 00:03:42,820

Then there's something
similar-- something

78

00:03:42,820 --> 00:03:45,280

happened-- we asked
for the bombardment.

79

00:03:45,280 --> 00:03:48,760

And I still don't
remember now how--

80

00:03:48,760 --> 00:03:53,170

one day, was it Weissmandel
or was it Frieder,

81

00:03:53,170 --> 00:03:59,140

came to us that did it come

from Switzerland that the answer

82

00:03:59,140 --> 00:04:05,110
from the Allied High Command
in England received this news

83

00:04:05,110 --> 00:04:08,800
[INAUDIBLE] and received
the plan but cannot make

84

00:04:08,800 --> 00:04:13,450
bombardments, because wars
are not led by emotionalism

85

00:04:13,450 --> 00:04:17,470
and this moral and
humanistic way.

86

00:04:17,470 --> 00:04:21,519
The wars are done by bombs
for certain very important

87

00:04:21,519 --> 00:04:22,930
locations.

88

00:04:22,930 --> 00:04:26,650
And they cannot make independent
bombardment for the Jewish

89

00:04:26,650 --> 00:04:28,180
camps.

90

00:04:28,180 --> 00:04:28,720
Yes.

91

00:04:28,720 --> 00:04:29,440
This was--

92

00:04:29,440 --> 00:04:30,640
And if--

93

00:04:30,640 --> 00:04:35,300

--this was asked by Landau
as a matter of fact.

94
00:04:35,300 --> 00:04:39,820
He went to the British
military attache in Bern.

95
00:04:39,820 --> 00:04:42,850
And he got this answer,
and he was an Orthodox Jew,

96
00:04:42,850 --> 00:04:45,430
and he was the one who was
in connection, in contact,

97
00:04:45,430 --> 00:04:46,360
with Weissmandel.

98
00:04:46,360 --> 00:04:48,730
And he probably give
him the message.

99
00:04:48,730 --> 00:04:49,472
Oh, I see.

100
00:04:49,472 --> 00:04:49,972
Yeah.

101
00:04:49,972 --> 00:04:53,420

102
00:04:53,420 --> 00:04:55,340
Yes, what did they say exactly--

103
00:04:55,340 --> 00:04:57,140
that they couldn't
divert a military--

104
00:04:57,140 --> 00:05:00,120
They couldn't divert
military for that purpose.

105

00:05:00,120 --> 00:05:03,440
So that, again, here was a
big action, which we naively

106
00:05:03,440 --> 00:05:06,680
thought at the very moment
the Allied commanders

107
00:05:06,680 --> 00:05:10,220
or the Allied direction
would hear about it.

108
00:05:10,220 --> 00:05:13,310
Naturally they would
spend one or two airplanes

109
00:05:13,310 --> 00:05:14,900
and bombard Auschwitz.

110
00:05:14,900 --> 00:05:17,540
For us it was absolutely
natural that will happen.

111
00:05:17,540 --> 00:05:24,290
And here, again, I would
say, after the war,

112
00:05:24,290 --> 00:05:27,170
I didn't know what
the English attitude

113
00:05:27,170 --> 00:05:31,160
was in Palestine mandate.

114
00:05:31,160 --> 00:05:34,850
But after I heard and read about
it how they behaved over there,

115
00:05:34,850 --> 00:05:36,950
I'm not surprised that
the English said no.

116
00:05:36,950 --> 00:05:45,100

117

00:05:45,100 --> 00:05:48,340

And now could you
tell me in details

118

00:05:48,340 --> 00:05:55,490

about the ideas of Weissmandel
of blowing up the [INAUDIBLE]??

119

00:05:55,490 --> 00:05:55,990

Yeah.

120

00:05:55,990 --> 00:06:00,550

You know, Weissmandel had,
next to these really humanistic

121

00:06:00,550 --> 00:06:04,460

ideals, very often so
militaristic ideas.

122

00:06:04,460 --> 00:06:06,730

He was thinking like a partisan.

