

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,557

2
00:00:05,557 --> 00:00:06,140
(film slating)

3
00:00:06,140 --> 00:00:12,210
Well, what did you
say to Dr. Pollack?

4
00:00:12,210 --> 00:00:15,460
He asked me what happened
to those people who

5
00:00:15,460 --> 00:00:18,060
were deported at that
time when I was deported.

6
00:00:18,060 --> 00:00:21,810
And those were 60,000
people from Slovakia.

7
00:00:21,810 --> 00:00:24,940
And I told him that from
those 60,000 people,

8
00:00:24,940 --> 00:00:31,310
there are alive 67 men and
400 women, about 400 women.

9
00:00:31,310 --> 00:00:33,743
The men's number I knew exactly.

10
00:00:33,743 --> 00:00:35,160
And he asked me
where is the rest.

11
00:00:35,160 --> 00:00:37,890
And I told him that
the rest is dead.

12
00:00:37,890 --> 00:00:41,250
And he asked me what
he can do for me now.

13
00:00:41,250 --> 00:00:45,330
And I told him that I
need immediately a contact

14
00:00:45,330 --> 00:00:50,580
with representatives of
the Jewish organization.

15
00:00:50,580 --> 00:00:53,970
And this was obvious for what.

16
00:00:53,970 --> 00:00:58,800
And he said that he can arrange
that contact within 24 hours.

17
00:00:58,800 --> 00:01:01,570

18
00:01:01,570 --> 00:01:04,120
And I stayed in
Cadca for the night.

19
00:01:04,120 --> 00:01:08,830
And the next day, on
Tuesday, on his instruction,

20
00:01:08,830 --> 00:01:14,500
accompanied by him, he went
to the train separately.

21
00:01:14,500 --> 00:01:16,870
And Wetzler and I followed him.

22
00:01:16,870 --> 00:01:20,290
We boarded the train and
traveled to Žilina without any

23
00:01:20,290 --> 00:01:27,250
documents, the first time that
I used civil transportation

24
00:01:27,250 --> 00:01:29,410
again.

25

00:01:29,410 --> 00:01:31,580
And in Zilina, on
a particular place,

26
00:01:31,580 --> 00:01:39,100
we met immediately a man
called Andre Steiner, who was--

27
00:01:39,100 --> 00:01:42,820
whose name I knew even
before as an important member

28
00:01:42,820 --> 00:01:44,650
of the Jewish council.

29
00:01:44,650 --> 00:01:50,560
In my naivete I thought that
this is the right address

30
00:01:50,560 --> 00:01:52,360
to start with.

31
00:01:52,360 --> 00:01:57,700
I had the program to alarm
the Jewish organizations

32
00:01:57,700 --> 00:02:00,370
and to alarm all
other organizations

33
00:02:00,370 --> 00:02:03,760
to which I can find
contact and which are known

34
00:02:03,760 --> 00:02:07,210
for their anti Nazi attitude.

35
00:02:07,210 --> 00:02:11,495
But I started with those who
are mostly concerned with what

36
00:02:11,495 --> 00:02:12,620
was happening in Auschwitz.

37
00:02:12,620 --> 00:02:13,400

You mean the Jews?

38

00:02:13,400 --> 00:02:13,900

The Jews.

39

00:02:13,900 --> 00:02:16,410

40

00:02:16,410 --> 00:02:18,320

OK, can you describe
the first meeting

41

00:02:18,320 --> 00:02:21,150

with the representatives
of the Jewish organization?

42

00:02:21,150 --> 00:02:22,208

Well--

43

00:02:22,208 --> 00:02:23,500

There must have been something.

44

00:02:23,500 --> 00:02:28,300

We met in a park in Žilina.

45

00:02:28,300 --> 00:02:30,920

He was supposed to recognize us.

46

00:02:30,920 --> 00:02:33,760

We were, with Fred Wetzler,
enjoying this very much,

47

00:02:33,760 --> 00:02:37,260

being back in our
native country.

48

00:02:37,260 --> 00:02:42,470

And we had a bottle of
slivovitz already opened, which

49

00:02:42,470 --> 00:02:44,420

looked very innocuous, you see.

50

00:02:44,420 --> 00:02:47,450

It attracted so much
attention to be with a bottle

51
00:02:47,450 --> 00:02:54,230
of slivovitz in the park in
Zilina that the police would

52
00:02:54,230 --> 00:02:55,110
look at other side.

53
00:02:55,110 --> 00:02:59,280

54
00:02:59,280 --> 00:03:02,750
And this man, Steiner, came
and took us immediately

55
00:03:02,750 --> 00:03:09,080
to a house in which the Jewish--

56
00:03:09,080 --> 00:03:11,660
which belonged to the
Jewish headquarters,

57
00:03:11,660 --> 00:03:14,750
to the so-called Council
of Jews of Slovakia.

58
00:03:14,750 --> 00:03:17,060
And immediately
there were present

59
00:03:17,060 --> 00:03:25,210
the head of that council, Dr.
Oskar Neumann, Mr. Engineer

60
00:03:25,210 --> 00:03:29,870
Oskar Krasnansky Mr.
Steiner, and a number

61
00:03:29,870 --> 00:03:36,530
of other persons, who were in
the Jewish Council, active.

62
00:03:36,530 --> 00:03:40,910

They came over from Bratislava
on a telephone call.

63
00:03:40,910 --> 00:03:42,700
And so we met.

64
00:03:42,700 --> 00:03:44,750
OK, and what happened?

65
00:03:44,750 --> 00:03:46,315
Did they ask questions?

66
00:03:46,315 --> 00:03:48,035
Well, the first thing was--

67
00:03:48,035 --> 00:03:49,880
Did you [INAUDIBLE]?

68
00:03:49,880 --> 00:03:52,370
Of course, they asked questions.

69
00:03:52,370 --> 00:03:54,920
And for them, the first thing
was to establish our identity.

70
00:03:54,920 --> 00:03:57,440
And this was the
first surprise for me.

71
00:03:57,440 --> 00:04:02,690
Because they immediately
could produce my card

72
00:04:02,690 --> 00:04:04,900
with my photograph.

73
00:04:04,900 --> 00:04:08,140
In other words, they
had a file of all Jews

74
00:04:08,140 --> 00:04:11,920
who were deported in
1942 because they have

75

00:04:11,920 --> 00:04:14,530
organized those deportations.

76
00:04:14,530 --> 00:04:19,810
They had a book in which
each person who was deported

77
00:04:19,810 --> 00:04:24,730
was recorded by the day
on which he was deported.

78
00:04:24,730 --> 00:04:27,070
And in this book
there was written

79
00:04:27,070 --> 00:04:32,080
who was deported with them,
all members of the transport.

