

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,010

2
00:00:04,010 --> 00:00:06,068
(film slating)

3
00:00:06,068 --> 00:00:07,410

4
00:00:07,410 --> 00:00:10,820
What did you think at the
time after this meeting

5
00:00:10,820 --> 00:00:13,280
with Weissmandel?

6
00:00:13,280 --> 00:00:15,380
Well, we were discussing
it, all four among us,

7
00:00:15,380 --> 00:00:17,009
the same evening, naturally.

8
00:00:17,009 --> 00:00:24,840

9
00:00:24,840 --> 00:00:27,540
I thought that from
everything, one thing

10
00:00:27,540 --> 00:00:38,118
can come out, that they
might give the warning out.

11
00:00:38,118 --> 00:00:40,410
I knew that they have got
the channels of communication

12
00:00:40,410 --> 00:00:43,020
to the Jewish
population at large.

13

00:00:43,020 --> 00:00:45,150

I knew that our voice
would not be listened to,

14

00:00:45,150 --> 00:00:49,530

because we are not known
to them as authorities,

15

00:00:49,530 --> 00:00:54,330

and because we didn't occupy
any particular strong social

16

00:00:54,330 --> 00:00:58,435

position and didn't come from
families with money, et cetera.

17

00:00:58,435 --> 00:00:59,560

They wouldn't listen to us.

18

00:00:59,560 --> 00:01:01,018

But we knew it was
those people who

19

00:01:01,018 --> 00:01:05,069

were in position of
authority they will listen,

20

00:01:05,069 --> 00:01:08,130

and if they tell them that it
is true about the gas chambers,

21

00:01:08,130 --> 00:01:10,780

that they will get the point.

22

00:01:10,780 --> 00:01:14,010

And so we said that this
might be one good point.

23

00:01:14,010 --> 00:01:15,810

About other things
that she was speaking,

24

00:01:15,810 --> 00:01:18,810

you know, I was very
dubious about it,

25

00:01:18,810 --> 00:01:21,650

because it was clear to
me that the war is not

26

00:01:21,650 --> 00:01:25,870

a phony war in 1944, it is a
total war, or an all-out war,

27

00:01:25,870 --> 00:01:29,280

that everything is being
done to break the Nazi power.

28

00:01:29,280 --> 00:01:31,610

And it also it was clear
to me that the Nazi power

29

00:01:31,610 --> 00:01:34,630

is pretty strong at that time.

30

00:01:34,630 --> 00:01:37,230

And I thought something
might come out of it,

31

00:01:37,230 --> 00:01:40,590

I didn't know how reliable
their channels are.

32

00:01:40,590 --> 00:01:42,720

But for the first time
that you had the feeling

33

00:01:42,720 --> 00:01:45,900

that your report
would be sent abroad?

34

00:01:45,900 --> 00:01:50,820

Well it was the first
time that I heard it,

35

00:01:50,820 --> 00:01:54,060
from some of the responsible
Jewish officials,

36

00:01:54,060 --> 00:01:57,400
to be mentioned.

37

00:01:57,400 --> 00:02:01,000
But none of them mentioned to
me that it will be publicized,

38

00:02:01,000 --> 00:02:04,290
or it was already publicized,
among the Hungarian Jews.

39

00:02:04,290 --> 00:02:06,970
I mean as he tried to
avoid us, and to try

40

00:02:06,970 --> 00:02:09,430
to avoid talking
about this in general,

41

00:02:09,430 --> 00:02:12,090
but this was the first time
that somebody was saying,

42

00:02:12,090 --> 00:02:13,930
this word straightforward.

43

00:02:13,930 --> 00:02:14,820
It's what you saw.

44

00:02:14,820 --> 00:02:16,050
That's what I saw, yes.

45

00:02:16,050 --> 00:02:20,940
And of course I wondered
how reliable that is,

46

00:02:20,940 --> 00:02:23,160
and of course I could

see the incongruity

47

00:02:23,160 --> 00:02:24,820
of the whole situation.

48

00:02:24,820 --> 00:02:28,800
You see, Rabbi
Weissmandel was obviously

49

00:02:28,800 --> 00:02:34,800
a person, even in my mind, who
was highly trained in ethics,

50

00:02:34,800 --> 00:02:36,150
in Jewish ethics.

51

00:02:36,150 --> 00:02:38,430
And I knew something
about this topic.

52

00:02:38,430 --> 00:02:40,500
And I was there in
his school, and I

53

00:02:40,500 --> 00:02:43,020
could see all his students
who were protected

54

00:02:43,020 --> 00:02:45,510
from deportation in 1942.

55

00:02:45,510 --> 00:02:48,660
And there students were carrying
on studying Talmud, which

56

00:02:48,660 --> 00:02:53,550
is basically teaching of ethics,
while their mothers, sisters,

57

00:02:53,550 --> 00:02:55,560
brothers, were being
gassed in Auschwitz,

58

00:02:55,560 --> 00:02:59,250

or deported to an
unknown destination.

59

00:02:59,250 --> 00:03:04,200

I had to ask myself, what are
they studying in that ethic?

60

00:03:04,200 --> 00:03:06,390

And how serious can those
people be taking it?

61

00:03:06,390 --> 00:03:08,160

It was your question
at the time?

62

00:03:08,160 --> 00:03:10,680

Yes, that's what
we were discussing.

63

00:03:10,680 --> 00:03:13,260

And I must tell you that
we were discussing it

64

00:03:13,260 --> 00:03:15,980

with a certain sort of ah--

65

00:03:15,980 --> 00:03:17,762

we could see the
humorous touch of it.

66

00:03:17,762 --> 00:03:20,220

I mean, we have seen a lot of
humorous things in Auschwitz,

67

00:03:20,220 --> 00:03:23,160

if I may use this
word humorous, but one

68

00:03:23,160 --> 00:03:26,370

had to learn to laugh
if one wanted to live,

69

00:03:26,370 --> 00:03:28,260

or if he wanted to
survive, or if I wanted

70

00:03:28,260 --> 00:03:29,530

to survive with any meaning.

71

00:03:29,530 --> 00:03:33,060

Right, now this was a
meeting with a Jewish Chabad.

72

00:03:33,060 --> 00:03:33,600

Yes.

73

00:03:33,600 --> 00:03:37,650

Now afterwards was a meeting
with the delegate of the Pope.

74

00:03:37,650 --> 00:03:40,500

Yes, the same representatives
of the Jewish council

75

00:03:40,500 --> 00:03:46,260

asks us if we would be prepared
to speak to the papal nuncio.

76

00:03:46,260 --> 00:03:47,860

And we said, naturally.

77

00:03:47,860 --> 00:03:51,810

I was prepared to speak to
anybody, even to the devil.

78

00:03:51,810 --> 00:03:52,560

All right.

79

00:03:52,560 --> 00:03:53,640

OK, right.

80

00:03:53,640 --> 00:03:57,480

So they took us to a
monastery about 20 miles away

81
00:03:57,480 --> 00:03:59,280
from Bratislava,
told us that you

82
00:03:59,280 --> 00:04:00,600
are going to meet the nuncio.