123

00:06:06,730 --> 00:06:11,890

And that's why we called
Weissmandel the partisan rabbi.

124

00:06:11,890 --> 00:06:16,360

Because we knew that the
Slovaks prepared all the time

125

00:06:16,360 --> 00:06:18,460

uprising against the Germans.

126

00:06:18,460 --> 00:06:23,260

And part of the uprising
was the blowing up

127

00:06:23,260 --> 00:06:25,900

for different
railroad facilities.

128

00:06:25,900 --> 00:06:29,860

And Weissmandel said, why should
we leave all this to the Slovak

129

00:06:29,860 --> 00:06:31,060

partisans.

130

00:06:31,060 --> 00:06:32,800

We have Jewish partisans.

131

00:06:32,800 --> 00:06:37,150

And he even said that he has two
volunteers, yeshiva bochers who

132

00:06:37,150 --> 00:06:37,810

are willing--

133

00:06:37,810 --> 00:06:39,100

Two people of the
yeshiva [INAUDIBLE]..

134

00:06:39,100 --> 00:06:39,700

Sure.

135

00:06:39,700 --> 00:06:42,640

[INAUDIBLE] from the
yeshiva who are willing,

136

00:06:42,640 --> 00:06:47,320

even if it would mean
their own death, to make

137

00:06:47,320 --> 00:06:53,290

the dynamiting of the tunnel
which every railroad line

138

00:06:53,290 --> 00:06:57,040

from Bratislava had to
go through the tunnel.

139

00:06:57,040 --> 00:07:00,670

And we discussed it in our

meetings very sorrowly.

140
00:07:00,670 --> 00:07:02,500
And some of us--

141
00:07:02,500 --> 00:07:04,780
I believed in it,
because I am a little bit

142
00:07:04,780 --> 00:07:07,510
partisan and rebellious
in nature too.

143
00:07:07,510 --> 00:07:10,990
So I love very much the
idea from Rabbi Weissmandel.

144
00:07:10,990 --> 00:07:12,970
But after we started
to analyze, we

145
00:07:12,970 --> 00:07:18,800
had been so afraid the reprisals
would be so severe if that

146
00:07:18,800 --> 00:07:23,560
would know that Jews had
made it that we said rather

147
00:07:23,560 --> 00:07:24,940
not to do it.

148
00:07:24,940 --> 00:07:27,080
That is the reason
why it was not done.

149
00:07:27,080 --> 00:07:27,580
Pardon.

150
00:07:27,580 --> 00:07:30,702
It is the reason
why it was not done.

151

00:07:30,702 --> 00:07:32,410

That was the reason
that we didn't do it.

152

00:07:32,410 --> 00:07:37,780

But rabbi Weissmandel was ready
to send that to the two yeshiva

153

00:07:37,780 --> 00:07:41,290

bochers out and
dynamite the tunnel.

154

00:07:41,290 --> 00:07:44,140

And that would have been the
first really partisan action

155

00:07:44,140 --> 00:07:45,730

in Slovakia.

156

00:07:45,730 --> 00:07:47,510

This took place when?

157

00:07:47,510 --> 00:07:50,530

When did he have this idea?

158

00:07:50,530 --> 00:07:52,600

If I'm not mistaken, this
was in the beginning--

159

00:07:52,600 --> 00:07:56,150

already soon in
beginning of '43.

160

00:07:56,150 --> 00:07:56,895

It was early.

161

00:07:56,895 --> 00:07:58,520

So it was very early.

162

00:07:58,520 --> 00:08:00,220

That was the time--
the first time

163
00:08:00,220 --> 00:08:02,290
as we heard that the
Slovak are starting

164
00:08:02,290 --> 00:08:05,200
to organize to be
prepared for an uprising

165
00:08:05,200 --> 00:08:07,600
after the Russian
army would be near.

166
00:08:07,600 --> 00:08:10,030
And then they would join forces.

167
00:08:10,030 --> 00:08:14,740
And one of the part of it
was that some railroad lines

168
00:08:14,740 --> 00:08:18,940
where the German lines would
go through should be dynamited.