80
00:04:32,080 --> 00:04:37,510
And because they were the only
ones who could-- because once

81
00:04:37,510 --> 00:04:40,390
I have been labeled
as a Jew in Slovakia,

82
00:04:40,390 --> 00:04:43,780
I had the right to deal
with the Slovak authorities

83
00:04:43,780 --> 00:04:47,410
only through the Jewish
Council services.

84
00:04:47,410 --> 00:04:49,090
Therefore, my personal
documents were

85
00:04:49,090 --> 00:04:50,920
issued by the Jewish
Council before I

86
00:04:50,920 --> 00:04:54,970
left, or was taken
against my goodwill,

87
00:04:54,970 --> 00:04:59,710
to the deportation places
in Poland or upper Silesia.

88
00:04:59,710 --> 00:05:01,630
And the copies were
in their hands.

89
00:05:01,630 --> 00:05:05,110
So they came up with
a list of transports

90
00:05:05,110 --> 00:05:07,240
and with my personal
documents, copies

91
00:05:07,240 --> 00:05:11,740
of my personal documents,
and with my picture on it.

92
00:05:11,740 --> 00:05:15,310
I was a bit changed because
some time elapsed since that,

93
00:05:15,310 --> 00:05:17,200
but they could recognize me.

94
00:05:17,200 --> 00:05:20,230
And they could establish
that both me and Wetzler were

95
00:05:20,230 --> 00:05:23,110
deported on that
day on which we were

96
00:05:23,110 --> 00:05:25,840
stating that we were deported.

97
00:05:25,840 --> 00:05:29,110
Did you show them
your Auschwitz tattoo?

98
00:05:29,110 --> 00:05:30,500
Yes, among other things.

99

00:05:30,500 --> 00:05:32,830

But I think that this
was a joke in Auschwitz.

100

00:05:32,830 --> 00:05:34,473

Because in Auschwitz
sometimes, people

101

00:05:34,473 --> 00:05:36,640

were speaking what would
happen if the message would

102

00:05:36,640 --> 00:05:38,060

be brought out.

103

00:05:38,060 --> 00:05:40,710

They said, well
knowing the Jews,

104

00:05:40,710 --> 00:05:43,340

that's what they would
admire most, the number.

105

00:05:43,340 --> 00:05:48,760

They would say, what a horrible
thing to put numbers on people,

106

00:05:48,760 --> 00:05:53,800

like upon cattle.

107

00:05:53,800 --> 00:05:57,460

And the big joke was what
approximately the synagogue

108

00:05:57,460 --> 00:05:58,300

would say to that.

109

00:05:58,300 --> 00:06:00,700

I mean, obviously,
the people were dead.

110

00:06:00,700 --> 00:06:02,560

Who cares was there
numbers on their hands.

111
00:06:02,560 --> 00:06:06,040
But, of course, I had
to show the number.

112
00:06:06,040 --> 00:06:08,800
And then they checked
on my knowledge

113
00:06:08,800 --> 00:06:12,640
of who was in the transport.

114
00:06:12,640 --> 00:06:16,090
This was-- how was it started?

115
00:06:16,090 --> 00:06:18,410
That's how it started.

116
00:06:18,410 --> 00:06:21,710
Number one, what are our names.

117
00:06:21,710 --> 00:06:22,327
Number two--

118
00:06:22,327 --> 00:06:23,910
I understand that,
before you starting

119
00:06:23,910 --> 00:06:26,800
to explain what happened.

120
00:06:26,800 --> 00:06:31,570
Oh, no, there was
some talking, polite.

121
00:06:31,570 --> 00:06:34,210
What have you got to say?

122
00:06:34,210 --> 00:06:37,180
And in rough words
we said something

123
00:06:37,180 --> 00:06:40,450
about gas chambers,

deaths, et cetera.

124

00:06:40,450 --> 00:06:41,890

Did they know?

125

00:06:41,890 --> 00:06:44,920

Well, they didn't say
they know and they

126

00:06:44,920 --> 00:06:46,690

didn't say they don't know.

127

00:06:46,690 --> 00:06:50,020

They listened to
what I have said.

128

00:06:50,020 --> 00:06:52,810

What they knew,
they didn't tell me.

129

00:06:52,810 --> 00:06:54,490

But from how they
behaved, I would

130

00:06:54,490 --> 00:06:57,640

say that they didn't
know anything for sure.

131

00:06:57,640 --> 00:07:00,350

132

00:07:00,350 --> 00:07:02,990

This is probably true.

133

00:07:02,990 --> 00:07:04,750

That they didn't know for sure?

134

00:07:04,750 --> 00:07:06,660

Yes.

135

00:07:06,660 --> 00:07:10,760

You see, it is certainly true.

136

00:07:10,760 --> 00:07:14,690

Because what people don't
want to know, they don't know.

137

00:07:14,690 --> 00:07:17,240
They organized the deportation
of the Jewish community

138

00:07:17,240 --> 00:07:21,080
from Slovakia, which
was 90,000 people.

139

00:07:21,080 --> 00:07:25,070
And they organized the
deportation of 60,000.

140

00:07:25,070 --> 00:07:31,490
That's, of that 60,000,
30,000 died in Auschwitz.

141

00:07:31,490 --> 00:07:34,430
And from that place, when I
was talking to the gentleman,

142

00:07:34,430 --> 00:07:37,190
with those gentleman,
to Auschwitz

143

00:07:37,190 --> 00:07:43,400
was a distance of 70 kilometers.

144

00:07:43,400 --> 00:07:46,790
And I could cover this
distance without much trouble.

145

00:07:46,790 --> 00:07:50,570
Also, the whole German Reich
was mobilized at that time

146

00:07:50,570 --> 00:07:54,290
to get hold of Wetzler and me
with an international warrant.

147

00:07:54,290 --> 00:07:58,490
We still managed to make that
trip from Auschwitz to Zilina.

148

00:07:58,490 --> 00:08:00,660

If they didn't
know, well, it was

149

00:08:00,660 --> 00:08:03,890

obvious they didn't
want to know.

150

00:08:03,890 --> 00:08:07,340

Because if I could make the
trip from Auschwitz to Zilina,

151

00:08:07,340 --> 00:08:10,940

anybody could have made the same
trip from Zilina to Auschwitz

152

00:08:10,940 --> 00:08:11,780

and to look.

153

00:08:11,780 --> 00:08:14,850

154

00:08:14,850 --> 00:08:16,950

Therefore, this
question, what they knew

155

00:08:16,950 --> 00:08:20,170

and what they didn't know, I
do not consider so important.

156

00:08:20,170 --> 00:08:24,570

The question is, what
did they want to know?

157

00:08:24,570 --> 00:08:26,640

Well, how did it go?

158

00:08:26,640 --> 00:08:28,350

And how long lasted your report?