83
00:04:00,600 --> 00:04:02,970
We didn't know him
personally, and as I know now,

84
00:04:02,970 --> 00:04:07,050
later, it was not the
nuncio but a stand-in of his

85
00:04:07,050 --> 00:04:08,940
who was representing him.

86
00:04:08,940 --> 00:04:11,093
And the situation
was very similar,

87
00:04:11,093 --> 00:04:13,260
like with Rabbi Weissmandel
the whole discussion was

88
00:04:13,260 --> 00:04:14,860
of very similar lines.

89
00:04:14,860 --> 00:04:17,540
What was his name?

90
00:04:17,540 --> 00:04:20,829
Well, he didn't say us
his name, and I am not

91
00:04:20,829 --> 00:04:23,010
so sure what his name was,
because he didn't show

92
00:04:23,010 --> 00:04:26,220

me any documents, but I
have been introduced to him

93
00:04:26,220 --> 00:04:28,560
in a monastery in Svaty Jur.

94
00:04:28,560 --> 00:04:31,590
He came with a very elegant car.

95
00:04:31,590 --> 00:04:33,900
He was dressed in
accordance with his status.

96
00:04:33,900 --> 00:04:35,190
He was not sloppy.

97
00:04:35,190 --> 00:04:38,610
He was extremely
elegantly dressed,

98
00:04:38,610 --> 00:04:43,540
sort of in a black
dress and high collar,

99
00:04:43,540 --> 00:04:46,713
white collar like
reverend fathers

100
00:04:46,713 --> 00:04:48,630
are being dressed, like
dignitaries of Vatican

101
00:04:48,630 --> 00:04:49,338
would be dressed.

102
00:04:49,338 --> 00:04:56,070
I mean extremely pleasant,
elegant, civilized man.

103
00:04:56,070 --> 00:05:02,370
And the coffee was served
in silver, not steel cups,

104

00:05:02,370 --> 00:05:05,200

but otherwise the situation
went exactly the same.

105

00:05:05,200 --> 00:05:07,890

It was a beautiful
salon in the monastery,

106

00:05:07,890 --> 00:05:09,320

and the development
was the same.

107

00:05:09,320 --> 00:05:14,070

First he, in his
language, he spoke not

108

00:05:14,070 --> 00:05:16,920

good German, so I spoke
with him partially,

109

00:05:16,920 --> 00:05:19,380

but Morgowich speaks
fluent French.

110

00:05:19,380 --> 00:05:23,893

So the gentleman spoke
very well French,

111

00:05:23,893 --> 00:05:25,560

and that's how the
discussion was going.

112

00:05:25,560 --> 00:05:26,740

But he was a Slovak?

113

00:05:26,740 --> 00:05:28,060

He was an Italian?

114

00:05:28,060 --> 00:05:30,910

No, obviously, he
was a Spaniard.

115

00:05:30,910 --> 00:05:31,660
He was a Spaniard.

116
00:05:31,660 --> 00:05:34,840
Yes, he was a Spaniard in
diplomatic services of Vatican.

117
00:05:34,840 --> 00:05:37,730
And he was explaining to us
that he is traveling now,

118
00:05:37,730 --> 00:05:40,210
within this week to
Switzerland, and he is going

119
00:05:40,210 --> 00:05:42,700
to take our report with him.

120
00:05:42,700 --> 00:05:45,040
Did, at the time, did he
have already your report?

121
00:05:45,040 --> 00:05:50,050
Oh, he was agreeing to this
-- every detail of the report.

122
00:05:50,050 --> 00:05:52,450
His ways of showing
compassion to us,

123
00:05:52,450 --> 00:05:55,450
were a bit different
from Rabbi Weissmandel

124
00:05:55,450 --> 00:05:56,740
but similarly profound.

125
00:05:56,740 --> 00:05:58,960
He cried on the spot.

126
00:05:58,960 --> 00:05:59,470
He cried?

127

00:05:59,470 --> 00:06:01,260

He cried, yes.

128

00:06:01,260 --> 00:06:08,890

And he didn't ask us
what should be done.

129

00:06:08,890 --> 00:06:14,343

He asked us if we need
personally any help,

130

00:06:14,343 --> 00:06:15,010

which we said --

131

00:06:15,010 --> 00:06:15,700

He personally?

132

00:06:15,700 --> 00:06:17,320

Yes, us personally.

133

00:06:17,320 --> 00:06:20,830

I said no, we don't need it.

134

00:06:20,830 --> 00:06:21,790

We don't need any help.

135

00:06:21,790 --> 00:06:25,270

136

00:06:25,270 --> 00:06:28,065

And after six hours we parted.

137

00:06:28,065 --> 00:06:29,190

We were not alone with him.

138

00:06:29,190 --> 00:06:31,870

There were some representatives
from the Jewish Council

139

00:06:31,870 --> 00:06:32,998

with us, two of them.

140
00:06:32,998 --> 00:06:34,540
I think it was Mr
[? Chrisnowinski ?]

141
00:06:34,540 --> 00:06:38,060
and a certain Mr. Carp,
and Morgowich and myself.

142
00:06:38,060 --> 00:06:39,670
Did you talk about
the pope, or not?

143
00:06:39,670 --> 00:06:42,250

144
00:06:42,250 --> 00:06:44,680
We talked-- he was
interested about the fate

145
00:06:44,680 --> 00:06:47,860
of Catholic priests
in Auschwitz,

146
00:06:47,860 --> 00:06:49,205
if he knows something about it.

147
00:06:49,205 --> 00:06:50,080
And we knew about it.

148
00:06:50,080 --> 00:06:52,990
There were about 200 Catholic
priests murdered in Auschwitz,

149
00:06:52,990 --> 00:06:55,270
Polish priests, and
we explained to him

150
00:06:55,270 --> 00:06:58,330
that as a practice when a priest
gets into the concentration

151

00:06:58,330 --> 00:07:01,900
camp he is treated worse
than the other prisoners.

152
00:07:01,900 --> 00:07:04,150
And we explained it to him.

153
00:07:04,150 --> 00:07:06,820
And I think a good
deal of the time

154
00:07:06,820 --> 00:07:09,280
was spent about the
possibilities of if there

155
00:07:09,280 --> 00:07:11,320
is any possibility of
helping those priests,

156
00:07:11,320 --> 00:07:14,500
because I knew to be a priest in
Auschwitz was a death sentence.

157
00:07:14,500 --> 00:07:18,710
I mean, they didn't last long
because any sort of people

158
00:07:18,710 --> 00:07:21,220
with spiritual
content, who didn't

159
00:07:21,220 --> 00:07:24,070
hide that spiritual
content, were

160
00:07:24,070 --> 00:07:27,820
the object of the German wrath.

161
00:07:27,820 --> 00:07:30,140
But do you know that,
as a matter of fact,

162
00:07:30,140 --> 00:07:33,030

your report was
absolutely passed abroad,

163
00:07:33,030 --> 00:07:35,950
and that it made a lot of noise?

164
00:07:35,950 --> 00:07:37,990
I have this I
heard only 10 years

165
00:07:37,990 --> 00:07:40,330
after the war, the first time.