169
00:08:18,940 --> 00:08:22,630
And just as I told you,
his idea was why to wait.

170
00:08:22,630 --> 00:08:26,530
Let's make some similar
action-- the first dynamiting

171
00:08:26,530 --> 00:08:30,700
of a railroad line to make
it impossible to deportation

172
00:08:30,700 --> 00:08:32,440
go through this line.

173
00:08:32,440 --> 00:08:39,169
In '43, did you hear about the
uprising of the Warsaw ghetto?

174

00:08:39,169 --> 00:08:39,669

Oh, sure.

175

00:08:39,669 --> 00:08:41,500

We knew about it.

176

00:08:41,500 --> 00:08:43,640

And what did he think,

Weissmandel, about this?

177

00:08:43,640 --> 00:08:47,620

We didn't believe at that, as

I told you, from the beginning,

178

00:08:47,620 --> 00:08:51,340

we ourself started

to discuss should

179

00:08:51,340 --> 00:08:55,450

we do all this without

making a military effort

180

00:08:55,450 --> 00:08:58,300

or trying to do something.

181

00:08:58,300 --> 00:09:00,790

And we didn't do

it because we had

182

00:09:00,790 --> 00:09:04,360

a feeling from the beginning

that that means death.

183

00:09:04,360 --> 00:09:07,000

And we have been interested

to do just to be heroes--

184

00:09:07,000 --> 00:09:11,050

we really wanted to save

lives, not to die as heroes,

185

00:09:11,050 --> 00:09:14,740

and not to go into heroism.

186

00:09:14,740 --> 00:09:18,010

We wanted to do everything
possible to save lives.

187

00:09:18,010 --> 00:09:22,810

And we knew that against
such a tremendous power like

188

00:09:22,810 --> 00:09:26,290

the German army and even
the good Slovak Army,

189

00:09:26,290 --> 00:09:29,500

we are so weak that we just
cannot do things like that.

190

00:09:29,500 --> 00:09:31,210

And that's why we stopped.

191

00:09:31,210 --> 00:09:34,970

And we said that we are not
going to do anything like that.

192

00:09:34,970 --> 00:09:39,550

We are going to try through
bribery and through influence,

193

00:09:39,550 --> 00:09:44,750

through moral argument, and
so on-- try to save lives.

194

00:09:44,750 --> 00:09:45,880

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

195

00:09:45,880 --> 00:09:48,220

In your opinion,
was there a change

196

00:09:48,220 --> 00:09:50,260

in the outlook of Weissmandel.

197

00:09:50,260 --> 00:09:54,100

Because in '42 the outlook
of Weissmandel was to bribe.

198

00:09:54,100 --> 00:09:56,000

The weapon was money.

199

00:09:56,000 --> 00:10:00,920

In '44, or even in '43, as
you say, he changed his mind,

200

00:10:00,920 --> 00:10:03,820

and he started to think
about military action.

201

00:10:03,820 --> 00:10:05,590

No, I don't think
he changed his mind.

202

00:10:05,590 --> 00:10:08,800

He all the time was what we
called the partisan rabbi.

203

00:10:08,800 --> 00:10:11,260

Because he had next
to it, parallel to it,

204

00:10:11,260 --> 00:10:14,560

he was all the time thinking,
what else can we do.

205

00:10:14,560 --> 00:10:18,310

And because his
mind and very often

206

00:10:18,310 --> 00:10:21,040

he came with such
incredible ideas--

207

00:10:21,040 --> 00:10:23,470

I cannot even quote all those.

208

00:10:23,470 --> 00:10:26,110

Because his mind was
working constantly-- saving,

209

00:10:26,110 --> 00:10:27,490

saving, saving.

210

00:10:27,490 --> 00:10:31,270

And the saving action, in his
mind, and all we knew too,

211

00:10:31,270 --> 00:10:35,230

was on the military, the
partisan way, the bribery way,

212

00:10:35,230 --> 00:10:37,750

the moral persuasion
way-- everything

213

00:10:37,750 --> 00:10:41,230

should be done to
save Jewish lives.