159

00:08:28,350 --> 00:08:31,560

For how long did
you talk with them?

160

00:08:31,560 --> 00:08:36,402
Because of us trying
to say not only what

161
00:08:36,402 --> 00:08:38,610
happened to the Slovak Jews,
but about the happenings

162
00:08:38,610 --> 00:08:44,460
in Auschwitz in general,
we presented a statistic

163
00:08:44,460 --> 00:08:49,680
about all transport which
arrived from 1942 to 1944

164
00:08:49,680 --> 00:08:53,820
in Auschwitz, which was a
statistic on approximately

165
00:08:53,820 --> 00:08:57,090
30 printed pages.

166
00:08:57,090 --> 00:09:02,250
They took us, separated
Wetzler and me.

167
00:09:02,250 --> 00:09:03,780
You mean 30 printed pages--

168
00:09:03,780 --> 00:09:04,800
you came with the pages?

169
00:09:04,800 --> 00:09:05,190
No.

170
00:09:05,190 --> 00:09:05,690
No.

171
00:09:05,690 --> 00:09:07,050
Everything was in our head.

172
00:09:07,050 --> 00:09:08,160
Yes.

173

00:09:08,160 --> 00:09:10,980

Now they first separated us.

174

00:09:10,980 --> 00:09:12,510

When we put it
out from the head,

175

00:09:12,510 --> 00:09:19,200

it amounted-- when we sort of
said what we had in our head,

176

00:09:19,200 --> 00:09:22,020

and it was typed, it
was about 30 pages.

177

00:09:22,020 --> 00:09:24,090

Mm-hmm.

178

00:09:24,090 --> 00:09:26,220

Or 60 pages if we
double-spaced it.

179

00:09:26,220 --> 00:09:27,660

Doesn't matter.

180

00:09:27,660 --> 00:09:30,660

But we managed in that
space to present the reality

181

00:09:30,660 --> 00:09:34,470

of Auschwitz from 1942 to 1944.

182

00:09:34,470 --> 00:09:37,650

And we did it separately.

183

00:09:37,650 --> 00:09:40,650

They brought lawyers from
Bratislava, Jewish lawyers,

184

00:09:40,650 --> 00:09:46,877

who claimed to be experts
in criminal investigations.

185

00:09:46,877 --> 00:09:47,460

It's not true.

186

00:09:47,460 --> 00:09:48,410

I don't believe you.

187

00:09:48,410 --> 00:09:50,133

It's really true?

188

00:09:50,133 --> 00:09:51,550

Expert in criminal
investigations?

189

00:09:51,550 --> 00:09:53,070

Well, they were
Jewish lawyers who

190

00:09:53,070 --> 00:09:58,950

had experience in questioning
a person who might say

191

00:09:58,950 --> 00:10:02,220

[INAUDIBLE],, if you
want to have exactly.

192

00:10:02,220 --> 00:10:06,990

So the first thing they did
was to question Wetzler and me

193

00:10:06,990 --> 00:10:12,150

separately and then to
compare the statements.

194

00:10:12,150 --> 00:10:17,820

And it was soon obvious said
either we are saying the truth

195

00:10:17,820 --> 00:10:25,950

or we must be extraordinarily
able for being such liars.

196

00:10:25,950 --> 00:10:29,580

And because our social
background was by far not

197

00:10:29,580 --> 00:10:32,490

as good as theirs, after
all we were selected

198
00:10:32,490 --> 00:10:35,310
for the deportation,
not them, they

199
00:10:35,310 --> 00:10:39,180
would not believe that our
abilities can be any good.

200
00:10:39,180 --> 00:10:40,500
So we must say the truth.

201
00:10:40,500 --> 00:10:43,730

202
00:10:43,730 --> 00:10:47,450
They accepted it as truth
what we were saying.

203
00:10:47,450 --> 00:10:50,945
But how-- I would like to know
how did they behave to what

204
00:10:50,945 --> 00:10:51,940
you--

205
00:10:51,940 --> 00:10:54,940
first of all, were they
shocked by what you say?

206
00:10:54,940 --> 00:10:56,520
Were they friendly?

207
00:10:56,520 --> 00:10:58,480
Are they compassionate?

208
00:10:58,480 --> 00:11:01,840
Or were they-- look at
it like investigators,

209
00:11:01,840 --> 00:11:04,690
cold investigators?

210

00:11:04,690 --> 00:11:09,601

My attitude was that
it is better for me--

211

00:11:09,601 --> 00:11:10,370

[INAUDIBLE]

212

00:11:10,370 --> 00:11:14,350

213

00:11:14,350 --> 00:11:17,166

New York, (flim slating)

214

00:11:17,166 --> 00:11:20,170

Yes, but how did they
react to what you say?

215

00:11:20,170 --> 00:11:21,250

There was a shock?

216

00:11:21,250 --> 00:11:24,157

Did the show sympathy
or compassion?

217

00:11:24,157 --> 00:11:25,240

This I would like to know.

218

00:11:25,240 --> 00:11:28,900

Because I cannot believe
that they were ice cold, no?

219

00:11:28,900 --> 00:11:29,400

No.

220

00:11:29,400 --> 00:11:33,685

No, they were very
excited about it.

221

00:11:33,685 --> 00:11:34,810

They showed great interest.

222

00:11:34,810 --> 00:11:37,760

223

00:11:37,760 --> 00:11:42,340

And I must say that they
were to us perfectly polite.

224

00:11:42,340 --> 00:11:45,740

Compassion-- I think that
they have got the message--

225

00:11:45,740 --> 00:11:49,377

226

00:11:49,377 --> 00:11:55,150

New York, (film slating)

227

00:11:55,150 --> 00:11:57,660

If they were
compassionate, I would--

228

00:11:57,660 --> 00:11:58,160

Moved?

229

00:11:58,160 --> 00:12:00,050

Moved-- they were excited.

230

00:12:00,050 --> 00:12:03,446

231

00:12:03,446 --> 00:12:07,925

The human reactions
for me of civilians

232

00:12:07,925 --> 00:12:12,800

were in general a bit
humorous at that time.

233

00:12:12,800 --> 00:12:15,260

Because I have been moving
for the past two years

234

00:12:15,260 --> 00:12:19,880

in a completely
different set of values.

235

00:12:19,880 --> 00:12:22,850

Compassion was something
which, in Auschwitz,

236
00:12:22,850 --> 00:12:25,970
when you wanted to survive
was the first thing

237
00:12:25,970 --> 00:12:26,780
we had to control.

238
00:12:26,780 --> 00:12:29,480

239
00:12:29,480 --> 00:12:36,770
And a compassion of a bunch
of fat Jewish administrators,

240
00:12:36,770 --> 00:12:40,760
lawyers, and operators was
the last thing we needed.