166
00:07:40,330 --> 00:07:44,090
I knew about the effect of
the report, the first time

167
00:07:44,090 --> 00:07:46,360
when I could read
the English copy

168
00:07:46,360 --> 00:07:50,230
of Reitlinger's book The Final
Solution, which I read in 1957.

169
00:07:50,230 --> 00:07:55,360
Because we have all the
documents [INAUDIBLE]

170
00:07:55,360 --> 00:07:57,730
Switzerland through
several channels.

171
00:07:57,730 --> 00:08:01,820
In 1957 was the first time
that I heard about it.

172
00:08:01,820 --> 00:08:04,480

173
00:08:04,480 --> 00:08:07,960
I heard about it a bit earlier,
perhaps, but not directly,

174
00:08:07,960 --> 00:08:12,910
but indirectly, something
like '51 or 1950,

175
00:08:12,910 --> 00:08:15,220
from some people who were
going through the files

176
00:08:15,220 --> 00:08:17,800
of the foreign ministry
in Czechoslovakia,

177
00:08:17,800 --> 00:08:20,260
and they came
across it, but this

178
00:08:20,260 --> 00:08:22,300
was second-hand information.

179
00:08:22,300 --> 00:08:29,430
What I wonder is the following,
because why did your report

180
00:08:29,430 --> 00:08:33,559
have such consequences?

181
00:08:33,559 --> 00:08:36,159
Why it was such a sensation?

182
00:08:36,159 --> 00:08:41,530
Because as a matter of fact,
already at the end of 1942,

183
00:08:41,530 --> 00:08:43,600
everything was known.

184
00:08:43,600 --> 00:08:45,730
I mean, even in
the United States,

185
00:08:45,730 --> 00:08:49,190

in England, in Switzerland,
about the destruction

186
00:08:49,190 --> 00:08:52,672
of the Polish Jewry, about
Treblinka, about Chelmno,

187
00:08:52,672 --> 00:08:56,620
about a mass murder, about
the genocide in Poland.

188
00:08:56,620 --> 00:09:01,000
They knew everything and
this happens two years later.

189
00:09:01,000 --> 00:09:04,830
You escaped from
Auschwitz, and your report.

190
00:09:04,830 --> 00:09:07,480
It's the reason why I would like
that to help me to understand.

191
00:09:07,480 --> 00:09:09,120
Why was it so important?

192
00:09:09,120 --> 00:09:10,390
Although obviously it was.

193
00:09:10,390 --> 00:09:17,430

194
00:09:17,430 --> 00:09:22,300
Well, you see, we must ask
ourselves one question.

195
00:09:22,300 --> 00:09:24,430
Before I was
deported to Auschwitz

196
00:09:24,430 --> 00:09:27,310
I have made a very serious
attempt not to be deported.

197
00:09:27,310 --> 00:09:31,450
I escaped twice, at various
conditions until they got me

198
00:09:31,450 --> 00:09:35,320
finally to that
beautiful place, But if I

199
00:09:35,320 --> 00:09:39,140
knew that what is known in
America, and in Switzerland,

200
00:09:39,140 --> 00:09:41,680
and in Britain, and in as
you say, if that's true,

201
00:09:41,680 --> 00:09:44,110
if somebody would have
given me that information,

202
00:09:44,110 --> 00:09:45,790
obviously I would
have risked a third,

203
00:09:45,790 --> 00:09:49,270
or a third attempt to escape
and I would have used already

204
00:09:49,270 --> 00:09:53,260
violence, because my former two
escapes, I didn't use violence.

205
00:09:53,260 --> 00:09:54,910
I couldn't see
murder, and I didn't

206
00:09:54,910 --> 00:09:57,100
think that I am
entitled to murder

207
00:09:57,100 --> 00:09:58,690
in trying to save myself.

208
00:09:58,690 --> 00:10:02,830
But if I knew that at the end
of the line, there is murder,

209
00:10:02,830 --> 00:10:07,060
well I wouldn't have hesitated
to murder the next guard,

210
00:10:07,060 --> 00:10:09,880
and I had a number
of chances for it.

211
00:10:09,880 --> 00:10:13,040
Because they were so
trusting that there

212
00:10:13,040 --> 00:10:16,180
will be no resistance, that
they didn't take precautions.

213
00:10:16,180 --> 00:10:20,680
I would like to tell you that
from Slovakia, 58,000 Jews were

214
00:10:20,680 --> 00:10:22,960
deported in 1942.

215
00:10:22,960 --> 00:10:24,510
And during this
whole deportation

216
00:10:24,510 --> 00:10:27,850
not one of those
Jews were killed.

217
00:10:27,850 --> 00:10:32,100
In other words,
it went smoothly.

218
00:10:32,100 --> 00:10:35,050
Would it go so smoothly if
the information of the death

219
00:10:35,050 --> 00:10:36,460
waiting was at hand?

220
00:10:36,460 --> 00:10:39,130
I understand, but you
didn't answer my question.

221
00:10:39,130 --> 00:10:41,050
Yes, so what exactly
is your question?

222
00:10:41,050 --> 00:10:44,260
What was new in your report?

223
00:10:44,260 --> 00:10:46,450
Well it's not for me to
judge, because I haven't

224
00:10:46,450 --> 00:10:51,190
been on this side in 1942.

225
00:10:51,190 --> 00:10:55,060
What was perhaps
new, that the report,

226
00:10:55,060 --> 00:10:57,940
we didn't speak about great
masses of Jews being murdered,

227
00:10:57,940 --> 00:11:02,350
and we didn't use any sort
of ornamental language.

228
00:11:02,350 --> 00:11:07,360
We produced a statistic about
the fate of 1,750,000 people

229
00:11:07,360 --> 00:11:08,680
by place of origin.

230
00:11:08,680 --> 00:11:16,620

231
00:11:16,620 --> 00:11:23,800
Well I ask you again, what
was new in your report?

232
00:11:23,800 --> 00:11:29,200
Because already
in 1942 the story

233
00:11:29,200 --> 00:11:33,670
of the mass murder in Poland
was known as the end of 1942.

234
00:11:33,670 --> 00:11:36,210
They knew everything
about Treblinka,

235
00:11:36,210 --> 00:11:41,020
they knew of the genocide of
the Jewish people in Poland.

236
00:11:41,020 --> 00:11:46,000
As I explained to you before,
, I didn't know, at that time,

237
00:11:46,000 --> 00:11:48,850
what they know in the West.

238
00:11:48,850 --> 00:11:56,680
And therefore I thought that
is everything new in my report.

239
00:11:56,680 --> 00:12:00,550
Of course, in our report,
the Wetzler and my report.

240
00:12:00,550 --> 00:12:06,400
Of course, there was a
new twist in our report,

241
00:12:06,400 --> 00:12:10,660
because instead of describing,

in passionate words, massacres,

242

00:12:10,660 --> 00:12:14,500

we provided statistics
and explained

243

00:12:14,500 --> 00:12:21,520

that executions can be
and are being conducted

244

00:12:21,520 --> 00:12:23,510

on an industrial scale.

245

00:12:23,510 --> 00:12:24,610

This is the main point.

246

00:12:24,610 --> 00:12:26,200

In other words,
that the production

247

00:12:26,200 --> 00:12:32,200

of death in Auschwitz,
goes without a hitch,

248

00:12:32,200 --> 00:12:35,320

just like the
slaughtering of animals

249

00:12:35,320 --> 00:12:37,450

in any Chicago slaughterhouse.