214

00:10:41,230 --> 00:10:42,800

It's very, very good.

215

00:10:42,800 --> 00:10:52,800

216

00:10:52,800 --> 00:10:55,310

(film slating)

217

00:10:55,310 --> 00:11:17,326

218

00:11:17,326 --> 00:11:23,090

I wanted too to say
this, Vrba, Rudolf Vrba,

219

00:11:23,090 --> 00:11:26,380

I think he has a
rather strong point.

220

00:11:26,380 --> 00:11:36,260

He says-- he told me-- that
the Germans never deported

221

00:11:36,260 --> 00:11:40,490

a community, a Jewish
community as a whole,

222

00:11:40,490 --> 00:11:48,780

that they always did
this in several times.

223

00:11:48,780 --> 00:11:51,830

And it is perfectly true.

224

00:11:51,830 --> 00:11:52,880

It was their idea--

225

00:11:52,880 --> 00:11:57,890

divide et impera with
this type of Jews,

226

00:11:57,890 --> 00:12:03,250

and afterwards this
type of Jews, and so on.

227

00:12:03,250 --> 00:12:10,100

and he said about the
rabbi's group in Slovakia,

228

00:12:10,100 --> 00:12:12,500

he said, they're the
best proof of what

229

00:12:12,500 --> 00:12:16,010

I am saying is that
when they didn't need

230

00:12:16,010 --> 00:12:18,930

any more, these people
like Weissmandel,

231

00:12:18,930 --> 00:12:23,690
like Gisi Fleischmann, they
shipped them to Auschwitz too.

232
00:12:23,690 --> 00:12:24,650
That's right.

233
00:12:24,650 --> 00:12:27,350
When they couldn't
use them anymore,

234
00:12:27,350 --> 00:12:28,860
they sent them to death.

235
00:12:28,860 --> 00:12:33,830
As a matter of fact, it's what
they said always with Judenrat

236
00:12:33,830 --> 00:12:34,700
in Poland.

237
00:12:34,700 --> 00:12:38,570
When they didn't need them
anymore, as a machinery,

238
00:12:38,570 --> 00:12:43,160
as a tool for the
machinery of destruction,

239
00:12:43,160 --> 00:12:45,890
they just killed them.

240
00:12:45,890 --> 00:12:47,550
Well, what do you
think about this?

241
00:12:47,550 --> 00:12:51,230
Because they shipped
Weissmandel to Auschwitz.

242
00:12:51,230 --> 00:12:52,790
He escaped, yes.

243

00:12:52,790 --> 00:12:56,100

But they shipped Gisi

Fleischmann too,

244

00:12:56,100 --> 00:12:57,120

and she didn't escape.

245

00:12:57,120 --> 00:12:59,030

She died.

246

00:12:59,030 --> 00:13:01,970

First of all, do you

know how she died?

247

00:13:01,970 --> 00:13:06,950

I know-- I was in a partisan

part of the Slovak time.

248

00:13:06,950 --> 00:13:09,080

So that time if

all this happened,

249

00:13:09,080 --> 00:13:10,850

the last deportation--

250

00:13:10,850 --> 00:13:11,690

In September '44.

251

00:13:11,690 --> 00:13:14,930

--in September '44

I was not there.

252

00:13:14,930 --> 00:13:20,150

And I heard only what happened

then after the war was over.

253

00:13:20,150 --> 00:13:24,390

And about Gisi I was told the

following, that Brunner who

254

00:13:24,390 --> 00:13:24,890

came--

255
00:13:24,890 --> 00:13:25,710
Alois Brunner.

256
00:13:25,710 --> 00:13:27,500
--Alois Brunner who
came from Vienna

257
00:13:27,500 --> 00:13:33,020
and became the exterminator
really of the rest of the Jews

258
00:13:33,020 --> 00:13:37,430
in Slovakia was very, very
difficult to speak to.