241
00:12:40,760 --> 00:12:43,770
But they were a bit
patronizing, which rubbed

242
00:12:43,770 --> 00:12:46,910
Fred Wetzler the wrong way.

243
00:12:46,910 --> 00:12:49,790
My opinion was to take
it with a bit of humor.

244
00:12:49,790 --> 00:12:54,320
And so, well, the
relationship started

245
00:12:54,320 --> 00:12:57,320
to develop in a
friendly atmosphere.

246
00:12:57,320 --> 00:12:58,020
To be?

247
00:12:58,020 --> 00:13:00,830
A friendly atmosphere.

248

00:13:00,830 --> 00:13:05,000

What I tried to create was a
friendly working atmosphere.

249

00:13:05,000 --> 00:13:08,600

I knew we have to
do a work with them.

250

00:13:08,600 --> 00:13:12,950

We have to get through
not only the message,

251

00:13:12,950 --> 00:13:15,260

but the consequences as far
as the Hungarian Jews is

252

00:13:15,260 --> 00:13:19,640

concerned, and to make them
feel that we have got nothing

253

00:13:19,640 --> 00:13:23,750

to say but the truth.

254

00:13:23,750 --> 00:13:27,410

All right, but my position is,
following when you described

255

00:13:27,410 --> 00:13:31,630

the arrival of the
transport, the gas chamber

256

00:13:31,630 --> 00:13:36,090

and so on, even if they were
fat, the Jewish administrators,

257

00:13:36,090 --> 00:13:39,180

I would like to know
how did they react.

258

00:13:39,180 --> 00:13:48,160

Well, the leading personalities
of them, they kept appearances.

259

00:13:48,160 --> 00:13:53,620

They reacted in
a controlled way.

260
00:13:53,620 --> 00:13:56,510
There were no scenes.

261
00:13:56,510 --> 00:13:58,720
What do you call
a controlled way?

262
00:13:58,720 --> 00:14:01,420
They asked
matter-of-fact questions.

263
00:14:01,420 --> 00:14:02,290
Only?

264
00:14:02,290 --> 00:14:04,000
Yes.

265
00:14:04,000 --> 00:14:06,520
They didn't cry or
anything like that.

266
00:14:06,520 --> 00:14:08,950
There were lawyers among them.

267
00:14:08,950 --> 00:14:10,470
There were more than 12 people.

268
00:14:10,470 --> 00:14:13,830
They were more busy on
checking the data and how

269
00:14:13,830 --> 00:14:15,380
the data of Wetzler
and me coincide.

270
00:14:15,380 --> 00:14:19,130

271
00:14:19,130 --> 00:14:22,630
It was a working atmosphere.

272

00:14:22,630 --> 00:14:30,788
It sort of-- we sometimes were
a bit rubbed against our skin,

273
00:14:30,788 --> 00:14:32,330
because after two
years of Auschwitz,

274
00:14:32,330 --> 00:14:36,380
I must say that our
standards of what

275
00:14:36,380 --> 00:14:38,450
we expect in the
behavior of people

276
00:14:38,450 --> 00:14:41,640
were a bit different
from theirs at that time.

277
00:14:41,640 --> 00:14:45,560
But I don't think that
there was anything

278
00:14:45,560 --> 00:14:49,580
but a working atmosphere
for the first two days.

279
00:14:49,580 --> 00:14:51,050
How long did it last?

280
00:14:51,050 --> 00:14:53,180
Well, it lasted--
in the first day,

281
00:14:53,180 --> 00:14:55,400
we did the main
part of the work.

282
00:14:55,400 --> 00:14:57,530
And on the second day,
we finished the work.

283
00:14:57,530 --> 00:15:00,270
Because in the first days,
the thing was dictated.

284
00:15:00,270 --> 00:15:02,870
It was on 25 September--

285
00:15:02,870 --> 00:15:05,240
sorry, 25th, April.

286
00:15:05,240 --> 00:15:10,070
And on the next day, on
26th April, in the evening,

287
00:15:10,070 --> 00:15:12,370
they departed in ,
hurry, all of them,

288
00:15:12,370 --> 00:15:18,890
and left us two alone in
that house with a maid.

289
00:15:18,890 --> 00:15:22,700
And with some of their
wives taking care of us.

290
00:15:22,700 --> 00:15:25,850
This means we were supplied
with excellent food

291
00:15:25,850 --> 00:15:34,160
and treated like VIPs, I
mean, in a very civilized way.

292
00:15:34,160 --> 00:15:38,928
And soon afterwards,
of course, something

293
00:15:38,928 --> 00:15:40,220
happened very unpleasant there.

294
00:15:40,220 --> 00:15:42,350
What we made clear
was the following.

295
00:15:42,350 --> 00:15:47,270
That the information we
have is absolutely important

296

00:15:47,270 --> 00:15:51,500
for the information
of the Hungarian Jews.

297

00:15:51,500 --> 00:15:54,260
That to the best of
our knowledge, and we

298

00:15:54,260 --> 00:15:57,800
trusted our knowledge
is quite waterproof,

299

00:15:57,800 --> 00:16:04,580
the imminent execution of a
million Jews is impending,

300

00:16:04,580 --> 00:16:09,960
that everything is prepared
that it can start any day.

301

00:16:09,960 --> 00:16:17,210
And that we want assurances that
this information is passed on.

302

00:16:17,210 --> 00:16:22,520
And we were given the
assurances by Dr. Neumann,

303

00:16:22,520 --> 00:16:25,970
by Mr. Krasnansky,
by Mr. Steiner,

304

00:16:25,970 --> 00:16:27,650
and by everybody who was there.

305

00:16:27,650 --> 00:16:30,606
There were at least 12 people.

306

00:16:30,606 --> 00:16:34,820
You were given the assurance
that the information

307

00:16:34,820 --> 00:16:36,770
would be passed on?

308
00:16:36,770 --> 00:16:37,720
Yes.

309
00:16:37,720 --> 00:16:41,705
And that was the first time I
heard the name of Dr. Kasztner.

310
00:16:41,705 --> 00:16:43,330
Because I never heard
that name before.

311
00:16:43,330 --> 00:16:46,970

312
00:16:46,970 --> 00:16:47,765
He was in Hungary.

313
00:16:47,765 --> 00:16:50,420

314
00:16:50,420 --> 00:16:54,330
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

315
00:16:54,330 --> 00:16:59,550
(film slating)

316
00:16:59,550 --> 00:17:02,140
Dr. Kasztner's name was
mentioned, the first time

317
00:17:02,140 --> 00:17:05,800
it came to my notice that
anybody of that name exists.

318
00:17:05,800 --> 00:17:07,599
I knew the members
of the Jewish Council

319
00:17:07,599 --> 00:17:09,473
from before the time
of my deportation.