250

00:12:37,450 --> 00:12:40,360

Everything is perfectly
industrialized.

251

00:12:40,360 --> 00:12:42,430

And the material,
as it was called,

252

00:12:42,430 --> 00:12:46,180

the units, by the
Nazis, is being

253

00:12:46,180 --> 00:12:49,450

without a hitch

continuously transported

254

00:12:49,450 --> 00:12:51,700

into this factory of death.

255

00:12:51,700 --> 00:12:55,040

From all corners of

Europe, and smoothly.

256

00:12:55,040 --> 00:12:57,250

And of course I

tried to explain,

257

00:12:57,250 --> 00:13:01,180

not with words but

by implication,

258

00:13:01,180 --> 00:13:03,220

that the principle

of the success,

259

00:13:03,220 --> 00:13:05,800

that such a machinery

can operate,

260

00:13:05,800 --> 00:13:09,280

is the secrecy of its

machinery, and that the ethics

261

00:13:09,280 --> 00:13:12,730

behind this machinery are

so foreign to normal people

262

00:13:12,730 --> 00:13:14,500

that they do not

suspect such a machinery

263

00:13:14,500 --> 00:13:16,390

at the end of the line.

264

00:13:16,390 --> 00:13:18,730
And in my naivete--

265
00:13:18,730 --> 00:13:20,890
or not naivete,
perhaps it was logic--

266
00:13:20,890 --> 00:13:26,200
I expected that if people
are given the truth, what

267
00:13:26,200 --> 00:13:31,330
is expecting them at the end of
the line, then if nothing else,

268
00:13:31,330 --> 00:13:35,030
then the instinct
of self-preservation

269
00:13:35,030 --> 00:13:38,740
will come to its validity.

270
00:13:38,740 --> 00:13:41,630
This is of course, was given.

271
00:13:41,630 --> 00:13:44,380
The two things that
you recommended--

272
00:13:44,380 --> 00:13:50,060
first one, bombing being of the
railroads leading to Auschwitz,

273
00:13:50,060 --> 00:13:53,230
and you name even the stations.

274
00:13:53,230 --> 00:13:54,610
Well, yes.

275
00:13:54,610 --> 00:13:56,600
This was never implemented.

276

00:13:56,600 --> 00:14:00,160
We know this.

277
00:14:00,160 --> 00:14:01,770
Yes.

278
00:14:01,770 --> 00:14:05,020
And the second thing is
a warning of the Jews.

279
00:14:05,020 --> 00:14:05,740
Yes.

280
00:14:05,740 --> 00:14:08,890
Do you think that the
warning was given?

281
00:14:08,890 --> 00:14:12,970
Well it is obvious to me that
the warning was not given,

282
00:14:12,970 --> 00:14:15,460
but the trick was being
perpetuated on them

283
00:14:15,460 --> 00:14:17,380
continuously.

284
00:14:17,380 --> 00:14:20,860
Because from Rozin
and Morgowich who

285
00:14:20,860 --> 00:14:24,430
had seen the arrival of
the Hungarian transports,

286
00:14:24,430 --> 00:14:27,850
we know that they
went to their death

287
00:14:27,850 --> 00:14:31,450
as it was usual in an
industrialized Auschwitz.

288
00:14:31,450 --> 00:14:34,960
And even it was at
that time sped up.

289
00:14:34,960 --> 00:14:38,260
And those who were not
immediately murdered, but came

290
00:14:38,260 --> 00:14:42,190
into the concentration camp
as prisoners, all of them

291
00:14:42,190 --> 00:14:44,980
said that they had never
heard about the existence

292
00:14:44,980 --> 00:14:46,510
of Auschwitz.

293
00:14:46,510 --> 00:14:49,000
However, before they were
deported to Auschwitz,

294
00:14:49,000 --> 00:14:51,850
each of them was
given and issued

295
00:14:51,850 --> 00:14:54,420
various documents
entitling them,

296
00:14:54,420 --> 00:14:56,545
in giving them the right
to going to the Transport,

297
00:14:56,545 --> 00:14:59,620
and those documents were being
issued by the Jewish councils,

298
00:14:59,620 --> 00:15:02,440
the same Jewish councils to
whom I gave the information

299
00:15:02,440 --> 00:15:03,970
about Auschwitz.

300
00:15:03,970 --> 00:15:04,960
So it was quite clear--

301
00:15:04,960 --> 00:15:07,240
Why did this happen?

302
00:15:07,240 --> 00:15:08,980
Why they were never warned?

303
00:15:08,980 --> 00:15:10,120
Why were they never warned?

304
00:15:10,120 --> 00:15:11,640
By the Jewish Councils.

305
00:15:11,640 --> 00:15:14,445
[INAUDIBLE] this is
a very important--

306
00:15:14,445 --> 00:15:16,020
this is a big problem.

307
00:15:16,020 --> 00:15:18,290
Well, the next thing--

308
00:15:18,290 --> 00:15:21,310
Please try to talk in
an unpassionate way.

309
00:15:21,310 --> 00:15:23,380
Yes.

310
00:15:23,380 --> 00:15:25,930
You see it is not
happening today.

311
00:15:25,930 --> 00:15:28,480

We are speaking
about it perhaps only

312
00:15:28,480 --> 00:15:32,380
in order to get the answer.

313
00:15:32,380 --> 00:15:33,735
And the answer is simple.

314
00:15:33,735 --> 00:15:35,860
To get the answer, how come
that millions of people

315
00:15:35,860 --> 00:15:40,450
can be transported
to their deaths,

316
00:15:40,450 --> 00:15:43,060
against any instinct
of self-preservation?

317
00:15:43,060 --> 00:15:43,660
It's obvious.

318
00:15:43,660 --> 00:15:44,743
They were tricked into it.

319
00:15:44,743 --> 00:15:46,450
And the trick was--

320
00:15:46,450 --> 00:15:47,920
we know now how it
was perpetrated.

321
00:15:47,920 --> 00:15:51,280
Now, why the Jewish
councils did not act?

322
00:15:51,280 --> 00:15:53,650
Why didn't they inform?

323
00:15:53,650 --> 00:15:59,230

Why did Rabbi Weissmandel
not inform his own pupils?

324
00:15:59,230 --> 00:16:01,630
They went to their
deaths in ignorance.

325
00:16:01,630 --> 00:16:04,330
Yes, but he was himself
deported to Auschwitz,

326
00:16:04,330 --> 00:16:06,760
Rabbi Weissmandel.

327
00:16:06,760 --> 00:16:08,190
This is not a good
idea argument.

328
00:16:08,190 --> 00:16:12,970
He escaped the train, we
know this, but on this came

329
00:16:12,970 --> 00:16:15,380
much more later.

330
00:16:15,380 --> 00:16:17,440
But let's talk about
the Hungarian Jews.

331
00:16:17,440 --> 00:16:18,390
Yes.

332
00:16:18,390 --> 00:16:20,890
Now, I think that the
case of Hungarian Jews

333
00:16:20,890 --> 00:16:23,380
was the same like the case
of the Slovakian Jews,

334
00:16:23,380 --> 00:16:26,930
and I would summarize
it in the following way.