259
00:13:37,430 --> 00:13:43,730
Because at that time, even the
Jews from the different camps

260
00:13:43,730 --> 00:13:44,630
had been partisans.

261
00:13:44,630 --> 00:13:50,210
And she was known that
the Slovak Jews who

262
00:13:50,210 --> 00:13:53,420
had been constantly in the camps
became partisans too and had

263
00:13:53,420 --> 00:13:55,790
been fighting the Germans.

264
00:13:55,790 --> 00:13:58,100
The Jews of Slovakia
join the partisans.

265
00:13:58,100 --> 00:13:59,210
Joined the partisans.

266
00:13:59,210 --> 00:14:04,310

Those who have been in the
area of [Place name] and Novaky

267
00:14:04,310 --> 00:14:09,240
had quite a group of partisans
fighting the Germans together

268
00:14:09,240 --> 00:14:10,380
with the Slovak partisans.

269
00:14:10,380 --> 00:14:11,690
And you were one of them.

270
00:14:11,690 --> 00:14:13,680
I was one of them,
but I was fighting--

271
00:14:13,680 --> 00:14:18,110
I was more or less helping
to prepare and smuggle

272
00:14:18,110 --> 00:14:22,400
the necessary guns and
ammunition into the camps.

273
00:14:22,400 --> 00:14:27,500
But I not fighting
with the guns myself.

274
00:14:27,500 --> 00:14:31,880
And after the
whole war was over,

275
00:14:31,880 --> 00:14:39,560
I was told that Gisi had some
type of debate with Brunner.

276
00:14:39,560 --> 00:14:44,180
And based on that he
sent Gisi to Auschwitz.

277
00:14:44,180 --> 00:14:48,690
Whether she would have been

sent any way, I don't know.

278

00:14:48,690 --> 00:14:50,690

But truth of the matter,
I think she would have.

279

00:14:50,690 --> 00:14:55,340

Because later after everybody,
Dr. Neumann, and Gisi,

280

00:14:55,340 --> 00:14:58,550

and Weissmandel-- everybody
was sent with his whole family.

281

00:14:58,550 --> 00:15:02,960

And Dr. Kovach, as you
know, committed suicide

282

00:15:02,960 --> 00:15:06,230

to escape this
transportation of the others.

283

00:15:06,230 --> 00:15:10,250

But this gives a force
to the argument of Vrba.

284

00:15:10,250 --> 00:15:11,630

That's right.

285

00:15:11,630 --> 00:15:15,080

And Gisi was sent to Auschwitz.

286

00:15:15,080 --> 00:15:19,370

And we have been told by people
who came from Auschwitz back

287

00:15:19,370 --> 00:15:21,320

that her name was
called the very moment

288

00:15:21,320 --> 00:15:22,850

that this transport came.

289

00:15:22,850 --> 00:15:25,820

The first name was called
immediately, Gisi Fleischmann.

290

00:15:25,820 --> 00:15:28,310

And independently from
the whole other group

291

00:15:28,310 --> 00:15:32,240

she was the number one who
went into the gas chamber.

292

00:15:32,240 --> 00:15:33,410

Why?

293

00:15:33,410 --> 00:15:36,440

Why this special treatment?

294

00:15:36,440 --> 00:15:37,450

Special treatment.

295

00:15:37,450 --> 00:15:37,970

[INAUDIBLE]

296

00:15:37,970 --> 00:15:42,590

And very possible maybe
Brunner heard from some place

297

00:15:42,590 --> 00:15:45,740

that she played a
big role and then she

298

00:15:45,740 --> 00:15:48,470

try now to save the
contact the German plans--

299

00:15:48,470 --> 00:15:49,730

I don't know what it is.

300

00:15:49,730 --> 00:15:51,170

But maybe that was the pattern.

301

00:15:51,170 --> 00:15:56,480

That after the Germans saw
they couldn't use the Judenrat

302

00:15:56,480 --> 00:15:59,300

persons, they gave them
the special treatment

303

00:15:59,300 --> 00:16:01,730

in such a way.