320
00:17:09,473 --> 00:17:10,390

Of the Slovak Council?

321

00:17:10,390 --> 00:17:11,848
Of the Slovak Jewish
Council, but I

322

00:17:11,848 --> 00:17:14,829
didn't know nothing about
the Hungarian Jewish Council.

323

00:17:14,829 --> 00:17:16,540
And I have been
given to understand

324

00:17:16,540 --> 00:17:19,930
that Dr. Kasztner is an
influential personality there.

325

00:17:19,930 --> 00:17:23,020
That because of my
and Wetzler's arrival,

326

00:17:23,020 --> 00:17:25,990
he is now already in Bratislava.

327

00:17:25,990 --> 00:17:30,470
And they are now going to
give him the information

328

00:17:30,470 --> 00:17:31,550
immediately.

329

00:17:31,550 --> 00:17:36,160
And for his convenience, the
information, the protocol,

330

00:17:36,160 --> 00:17:38,950
the Auschwitz report
has been translated

331

00:17:38,950 --> 00:17:42,640
from Slovak, in which it
was originally conceived,

332

00:17:42,640 --> 00:17:46,800

into Hungarian and
German on the spot.

333
00:17:46,800 --> 00:17:48,460
And secretaries were working.

334
00:17:48,460 --> 00:17:51,070
And I could see the Hungarian
and German translations still

335
00:17:51,070 --> 00:17:52,810
in Zilina.

336
00:17:52,810 --> 00:17:56,510
There were a number of
girls typing, two or three.

337
00:17:56,510 --> 00:18:01,140
They were wives of those
gentlemen who were typing.

338
00:18:01,140 --> 00:18:04,970
It is in this report
that you drew already

339
00:18:04,970 --> 00:18:06,730
the map of Auschwitz?

340
00:18:06,730 --> 00:18:08,290
Everything was drawn.

341
00:18:08,290 --> 00:18:10,330
The map of Auschwitz was there.

342
00:18:10,330 --> 00:18:12,390
What I'm missing
from the report now--

343
00:18:12,390 --> 00:18:13,330
In the first two days?

344
00:18:13,330 --> 00:18:14,440
Yes.

345

00:18:14,440 --> 00:18:16,900

Everything was
just as the report

346

00:18:16,900 --> 00:18:18,340
has been recovered recently.

347

00:18:18,340 --> 00:18:21,520
What I'm missing
from the report are

348

00:18:21,520 --> 00:18:27,310
our warnings about the imminent
deportation of Hungarian Jews.

349

00:18:27,310 --> 00:18:33,190
And this was reiterated again
and again by both of us,

350

00:18:33,190 --> 00:18:35,180
by Wetzler and myself.

351

00:18:35,180 --> 00:18:40,060
And we were told,
if I remember well,

352

00:18:40,060 --> 00:18:46,260
that it is good for the
veracity of the report

353

00:18:46,260 --> 00:18:48,760
that we do not
prophesize the future,

354

00:18:48,760 --> 00:18:51,720
but say only what we know.

355

00:18:51,720 --> 00:18:55,300
They said this in proper words?

356

00:18:55,300 --> 00:19:03,040
I wouldn't guarantee that
those were their words,

357

00:19:03,040 --> 00:19:05,020

but this was the sense of it.

358

00:19:05,020 --> 00:19:10,360

In other words, the
authenticity of the report

359

00:19:10,360 --> 00:19:13,600

would be somehow weakened if
we would speak about anything

360

00:19:13,600 --> 00:19:15,220

we don't know from first hand.

361

00:19:15,220 --> 00:19:18,230

362

00:19:18,230 --> 00:19:20,920

In other words, we should
limit ourselves to things

363

00:19:20,920 --> 00:19:25,360

which happened, not
which will happen.

364

00:19:25,360 --> 00:19:30,490

We, of course, explained exactly
that the machinery of murder

365

00:19:30,490 --> 00:19:34,030

in Auschwitz is based on the
principle of no resistance

366

00:19:34,030 --> 00:19:37,840

and tricking of the victims
into the gas chamber.

367

00:19:37,840 --> 00:19:42,500

And that we consider it
as of utter importance

368

00:19:42,500 --> 00:19:48,340

that the content of that report
should be spread among those,

369

00:19:48,340 --> 00:19:51,970

this part of the Hungarian
population, which

370
00:19:51,970 --> 00:19:56,410
is being immediately
threatened by execution.

371
00:19:56,410 --> 00:20:01,570
This means the Hungarian
Jews, or Jewish Hungarians,

372
00:20:01,570 --> 00:20:04,030
whatever you like.

373
00:20:04,030 --> 00:20:06,490
Because among them,
there were all types, who

374
00:20:06,490 --> 00:20:08,350
preferred one way or another.

375
00:20:08,350 --> 00:20:11,980
As for myself as concerned, I
wouldn't care about it at all.

376
00:20:11,980 --> 00:20:15,310
Because for me, they were
just normal human beings,

377
00:20:15,310 --> 00:20:16,870
perhaps a bit odd sometimes.

378
00:20:16,870 --> 00:20:19,930
But we are all odd.

379
00:20:19,930 --> 00:20:23,330
[INAUDIBLE]

380
00:20:23,330 --> 00:20:24,580
This was of little importance.

381
00:20:24,580 --> 00:20:27,122
The importance was that there
was a million people threatened

382

00:20:27,122 --> 00:20:29,800
immediately with death.

383

00:20:29,800 --> 00:20:32,530
And they explained to us
that Dr. Kasztner is not just

384

00:20:32,530 --> 00:20:36,175
anybody, that he is one of
the great Jewish leaders.

385

00:20:36,175 --> 00:20:40,330
But did you ask to meet him
when they gave you the name?

386

00:20:40,330 --> 00:20:46,820
They said that this is
not necessary for us.

387

00:20:46,820 --> 00:20:51,740
And they made it plentiful clear
that our job has been done.

388

00:20:51,740 --> 00:20:55,670
And now what we have to
do is to enjoy ourselves.

389

00:20:55,670 --> 00:21:00,500
We will be supplied with
money, with nice clothes,

390

00:21:00,500 --> 00:21:03,110
and we should play
the gentlemen now.

391

00:21:03,110 --> 00:21:07,610
Because we had bad times and
we should now enjoy ourselves.

392

00:21:07,610 --> 00:21:10,120
We deserve it, they said.

393

00:21:10,120 --> 00:21:10,810
But--

394

00:21:10,810 --> 00:21:11,650

It was very kind.

395

00:21:11,650 --> 00:21:14,345

396

00:21:14,345 --> 00:21:14,970

In the report--

397

00:21:14,970 --> 00:21:15,950

Yes.