335
00:16:26,930 --> 00:16:32,020
The Nazis were well-prepared
for their task,

336
00:16:32,020 --> 00:16:37,210
not only in mechanical ways,
and in their great propensity

337
00:16:37,210 --> 00:16:42,100
to murder, but also in
an organizational way.

338
00:16:42,100 --> 00:16:48,460
They decided to carry
out that murder in a way

339
00:16:48,460 --> 00:16:51,550
that it should not upset
the European population

340
00:16:51,550 --> 00:16:54,190
by its inhumanity.

341
00:16:54,190 --> 00:16:58,150
So they needed to induce
the Jews to go voluntarily

342
00:16:58,150 --> 00:16:59,667
into the transports.

343
00:16:59,667 --> 00:17:02,800

344
00:17:02,800 --> 00:17:04,890
For that--

345
00:17:04,890 --> 00:17:07,359
I already discussed
the words were

346
00:17:07,359 --> 00:17:10,090

underrated, because they
didn't go voluntarily

347
00:17:10,090 --> 00:17:12,230
into the transports.

348
00:17:12,230 --> 00:17:14,069
Without much resistance.

349
00:17:14,069 --> 00:17:15,130
With something else.

350
00:17:15,130 --> 00:17:16,210
Without much resistance.

351
00:17:16,210 --> 00:17:18,670
Because if I may
say you something.

352
00:17:18,670 --> 00:17:19,630
Rabbi Weissmandel--

353
00:17:19,630 --> 00:17:23,619
[INAUDIBLE] get to before
in the area for some weeks.

354
00:17:23,619 --> 00:17:27,460
Rabbi Weissmandel asked
me during the discussion,

355
00:17:27,460 --> 00:17:29,350
what should be done?

356
00:17:29,350 --> 00:17:31,390
I think the answer is clear.

357
00:17:31,390 --> 00:17:33,160
Anything could be done!

358
00:17:33,160 --> 00:17:39,460
One should shoot instead
of going into the wagon.

359
00:17:39,460 --> 00:17:43,030
And he answered to me,
if I had two pistols,

360
00:17:43,030 --> 00:17:45,690
I would shoot with two hands.

361
00:17:45,690 --> 00:17:47,650
Why he said it to
me, I don't know,

362
00:17:47,650 --> 00:17:51,030
but he could see on my
reaction to the whole problem

363
00:17:51,030 --> 00:17:56,650
that I can see that only answer
is violence can be a help.

364
00:17:56,650 --> 00:18:01,120
But I must say that pistols
were available at that time

365
00:18:01,120 --> 00:18:03,070
in Slovakia already.

366
00:18:03,070 --> 00:18:05,920
It was not difficult
to obtain them.

367
00:18:05,920 --> 00:18:09,430
And it was two months
before the Slovak uprising,

368
00:18:09,430 --> 00:18:13,070
and Rabbi Weissmandel
had two hands,

369
00:18:13,070 --> 00:18:16,750
and he did not use
them for shooting.

370

00:18:16,750 --> 00:18:17,500

But we agreed that

371

00:18:17,500 --> 00:18:20,800

This would be a good
policy, and the only one.

372

00:18:20,800 --> 00:18:24,330

373

00:18:24,330 --> 00:18:27,952

Your question is, why
did the Jewish council

374

00:18:27,952 --> 00:18:30,160

not give the information to
the masses of the people?

375

00:18:30,160 --> 00:18:31,810

Exactly.

376

00:18:31,810 --> 00:18:35,040

And I am talking
specifically about Hungary.

377

00:18:35,040 --> 00:18:36,120

Yeah.

378

00:18:36,120 --> 00:18:41,340

You see, the Jewish Council
could survive the Nazi period

379

00:18:41,340 --> 00:18:46,460

as long there was an order
in the Jewish community.

380

00:18:46,460 --> 00:18:48,750

And order in the
Jewish community

381

00:18:48,750 --> 00:18:52,110

meant that transport

lists were being drawn up

382

00:18:52,110 --> 00:18:55,350
by the Jewish council
as a transport went away

383

00:18:55,350 --> 00:18:59,280
in good time to Auschwitz.

384

00:18:59,280 --> 00:19:05,220
If that information would pass
through to the Jewish masses

385

00:19:05,220 --> 00:19:07,950
and nobody would obey anymore
Jewish Council's order

386

00:19:07,950 --> 00:19:12,630
to board the transport wagons,
and the panic would arouse,

387

00:19:12,630 --> 00:19:16,260
what need do the
Germans have after that

388

00:19:16,260 --> 00:19:20,130
to keep those Jewish Councils?

389

00:19:20,130 --> 00:19:22,800
If a panic would have
arisen, the Germans

390

00:19:22,800 --> 00:19:26,970
would have had to start with a
systematic massacre of the Jews

391

00:19:26,970 --> 00:19:29,100
on the spot, which is
much more difficult

392

00:19:29,100 --> 00:19:31,860
than an industrialized
massacre in Auschwitz.

393
00:19:31,860 --> 00:19:34,200
But for a massacre
on the spot they

394
00:19:34,200 --> 00:19:36,470
didn't need Jewish councils.

395
00:19:36,470 --> 00:19:37,740
They could dispose of them.

396
00:19:37,740 --> 00:19:40,020
They wanted to save their skin.

397
00:19:40,020 --> 00:19:44,300
In other words,
the Jewish councils

398
00:19:44,300 --> 00:19:48,260
were a part of the
trick perpetrated

399
00:19:48,260 --> 00:19:55,020
on the Jewish population at
large, at the price of delaying

400
00:19:55,020 --> 00:19:57,360
their own death.

401
00:19:57,360 --> 00:19:59,640
Because whenever the
population-- and this

402
00:19:59,640 --> 00:20:01,170
we knew from Auschwitz
where we have

403
00:20:01,170 --> 00:20:04,088
seen the liquidation of
many ghettos, that whenever

404
00:20:04,088 --> 00:20:05,880

a whole ghetto has been
finally liquidated,

405
00:20:05,880 --> 00:20:07,630
then the Jewish council
from those ghettos

406
00:20:07,630 --> 00:20:09,690
were liquidated too.

407
00:20:09,690 --> 00:20:11,670
In other words, it
was what the Germans--

408
00:20:11,670 --> 00:20:13,600
You mean, they were
liquidated as well.

409
00:20:13,600 --> 00:20:15,540
At the end.

410
00:20:15,540 --> 00:20:21,480
So the Jewish councils had to
keep the transport rolling,

411
00:20:21,480 --> 00:20:26,380
but not too fast, so that
the end is pretty far away,

412
00:20:26,380 --> 00:20:29,860
and might come later than the
end of the war, in which case

413
00:20:29,860 --> 00:20:33,132
they are safe personally.

414
00:20:33,132 --> 00:20:34,590
On the other hand,
they couldn't do

415
00:20:34,590 --> 00:20:37,260
to slow either, because the
Germans would say, we don't

416
00:20:37,260 --> 00:20:40,380
need you, you are too slow.

417
00:20:40,380 --> 00:20:47,230
So it was a sort of a
collaboration, treason.