304

00:16:01,730 --> 00:16:02,870

Yes.

305

00:16:02,870 --> 00:16:08,030

But you don't think that
there is a contradiction in--

306

00:16:08,030 --> 00:16:11,900

Contradictions in anything,
especially in politics.

307

00:16:11,900 --> 00:16:15,800

Now, after so many years
and seeing that time

308

00:16:15,800 --> 00:16:19,270

I was, first time in my life,
more or less in politics--

309

00:16:19,270 --> 00:16:21,710

that was Jewish politics.

310

00:16:21,710 --> 00:16:24,650

But now after I see what
goes on in world politics,

311

00:16:24,650 --> 00:16:25,640

I'm not surprised.

312

00:16:25,640 --> 00:16:31,580

313
00:16:31,580 --> 00:16:32,080
OK.

314
00:16:32,080 --> 00:16:36,550
If you want to
deliver a statement

315
00:16:36,550 --> 00:16:42,190
about your action, your personal
action, what you would you say?

316
00:16:42,190 --> 00:16:44,950
How would you define it?

317
00:16:44,950 --> 00:16:47,200
My actions in connection
with these rettungsaktion?

318
00:16:47,200 --> 00:16:47,700
Yes.

319
00:16:47,700 --> 00:16:50,410

320
00:16:50,410 --> 00:16:53,140
If I would define
it, it definitely

321
00:16:53,140 --> 00:16:58,870
was the greatest personal
satisfaction of my life.

322
00:16:58,870 --> 00:17:03,750
And even if I achieved
here in the United States

323
00:17:03,750 --> 00:17:05,520
and before that in
two other places,

324
00:17:05,520 --> 00:17:07,640

in Cuba and in Czechoslovakia--

325

00:17:07,640 --> 00:17:08,940

You lived in Cuba?

326

00:17:08,940 --> 00:17:12,150

I was, for three years, waiting
for my visa after the Second

327

00:17:12,150 --> 00:17:14,790

World War before I came
to the United States.

328

00:17:14,790 --> 00:17:17,250

And all the three places,
as a professional,

329

00:17:17,250 --> 00:17:20,339

I achieved every thing a
professional can achieve.

330

00:17:20,339 --> 00:17:21,420

As an architect?

331

00:17:21,420 --> 00:17:24,369

As an architect
and city planner.

332

00:17:24,369 --> 00:17:26,520

You were the city
planner of Atlanta.

333

00:17:26,520 --> 00:17:29,940

In Atlanta and in many other
communities in Georgia.

334

00:17:29,940 --> 00:17:32,310

But if you put
all this together,

335

00:17:32,310 --> 00:17:33,810

all these achievements
which I had

336
00:17:33,810 --> 00:17:36,540
as an architect in
Czechoslovakia, Cuba,

337
00:17:36,540 --> 00:17:40,740
and the United States,
my personal satisfaction

338
00:17:40,740 --> 00:17:44,610
and what I would say is my
biggest achievement of my life

339
00:17:44,610 --> 00:17:49,410
is this action being able to be
part of this [INAUDIBLE] group

340
00:17:49,410 --> 00:17:52,410
and working for the
Jewish community.

341
00:17:52,410 --> 00:17:54,150
And at that time
nobody even knew

342
00:17:54,150 --> 00:17:57,600
who others were working
for the Jewish community.

343
00:17:57,600 --> 00:18:00,660
And even if, let's
say, we achieved

344
00:18:00,660 --> 00:18:04,110
only that a small part
of the Slovak Jews

345
00:18:04,110 --> 00:18:07,470
was saved based
on our work, that

346
00:18:07,470 --> 00:18:11,620
is really the big, big

achievement of my life.

347

00:18:11,620 --> 00:18:14,610

I was so fascinated
with that type of work

348

00:18:14,610 --> 00:18:16,470

that after the Second
World War was over

349

00:18:16,470 --> 00:18:21,630

and I came back from
the partisan area

350

00:18:21,630 --> 00:18:27,600

to the liberated Slovakia
again, in Bratislava

351

00:18:27,600 --> 00:18:32,010

I met quite a few times
these people from Israel.