398

00:21:15,950 --> 00:21:20,970

--you made, did you recommend
the precise, specific things

399

00:21:20,970 --> 00:21:22,170

to be done?

400

00:21:22,170 --> 00:21:25,350

Many things have been
asked and refused

401

00:21:25,350 --> 00:21:28,200

to be put into the
report on the grounds

402

00:21:28,200 --> 00:21:32,670

that the report should
contain factual matter, not

403

00:21:32,670 --> 00:21:35,160

speculations, factual matter.

404

00:21:35,160 --> 00:21:37,590

But naturally, the
conditions were discussed.

405

00:21:37,590 --> 00:21:42,200

We explained the principle
that the machinery

406

00:21:42,200 --> 00:21:45,662

can work only if the

victims believe that nothing

407

00:21:45,662 --> 00:21:47,120
is going to happen
to them which is

408

00:21:47,120 --> 00:21:49,010
outside the international law.

409

00:21:49,010 --> 00:21:51,040
That they might
be badly treated,

410

00:21:51,040 --> 00:21:54,130
that they might get
bad accommodation,

411

00:21:54,130 --> 00:21:57,410
that they might have a
lack of coffeehouses,

412

00:21:57,410 --> 00:22:00,110
they all knew when
they went there.

413

00:22:00,110 --> 00:22:02,033
But that they were
going to be gassed,

414

00:22:02,033 --> 00:22:03,950
or that their children
are going to be gassed,

415

00:22:03,950 --> 00:22:07,135
or their mothers are going to
be gassed, they did not suspect.

416

00:22:07,135 --> 00:22:08,510
And I explained
to them that this

417

00:22:08,510 --> 00:22:12,590
lack of knowledge,
this trust into values

418

00:22:12,590 --> 00:22:15,920
in which they grew up, that
you can't execute a person--

419
00:22:15,920 --> 00:22:23,510

420
00:22:23,510 --> 00:22:24,480
(film slating)

421
00:22:24,480 --> 00:22:29,220
Well, what happened afterwards,
after they left you?

422
00:22:29,220 --> 00:22:33,510
They assured us that
Kasztner is an extremely

423
00:22:33,510 --> 00:22:36,960
intelligent and
responsible person.

424
00:22:36,960 --> 00:22:40,730
That they listened
to our advice,

425
00:22:40,730 --> 00:22:45,810
but the decisions
will be discussed now.

426
00:22:45,810 --> 00:22:51,130
And that it is sort of
not suitable for people

427
00:22:51,130 --> 00:22:53,170
of our standing to say
what should be done

428
00:22:53,170 --> 00:22:55,210
on a grand scale of politics.

429
00:22:55,210 --> 00:22:58,960
They will decide what should
be published and when.

430

00:22:58,960 --> 00:23:02,020
They will do everything what
is in their possibility to save

431
00:23:02,020 --> 00:23:03,130
those who are threatened.

432
00:23:03,130 --> 00:23:04,340
They assured me that.

433
00:23:04,340 --> 00:23:05,957
That the information
will be given

434
00:23:05,957 --> 00:23:08,415
to Kasztner on the same day
that Kasztner is in Bratislava,

435
00:23:08,415 --> 00:23:11,150
so that his movement
from Hungary to Slovakia

436
00:23:11,150 --> 00:23:15,770
doesn't cause too much--
any trouble, practically.

437
00:23:15,770 --> 00:23:18,070
And we should wait for
further developments meanwhile

438
00:23:18,070 --> 00:23:18,640
in Zilina.

439
00:23:18,640 --> 00:23:19,780
They will contact us again.

440
00:23:19,780 --> 00:23:23,350
And they left us there
in a comfortable place

441
00:23:23,350 --> 00:23:24,010
without shoes.

442
00:23:24,010 --> 00:23:25,610
Perfectly well dressed.

443

00:23:25,610 --> 00:23:29,000

They didn't give us
shoes for some reason.

444

00:23:29,000 --> 00:23:29,980

No shoes.

445

00:23:29,980 --> 00:23:31,400

No shoes.

446

00:23:31,400 --> 00:23:32,050

No shoes.

447

00:23:32,050 --> 00:23:33,710

They said that
there are no shoes.

448

00:23:33,710 --> 00:23:35,090

We don't have to go out.

449

00:23:35,090 --> 00:23:38,330

The shoes might
induce us going out.

450

00:23:38,330 --> 00:23:40,850

And that's now dangerous
for us, they said.

451

00:23:40,850 --> 00:23:43,800

I mean, they thought that the
shoes will prevent us escaping.

452

00:23:43,800 --> 00:23:47,150

As I say, it's a humorous
attitude in their minds.

453

00:23:47,150 --> 00:23:51,080

In any case, we accepted that
this is a matter of discipline.

454

00:23:51,080 --> 00:23:53,345

And we were really
fed excellently.

455

00:23:53,345 --> 00:23:56,250

They several times asked us
if we are missing anything.

456

00:23:56,250 --> 00:23:58,280

We said that we are
missing only women.

457

00:23:58,280 --> 00:24:03,170

So the situation
was satisfactory.

458

00:24:03,170 --> 00:24:08,330

And we were satisfied that
things are all [INAUDIBLE]..

459

00:24:08,330 --> 00:24:10,850

At the end of the week,
the cleaning woman,

460

00:24:10,850 --> 00:24:14,540

who was a Jewish
lady, was coming

461

00:24:14,540 --> 00:24:17,810

to clean up the mess after us.

462

00:24:17,810 --> 00:24:20,360

There were bottles
around, things like that.

463

00:24:20,360 --> 00:24:22,570

And she was crying.

464

00:24:22,570 --> 00:24:25,300

So we were
investigating why she's

465

00:24:25,300 --> 00:24:27,760

crying, if we didn't behave
well or something like that.

466

00:24:27,760 --> 00:24:30,440

467

00:24:30,440 --> 00:24:33,090

And she said, oh, no, she has
got no objections against us.

468

00:24:33,090 --> 00:24:34,240

We are very nice to her.

469

00:24:34,240 --> 00:24:36,910

And generally, we
do behave, she said.

470

00:24:36,910 --> 00:24:40,300

But there is a horrible
thing happening.

471

00:24:40,300 --> 00:24:46,940

Two transports with Hungarian
Jews passed through Zilina.

472

00:24:46,940 --> 00:24:49,810

And the gentleman from the
Jewish Council were here back

473

00:24:49,810 --> 00:24:50,310

in Zilina.

474

00:24:50,310 --> 00:24:54,110

And they were on the station
because they were giving them,

475

00:24:54,110 --> 00:24:57,740

as usually, sandwiches and milk
for the children, or something

476

00:24:57,740 --> 00:25:01,310

like that, giving them
some help on the road.