418
00:20:47,230 --> 00:20:50,640
The Nazis decided that the mass
murder is easier with the help

419
00:20:50,640 --> 00:20:53,670
of treason, and because the
Jewish councils consisted

420
00:20:53,670 --> 00:20:56,130
mainly of scientists,
and because a good deal

421
00:20:56,130 --> 00:21:00,720
of the Jewish population started
to respect them because they

422
00:21:00,720 --> 00:21:06,210
suddenly came into power,
into positions given to them

423
00:21:06,210 --> 00:21:11,200
by the Germans by the -- who
recognized them as an official

424
00:21:11,200 --> 00:21:11,700
institution.

425
00:21:11,700 --> 00:21:12,510
Who, would you say?

426
00:21:12,510 --> 00:21:17,000
There were many Jewish
councils which were not

427

00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:20,040
leaded by the Zionists.

428
00:21:20,040 --> 00:21:21,530
Many.

429
00:21:21,530 --> 00:21:24,610
Well, I think it's much more
complicated than you said.

430
00:21:24,610 --> 00:21:27,300
We could take the case of
Kasztner, for instance.

431
00:21:27,300 --> 00:21:29,240
Yes.

432
00:21:29,240 --> 00:21:33,300
It's very difficult, because
it is true that in one way,

433
00:21:33,300 --> 00:21:35,197
these Jewish
councils were tools.

434
00:21:35,197 --> 00:21:36,280
In the hands of the Nazis.

435
00:21:36,280 --> 00:21:39,050
I agree fully with you.

436
00:21:39,050 --> 00:21:39,630
Yes.

437
00:21:39,630 --> 00:21:43,710
But it was a very special kind
of collaboration, which was not

438
00:21:43,710 --> 00:21:46,770
an ideological collaboration.

439
00:21:46,770 --> 00:21:51,490

I'd say we're needed year after year, or months after months.

440
00:21:51,490 --> 00:21:54,520
At the beginning they didn't want this at all.

441
00:21:54,520 --> 00:21:56,810
I think it's very difficult to judge them.

442
00:21:56,810 --> 00:22:00,000
I mean the case of Kasztner, Kasztner

443
00:22:00,000 --> 00:22:02,870
was negotiating with the Nazi.

444
00:22:02,870 --> 00:22:04,070
You know this.

445
00:22:04,070 --> 00:22:07,620
But in my opinion, and I don't want to exonerate him,

446
00:22:07,620 --> 00:22:09,440
but it is because he was negotiating

447
00:22:09,440 --> 00:22:11,250
that he had his mouth shut.

448
00:22:11,250 --> 00:22:12,985
He couldn't talk.

449
00:22:12,985 --> 00:22:14,610
He couldn't talk to the Jews because he

450
00:22:14,610 --> 00:22:18,970
was negotiating in one way in order to save them.

451

00:22:18,970 --> 00:22:19,720

What do you mean--

452

00:22:19,720 --> 00:22:27,510

453

00:22:27,510 --> 00:22:33,270

Well, Kasztner was a member of
the Jewish council in Hungary.

454

00:22:33,270 --> 00:22:36,020

This is absolutely who knew
everything about Auschwitz

455

00:22:36,020 --> 00:22:39,720

and they knew, thanks
to you to your report.

456

00:22:39,720 --> 00:22:43,600

In spite of this they didn't
warn the Jewish population,

457

00:22:43,600 --> 00:22:46,970

which had been herded in the
ghetto before the deportation.

458

00:22:46,970 --> 00:22:49,230

And it's ture that the
Jews boarded this train.

459

00:22:49,230 --> 00:22:51,720

But we know that,
at the same time,

460

00:22:51,720 --> 00:22:56,190

Kasztner was engaged in a
negotiation with Eichmann.

461

00:22:56,190 --> 00:22:57,360

We know this.

462

00:22:57,360 --> 00:22:59,250

What was the aim of
this negotiation?

463
00:22:59,250 --> 00:23:04,710
He wanted to save at least a
part of this Jewish population.

464
00:23:04,710 --> 00:23:06,000
But he didn't warn them.

465
00:23:06,000 --> 00:23:09,120
My opinion is, it's
very complicated.

466
00:23:09,120 --> 00:23:11,760
He didn't warn them precisely
because he couldn't talk,

467
00:23:11,760 --> 00:23:14,370
and he couldn't talk because
he was negotiating, which

468
00:23:14,370 --> 00:23:19,110
means that trying to save
at least a part of the Jews,

469
00:23:19,110 --> 00:23:20,520
he dooms then.

470
00:23:20,520 --> 00:23:23,760
This is what I think I would
like your answer about this.

471
00:23:23,760 --> 00:23:25,400
I think this is
completely wrong.

472
00:23:25,400 --> 00:23:26,160
OK.

473
00:23:26,160 --> 00:23:29,910
This is a favorite
explanation to whitewash

474
00:23:29,910 --> 00:23:32,750
and [INAUDIBLE]
the whole affair.

475
00:23:32,750 --> 00:23:35,540

476
00:23:35,540 --> 00:23:39,140
During the negotiations of
Kasztner with the Nazis,

477
00:23:39,140 --> 00:23:43,850
the deportation of the Hungarian
Jews to an industrialized death

478
00:23:43,850 --> 00:23:48,410
went unimpeded according
to the Nazi plans.

479
00:23:48,410 --> 00:23:54,470
Therefore for these negotiations
for the Nazis was only probably

480
00:23:54,470 --> 00:23:57,560
an entertainment,
macabre piece of humor.

481
00:23:57,560 --> 00:23:59,010
For Kasztner it was different.

482
00:23:59,010 --> 00:24:01,130
It was an alibi.

483
00:24:01,130 --> 00:24:07,540
Because by sacrificing
hundreds of thousands

484
00:24:07,540 --> 00:24:12,040
of Jews who believed him,
that he would warn them

485

00:24:12,040 --> 00:24:14,950
if the deaths would be
imminent, he didn't warn them

486
00:24:14,950 --> 00:24:18,460
and of course, had to
be paid by Eichmann

487
00:24:18,460 --> 00:24:20,890
in some way or another.

488
00:24:20,890 --> 00:24:24,250
Eichmann was not so
interested in the fate

489
00:24:24,250 --> 00:24:27,010
of 1,000 or 2000 Jews.

490
00:24:27,010 --> 00:24:31,150
He was interested in keeping
the murder machinery going, even

491
00:24:31,150 --> 00:24:35,620
at the price of letting
1,000 or 2,000 Jews go.

492
00:24:35,620 --> 00:24:39,880
So it was a piece
of macabre humor

493
00:24:39,880 --> 00:24:43,630
to agree with Kasztner
for an exchange

494
00:24:43,630 --> 00:24:48,530
of a small Jewish community
of his own choice.

495
00:24:48,530 --> 00:24:50,680
And if you study
who they were you'll

496
00:24:50,680 --> 00:24:54,550

find that they consisted of
two groups or three groups

497
00:24:54,550 --> 00:24:58,240
of people which Kasztner chose.

498
00:24:58,240 --> 00:25:03,430
One, which were relatives
of the Jewish council.