352

00:18:32,010 --> 00:18:35,550

And they proposed to me that I
should come to Israel instead

353

00:18:35,550 --> 00:18:38,280

of going to the United
States and continue

354

00:18:38,280 --> 00:18:41,040

the same type of
political activity

355

00:18:41,040 --> 00:18:44,670

in connection with the
future state of Israel.

356

00:18:44,670 --> 00:18:47,580

And I really was so
under the influence

357

00:18:47,580 --> 00:18:51,000

of this absolutely
beautiful human activity,

358
00:18:51,000 --> 00:18:53,550
where you can
really be helpful--

359
00:18:53,550 --> 00:18:58,020
not helpful to a community and
not involved in moneymaking

360
00:18:58,020 --> 00:18:59,340
activities--

361
00:18:59,340 --> 00:19:04,110
that I was ready to renounce
my profession and go to Israel.

362
00:19:04,110 --> 00:19:07,980
And only my wife told
that she's absolutely very

363
00:19:07,980 --> 00:19:09,420
much against it.

364
00:19:09,420 --> 00:19:13,740
And that was the reason
that I did not go to Israel

365
00:19:13,740 --> 00:19:17,220
and followed my
wife's advice to join

366
00:19:17,220 --> 00:19:21,060
her family, who all at the
time was in the United States.

367
00:19:21,060 --> 00:19:22,680
That is a reason
why you didn't go.

368
00:19:22,680 --> 00:19:25,260
And that's the reason why I

came to the United States.

369

00:19:25,260 --> 00:19:43,710

370

00:19:43,710 --> 00:19:49,020

And did you build many
buildings in Atlanta?

371

00:19:49,020 --> 00:19:54,720

In Atlanta I was doing
quite a few residences, just

372

00:19:54,720 --> 00:19:57,060

like you see my residence here.

373

00:19:57,060 --> 00:19:59,610

Truth of the matter
is even here we

374

00:19:59,610 --> 00:20:01,950

have been very surprised
that Atlanta was not such

375

00:20:01,950 --> 00:20:05,520

a modern city as I thought.

376

00:20:05,520 --> 00:20:08,400

And I was one of the few
architects at that time

377

00:20:08,400 --> 00:20:11,460

that I arrived
here in '50 and '51

378

00:20:11,460 --> 00:20:15,060

who started to build modern
homes as we in Europe

379

00:20:15,060 --> 00:20:17,237

considered the modern home as.

380

00:20:17,237 --> 00:20:19,200

Did you participate
in the building

381

00:20:19,200 --> 00:20:22,760

of the skyline of Atlanta?

382

00:20:22,760 --> 00:20:26,550

The skyline insofar as what
we called an urban designer--

383

00:20:26,550 --> 00:20:31,260

that I was working together
with different architects

384

00:20:31,260 --> 00:20:36,120

in the city of
Atlanta to what you

385

00:20:36,120 --> 00:20:40,290

call the urban renewal and
different other activities,

386

00:20:40,290 --> 00:20:44,640

which really changed the
whole skyline from Atlanta.

387

00:20:44,640 --> 00:20:47,440

Look, there is a
squirrel behind you.

388

00:20:47,440 --> 00:20:50,520

Look at the squirrel
in the three.

389

00:20:50,520 --> 00:20:53,580

Oh, they are here all the time.

390

00:20:53,580 --> 00:20:57,030

We feed them, and that's why
they're coming and stay here.

391

00:20:57,030 --> 00:20:58,030

You feed them.

392

00:20:58,030 --> 00:20:59,400

Yeah, sure.

393

00:20:59,400 --> 00:21:00,925

The squirrels and the birds.

394

00:21:00,925 --> 00:21:01,425

Yes.

395

00:21:01,425 --> 00:21:12,438

396

00:21:12,438 --> 00:21:16,430

(film logistics - cut)

397

00:21:16,430 --> 00:21:39,000