477

00:25:01,310 --> 00:25:05,240

But the gentleman asked
her, very strictly,

478

00:25:05,240 --> 00:25:12,270

not to tell us about this
because it would upset us.

479

00:25:12,270 --> 00:25:14,250

And that they shouldn't
be upset by anything.

480

00:25:14,250 --> 00:25:15,780

We should enjoy ourselves.

481

00:25:15,780 --> 00:25:18,460

And that she, actually,
is guilty by saying us.

482

00:25:18,460 --> 00:25:19,920

But she said us.

483

00:25:19,920 --> 00:25:22,320

And so we knew that
the Hungarian aktion

484

00:25:22,320 --> 00:25:24,370

is starting to roll.

485

00:25:24,370 --> 00:25:27,850

Yes, but as far as we know,
the Hungarian transported

486

00:25:27,850 --> 00:25:30,750

started only in the
second half of May.

487

00:25:30,750 --> 00:25:36,340

Yes, since then I have repeated
this statement several times

488

00:25:36,340 --> 00:25:40,670

to several historians, who
quarreled with me about this

489

00:25:40,670 --> 00:25:42,060

and have thought,
perhaps, I have

490

00:25:42,060 --> 00:25:44,640

been mistaken which two weeks.

491

00:25:44,640 --> 00:25:49,380

And interestingly,
in 1976 or 1977,

492

00:25:49,380 --> 00:25:55,610

a man called Biss, who was a
member of Kasztner's entourage

493

00:25:55,610 --> 00:25:58,850

published his memoirs.

494

00:25:58,850 --> 00:26:01,653

Under a sensational
title about--

495

00:26:01,653 --> 00:26:02,570

I don't know what it--

496

00:26:02,570 --> 00:26:03,260

Yes.

497

00:26:03,260 --> 00:26:03,760

You know?

498

00:26:03,760 --> 00:26:05,000

We know this.

499

00:26:05,000 --> 00:26:08,780

The End of the Final Solution,
or something like that.

500

00:26:08,780 --> 00:26:11,150

And in every book there
are not only lies,

501

00:26:11,150 --> 00:26:13,190

there must be also
a grain of truth.

502

00:26:13,190 --> 00:26:15,260

In that the grain of
truth, he publishes

503

00:26:15,260 --> 00:26:17,990

at the end of his book
an informed statistics

504
00:26:17,990 --> 00:26:19,430
about the Hungarian
deportations.

505
00:26:19,430 --> 00:26:22,340
And he states that before
the wave of deportations

506
00:26:22,340 --> 00:26:28,400
started, two small transports
of mainly convicted Jews,

507
00:26:28,400 --> 00:26:31,220
convicts, from prisons,
not from Jewish centers,

508
00:26:31,220 --> 00:26:36,860
were transported to Auschwitz
via Slovakia in April 1944.

509
00:26:36,860 --> 00:26:40,850
So obviously, if
one goes thoroughly

510
00:26:40,850 --> 00:26:42,233
into the history
of those things,

511
00:26:42,233 --> 00:26:44,150
he will find the
confirmation of [INAUDIBLE]..

512
00:26:44,150 --> 00:26:48,620
How do you explain the behaving
of these people of the Slovak

513
00:26:48,620 --> 00:26:51,000
Jewish [INAUDIBLE]?

514
00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:54,380
Well, at that
moment, it obviously

515

00:26:54,380 --> 00:26:57,170
was above my comprehension.

516

00:26:57,170 --> 00:27:04,700
And I didn't know, really,
what to think of that.

517

00:27:04,700 --> 00:27:11,840
I mean, they were
geared to believing

518

00:27:11,840 --> 00:27:14,300
that we escaped from
Auschwitz in order

519

00:27:14,300 --> 00:27:21,080
to get new clothes from them or
something like that, perhaps.

520

00:27:21,080 --> 00:27:24,886
Or perhaps their
attitude towards us,

521

00:27:24,886 --> 00:27:28,950
which from the very start, once
we ended the official work,

522

00:27:28,950 --> 00:27:32,850
was sort of patronizing
rather than friendly,

523

00:27:32,850 --> 00:27:36,210
sort of patronizing.

524

00:27:36,210 --> 00:27:38,800
We didn't know exactly
what to think of it.

525

00:27:38,800 --> 00:27:44,940
We have not been
trusted to know what

526

00:27:44,940 --> 00:27:48,230
action is being taken on the
basis of our information.

527

00:27:48,230 --> 00:27:51,090

Yes, but they
delivered your report.

528

00:27:51,090 --> 00:27:54,690

Your report was sent abroad.

529

00:27:54,690 --> 00:27:58,050

Yes, that's true.

530

00:27:58,050 --> 00:28:00,375

But who was deported
from abroad?

531

00:28:00,375 --> 00:28:01,500

What do you mean by abroad?

532

00:28:01,500 --> 00:28:03,360

Into the neutral Switzerland?

533

00:28:03,360 --> 00:28:05,850

Or into England?

534

00:28:05,850 --> 00:28:06,640

Or into America?

535

00:28:06,640 --> 00:28:08,390

That was a good
thing to transport--

536

00:28:08,390 --> 00:28:10,320

to deliver that
report there, if they

537

00:28:10,320 --> 00:28:12,780

did, which is a
questionable thing,

538

00:28:12,780 --> 00:28:14,590

as I will explain to you later.

539

00:28:14,590 --> 00:28:19,920

How it get out is still

a questionable thing.

540

00:28:19,920 --> 00:28:21,900

I can explain to you
later what I did in order

541

00:28:21,900 --> 00:28:22,950

that it should get out.

542

00:28:22,950 --> 00:28:26,060

But I was not
worried, or Wetzler.

543

00:28:26,060 --> 00:28:27,870

We were not worried
that anybody is

544

00:28:27,870 --> 00:28:32,160

going to be deported to
Auschwitz from England

545

00:28:32,160 --> 00:28:34,270

or from America.

546

00:28:34,270 --> 00:28:36,720

And we didn't want
to inveigle allies

547

00:28:36,720 --> 00:28:38,580

into a war against Germany.

548

00:28:38,580 --> 00:28:40,680

It came to our knowledge
that they already

549

00:28:40,680 --> 00:28:42,060

declared war on Germany.

550

00:28:42,060 --> 00:28:44,670

551

00:28:44,670 --> 00:28:48,930

We wanted that information
to come in the first hand

552

00:28:48,930 --> 00:28:53,790

to those who were
threatened immediately.

553

00:28:53,790 --> 00:28:56,310

Because you can rely
in the first hand

554

00:28:56,310 --> 00:29:01,640

in a dangerous situation on
what you can do for yourself.

555

00:29:01,640 --> 00:29:04,230

And then one can see what
somebody else can do for you.