499
00:25:03,430 --> 00:25:10,510
Two, people who had money,
especially in foreign accounts.

500
00:25:10,510 --> 00:25:17,620
Three, people who are prominent
in the Zionist circles.

501
00:25:17,620 --> 00:25:23,500
Four, people who were prominent
in the Jewish religion.

502
00:25:23,500 --> 00:25:28,820
Saving that few, and
himself including, provided

503
00:25:28,820 --> 00:25:33,470
the a small group of
traitors with a bit of money,

504
00:25:33,470 --> 00:25:37,510
or an addition of their
lives, and enabled

505
00:25:37,510 --> 00:25:44,110
the Nazis to feed the death
machinery in an unimpeded way

506
00:25:44,110 --> 00:25:46,750
during the month
when it was planned.

507
00:25:46,750 --> 00:25:51,040

The Nazis would not mind that
1,000 or 2,000 Jews went,

508
00:25:51,040 --> 00:25:54,070
say, to Switzerland, because
according to the Nazi ideology,

509
00:25:54,070 --> 00:25:55,390
they will win the war.

510
00:25:55,390 --> 00:25:57,550
They really believed that
they will win the war.

511
00:25:57,550 --> 00:25:59,860
And they said, well with
those who escaped now,

512
00:25:59,860 --> 00:26:01,090
we will catch up tomorrow.

513
00:26:01,090 --> 00:26:03,280
But meanwhile, from the
Nazis point of view,

514
00:26:03,280 --> 00:26:07,610
meanwhile we have to keep our
death installations going.

515
00:26:07,610 --> 00:26:08,870
So it didn't matter.

516
00:26:08,870 --> 00:26:13,360
You think that Nazi
accepted to negotiate only

517
00:26:13,360 --> 00:26:15,760
in order to keep the
machinery smoothly going?

518
00:26:15,760 --> 00:26:16,540
Of course.

519

00:26:16,540 --> 00:26:20,360

What else could they have
done, if Kasztner told them,

520

00:26:20,360 --> 00:26:25,270

if you don't agree with
what we ask from you,

521

00:26:25,270 --> 00:26:28,870

from the Nazis, then we
will divulge our information

522

00:26:28,870 --> 00:26:30,730

about the nature of
Auschwitz to the masses,

523

00:26:30,730 --> 00:26:33,100

and the Nazis knew of course--

524

00:26:33,100 --> 00:26:34,540

I have a more generic question.

525

00:26:34,540 --> 00:26:36,550

What do you think
of the mere fact

526

00:26:36,550 --> 00:26:40,360

to try to negotiate
with Nazis, which

527

00:26:40,360 --> 00:26:42,150

happened very often [INAUDIBLE]

528

00:26:42,150 --> 00:26:44,170

well was the last one
who tried to negotiate

529

00:26:44,170 --> 00:26:45,940

with the Nazis was Chamberlain.

530

00:26:45,940 --> 00:26:50,170

This was in 1939,

or 1938 in Munich.

531

00:26:50,170 --> 00:26:52,600

We are talking
about the Jews now.

532

00:26:52,600 --> 00:26:54,830

I mean it was ridiculous.

533

00:26:54,830 --> 00:26:55,900

It was ridiculous.

534

00:26:55,900 --> 00:26:59,650

For the Jews there remains
nothing but resistance.

535

00:26:59,650 --> 00:27:02,440

There was no way out from dying.

536

00:27:02,440 --> 00:27:06,570

The question was, how fast to
die, and with what dignity?

537

00:27:06,570 --> 00:27:08,960

And in order to make
it fast and shameful,

538

00:27:08,960 --> 00:27:10,960

that's what the Nazis
needed, the Jewish council

539

00:27:10,960 --> 00:27:12,098

and the rabbis.

540

00:27:12,098 --> 00:27:12,640

The big ones.

541

00:27:12,640 --> 00:27:13,946

The small ones were gassed.

542

00:27:13,946 --> 00:27:17,070

543
00:27:17,070 --> 00:27:20,980
If the Jewish councils
and the big rabbis

544
00:27:20,980 --> 00:27:26,650
would have told that
the fate of the people

545
00:27:26,650 --> 00:27:29,440
at the end of the
line is death, they

546
00:27:29,440 --> 00:27:32,560
could have told them as
you say the information was

547
00:27:32,560 --> 00:27:34,600
available in the West.

548
00:27:34,600 --> 00:27:38,140
And as we know, they had
connections with the West.

549
00:27:38,140 --> 00:27:40,840
They could write impassioned
letters to the West

550
00:27:40,840 --> 00:27:42,400
whenever they wanted, obviously.

551
00:27:42,400 --> 00:27:45,490
It wasn't so difficult
for them to transport my--

552
00:27:45,490 --> 00:27:49,250
In Poland, in 1942, it
was much more complicated.

553
00:27:49,250 --> 00:27:50,537
Well you know--

554

00:27:50,537 --> 00:27:52,120
And there were
ghettos, and there were

555
00:27:52,120 --> 00:27:54,910
Jewish councils in each ghetto.

556
00:27:54,910 --> 00:28:00,020
You see, for instance, with a
Jewish community in Slovakia,

557
00:28:00,020 --> 00:28:02,500
who had about one third
was orthodox Jews,

558
00:28:02,500 --> 00:28:07,350
they would do absolutely what an
orthodox rabbi, the top rabbi,

559
00:28:07,350 --> 00:28:08,100
would say to them?

560
00:28:08,100 --> 00:28:09,790
Weissmandel.

561
00:28:09,790 --> 00:28:12,155
They wouldn't obey the
National Jewish councils

562
00:28:12,155 --> 00:28:13,780
because the Jewish
council was Zionist,

563
00:28:13,780 --> 00:28:15,920
and the orthodox Jews
never like the Zionism.

564
00:28:15,920 --> 00:28:18,620

565
00:28:18,620 --> 00:28:19,630
The very first--

566

00:28:19,630 --> 00:28:21,250
Weissmandel was not a Zionist?

567

00:28:21,250 --> 00:28:22,870
Not at all.

568

00:28:22,870 --> 00:28:27,730
But the Zionist could not
influence the orthodox Jews.

569

00:28:27,730 --> 00:28:31,360
And the Zionists, as
the Jewish councils,

570

00:28:31,360 --> 00:28:33,610
as a tool of the Nazis,
had to induce not only

571

00:28:33,610 --> 00:28:35,980
the Jewish population
in general but also

572

00:28:35,980 --> 00:28:41,410
the orthodox Jewish group
to enter the trains.

573

00:28:41,410 --> 00:28:44,520
If the rabbi will tell
them, don't enter the trains

574

00:28:44,520 --> 00:28:49,990
but die here, or we don't
allow our communities

575

00:28:49,990 --> 00:28:53,490
to be disrupted,
we don't cooperate,

576

00:28:53,490 --> 00:28:55,620
well they wouldn't go.

577

00:28:55,620 --> 00:28:57,280

Well what do you think of the--

578

00:28:57,280 --> 00:28:59,380

So it was necessary
for the Zionists

579

00:28:59,380 --> 00:29:01,750

in order to carry out
their job, to extend

580

00:29:01,750 --> 00:29:07,750

their protection to a part of
the prominent orthodox Jews.