556

00:29:04,230 --> 00:29:08,030

557

00:29:08,030 --> 00:29:11,210

The whole Auschwitz
experience taught us

558

00:29:11,210 --> 00:29:13,070

that the slaughterhouse
functions

559

00:29:13,070 --> 00:29:15,665

on the basis of the
ignorance of the victim.

560

00:29:15,665 --> 00:29:17,150

Yes.

561

00:29:17,150 --> 00:29:21,680

To break this ignorance meant
to break the slaughterhouse's

562

00:29:21,680 --> 00:29:22,450

machinery.

563

00:29:22,450 --> 00:29:24,440

No, no, but it was
my question, how

564

00:29:24,440 --> 00:29:28,590

do you explain their behavior,
which you told me out

565

00:29:28,590 --> 00:29:31,310

of [INAUDIBLE],,
this very strange

566

00:29:31,310 --> 00:29:39,030

answer you give
me about the money

567

00:29:39,030 --> 00:29:41,620

It is a very good question.

568

00:29:41,620 --> 00:29:45,680

And here, we are coming
into a [INAUDIBLE]..

569

00:29:45,680 --> 00:29:49,660

However, I cannot claim
such a firm ground,

570

00:29:49,660 --> 00:29:52,750

like when I claim
facts about Auschwitz.

571

00:29:52,750 --> 00:29:54,160

Because I will have--

572

00:29:54,160 --> 00:29:59,320

those people did not
leave any tape recordings.

573

00:29:59,320 --> 00:30:02,770

And they made their dealings
without the tape recordings.

574

00:30:02,770 --> 00:30:07,120

We still have to find
out what happened.

575

00:30:07,120 --> 00:30:11,080

And it is not at all
difficult to figure that out.

576

00:30:11,080 --> 00:30:12,580

Let us take the whole situation.

577

00:30:12,580 --> 00:30:17,020

578

00:30:17,020 --> 00:30:22,690

That Jewish Council and
members of the Jewish Council

579

00:30:22,690 --> 00:30:27,210

were all very
established Zionists.

580

00:30:27,210 --> 00:30:33,470

And they all were welcomed
after the war in Israel.

581

00:30:33,470 --> 00:30:36,130

And you talk about
the people of Hungary.

582

00:30:36,130 --> 00:30:38,550

Also from Slovakia.

583

00:30:38,550 --> 00:30:42,430

Krasnansky, Neumann,
all of them,

584

00:30:42,430 --> 00:30:45,690

they were perfectly respected
in the Zionist movement

585

00:30:45,690 --> 00:30:50,790

until they lived, or some
of them live even now.

586

00:30:50,790 --> 00:30:52,530

The time is not so
long as we think.

587

00:30:52,530 --> 00:30:55,980

588

00:30:55,980 --> 00:31:00,300

Let us see the situation
through the eyes

589

00:31:00,300 --> 00:31:05,070

not of those who were saved,
but through the eyes of those

590

00:31:05,070 --> 00:31:07,930

who died.

591

00:31:07,930 --> 00:31:11,530

And perhaps, I might
see through those eyes

592

00:31:11,530 --> 00:31:14,740

better because I was this
time to die with them.

593

00:31:14,740 --> 00:31:19,270

After all, I went with those
in 1942 to Auschwitz who died.

594

00:31:19,270 --> 00:31:24,610

It is sort of a freak
accident that I didn't.

595

00:31:24,610 --> 00:31:30,670

So I can imagine how they
look at the situation

596

00:31:30,670 --> 00:31:32,170

and what happened.

597

00:31:32,170 --> 00:31:36,270

In Slovakia, there
were 90,000 Jews.

598

00:31:36,270 --> 00:31:40,690

And those 90,000 Jews
were one day deprived

599

00:31:40,690 --> 00:31:43,420

of the right to negotiate
with the official authorities

600
00:31:43,420 --> 00:31:46,150
on the basis of
the Nuremberg laws.

601
00:31:46,150 --> 00:31:50,980
And then intermediary
between the Jews

602
00:31:50,980 --> 00:31:53,140
and the German authorities
has been created.

603
00:31:53,140 --> 00:31:54,150
Yes.

604
00:31:54,150 --> 00:31:56,050
And this intermediary
was a Jewish Council

605
00:31:56,050 --> 00:31:59,770
which consisted of Zionists.

606
00:31:59,770 --> 00:32:04,180
Of those Zionists who were
approved both by the Zionist

607
00:32:04,180 --> 00:32:08,610
organization and by the Nazis.

608
00:32:08,610 --> 00:32:14,560
Those Zionists then were
given the administrative task

609
00:32:14,560 --> 00:32:17,530
of resettling people.

610
00:32:17,530 --> 00:32:25,770
And drew up the lists of
who is to be resettled when.

611
00:32:25,770 --> 00:32:27,260
Yes, but on which grounds?

612

00:32:27,260 --> 00:32:28,770
On which basis?

613
00:32:28,770 --> 00:32:29,270
Well--

614
00:32:29,270 --> 00:32:30,770
How did they choose?

615
00:32:30,770 --> 00:32:35,630
Definitely, 60,000 were chosen
not to stay in Slovakia.

616
00:32:35,630 --> 00:32:40,020
And 30,000 were chosen to stay.

617
00:32:40,020 --> 00:32:42,750
Who are those 30,000
had to be decided

618
00:32:42,750 --> 00:32:45,090
through the hands of
the Jewish Council.

619
00:32:45,090 --> 00:32:46,980
Because that was the
only way by which

620
00:32:46,980 --> 00:32:52,190
a Jew had any sort of
legal redress or rapport

621
00:32:52,190 --> 00:32:54,428
with the local situation.

622
00:32:54,428 --> 00:32:57,710

623
00:32:57,710 --> 00:33:00,710
I, obviously, was not
among those 30,000.

624
00:33:00,710 --> 00:33:03,225
I was among those
60,000 who went.

625

00:33:03,225 --> 00:33:05,500

Mm-hmm.

626

00:33:05,500 --> 00:33:07,640

I can't say that the
Jewish Council saved

627

00:33:07,640 --> 00:33:10,160

me or anybody who went with me.

628

00:33:10,160 --> 00:33:11,810

Excuse me, but
most of the 30,000

629

00:33:11,810 --> 00:33:12,890

Pardon?

630

00:33:12,890 --> 00:33:14,220

--were deported afterwards.

631

00:33:14,220 --> 00:33:17,300

They were deported in 1944.

632

00:33:17,300 --> 00:33:18,560

Of those 60,000--

633

00:33:18,560 --> 00:33:21,800

No, of the 30,000
which had been left.

634

00:33:21,800 --> 00:33:23,350

Yes.

635

00:33:23,350 --> 00:33:28,000