581

00:29:07,750 --> 00:29:09,390

And in order to extend
this protection,

582

00:29:09,390 --> 00:29:12,110

it was necessary to protect,
in central Bratislava,

583

00:29:12,110 --> 00:29:14,470

120 miles from my
work in Auschwitz,

584

00:29:14,470 --> 00:29:19,800

a complete yeshiva
with the students

585

00:29:19,800 --> 00:29:21,630

and with [INAUDIBLE] rabbi.

586

00:29:21,630 --> 00:29:24,810

What do you think of the
negotiations of Weissmandel

587

00:29:24,810 --> 00:29:27,818

with Wisliceny, with the Nazi?

588

00:29:27,818 --> 00:29:28,485

It's ridiculous.

589

00:29:28,485 --> 00:29:32,850

It started in 1942.

590

00:29:32,850 --> 00:29:34,650

We say it's ridiculous, why?

591

00:29:34,650 --> 00:29:37,350

Well what was the basis
of those negotiations?

592

00:29:37,350 --> 00:29:39,510

If you would
negotiate, both sides

593

00:29:39,510 --> 00:29:42,480

go into a negotiation
with something to offer.

594

00:29:42,480 --> 00:29:45,460

What had Wisliceny to
offer to Weissmandel?

595

00:29:45,460 --> 00:29:47,280

Power.

596

00:29:47,280 --> 00:29:50,130

What had Weissmandel
offered to Wisliceny?

597

00:29:50,130 --> 00:29:51,160

Money.

598

00:29:51,160 --> 00:29:53,130

So Wisliceny's
job was to pretend

599

00:29:53,130 --> 00:29:54,720

to be interested in that money.

600

00:29:54,720 --> 00:29:56,670

The money was a
relatively small sum

601

00:29:56,670 --> 00:30:02,140
with which Weissmandel could
be having at his disposal.

602

00:30:02,140 --> 00:30:05,250
So small that it was humorous
in the eyes of the Nazis,

603

00:30:05,250 --> 00:30:08,900
because millions were lying
on the floor in Auschwitz.

604

00:30:08,900 --> 00:30:10,860
Every prisoner in
Auschwitz knew it,

605

00:30:10,860 --> 00:30:12,960
every SS member would know it.

606

00:30:12,960 --> 00:30:17,260
So they could get that money
in a much bigger amount there.

607

00:30:17,260 --> 00:30:21,060
Secondly, it was not only
money which mattered,

608

00:30:21,060 --> 00:30:23,370
but property, real estate.

609

00:30:23,370 --> 00:30:26,610
By deporting the
Jews from Slovakia

610

00:30:26,610 --> 00:30:29,190
to Auschwitz, or from Hungary
to Auschwitz, but especially

611

00:30:29,190 --> 00:30:31,230
from Slovakia, from
other countries,

612

00:30:31,230 --> 00:30:33,300

the real estate was not
taken with themselves.

613

00:30:33,300 --> 00:30:35,440

They didn't take the
real estate with them.

614

00:30:35,440 --> 00:30:38,520

And the real estate
was auctioned.

615

00:30:38,520 --> 00:30:43,260

In auctions where it was
sold for peppercorn prices

616

00:30:43,260 --> 00:30:44,815

to the right sort of people.

617

00:30:44,815 --> 00:30:48,450

If Wisliceny said he
wanted a particular house,

618

00:30:48,450 --> 00:30:51,900

or a particular property, he
would go to those auctions

619

00:30:51,900 --> 00:30:56,320

where every big, big Nazi could
buy them for peppercorn prices.

620

00:30:56,320 --> 00:30:58,860

You know that there are
people today, followers

621

00:30:58,860 --> 00:31:04,050

of Weissmandel, who say that
thanks to these negotiations

622

00:31:04,050 --> 00:31:08,200

with Wisliceny, he succeeded
to stop the deportations

623

00:31:08,200 --> 00:31:12,780
in Slovakia in 1942.

624

00:31:12,780 --> 00:31:13,410
They say this.

625

00:31:13,410 --> 00:31:14,070
Yes.

626

00:31:14,070 --> 00:31:16,170
I mean this statement is
absolutely ridiculous,

627

00:31:16,170 --> 00:31:19,168
if one looks at it
from the point of view

628

00:31:19,168 --> 00:31:21,210
of what was happening in
Auschwitz, in the center

629

00:31:21,210 --> 00:31:23,440
of the mechanized death.

630

00:31:23,440 --> 00:31:26,100
They look at it
from a small angle

631

00:31:26,100 --> 00:31:28,240
as they see that it
is presented to them.

632

00:31:28,240 --> 00:31:33,480
For instance, the
Nazis never evacuated

633

00:31:33,480 --> 00:31:36,750
the whole Jewish population
from a particular country

634

00:31:36,750 --> 00:31:40,390
at a certain time, together.

635
00:31:40,390 --> 00:31:43,380
They always took
only a small part,

636
00:31:43,380 --> 00:31:46,110
and then a year later they
took another small part.

637
00:31:46,110 --> 00:31:47,520
So that there is not--

638
00:31:47,520 --> 00:31:50,010
never a resistance of
the whole endangered

639
00:31:50,010 --> 00:31:51,910
group of the population.

640
00:31:51,910 --> 00:31:56,250
So we saw in Auschwitz that
after French transports

641
00:31:56,250 --> 00:31:59,070
of Jews, came Slovak
transports of Jews,

642
00:31:59,070 --> 00:32:01,380
and after Slovak
transports of Jews,

643
00:32:01,380 --> 00:32:03,900
came Polish transports of Jews.

644
00:32:03,900 --> 00:32:06,030
And after Polish
transports of Jews

645
00:32:06,030 --> 00:32:07,940
came Greek transports of Jews.

646
00:32:07,940 --> 00:32:12,010

And after Greek transports of
Jews came French Jews again.

647
00:32:12,010 --> 00:32:13,740
So what we could
see in Auschwitz

648
00:32:13,740 --> 00:32:17,850
was a continuous factory, but
in those individual, particular

649
00:32:17,850 --> 00:32:23,010
places, it looked as if there
would be a lull in deportation.

650
00:32:23,010 --> 00:32:24,010
It was not a lull.

651
00:32:24,010 --> 00:32:25,890
The Nazis had their limitation.

652
00:32:25,890 --> 00:32:29,220
Auschwitz could take
only 5,000 a day.

653
00:32:29,220 --> 00:32:32,220
I mean process
5,000 units a day.

654
00:32:32,220 --> 00:32:34,890
So, that was the
Nazi terminology.

655
00:32:34,890 --> 00:32:36,600
And those religious
people which you say

656
00:32:36,600 --> 00:32:38,340
were saved by
Weissmandel, what happened

657
00:32:38,340 --> 00:32:41,280
was that while the Nazi

machinery was sweeping

658

00:32:41,280 --> 00:32:44,490
around Europe, and
the Nazi machinery

659

00:32:44,490 --> 00:32:47,040
was not finished with
the Jews of Europe

660

00:32:47,040 --> 00:32:48,870
when the war was finished.

661

00:32:48,870 --> 00:32:52,380
The war finished the Nazis
before they finished the Jews.

662

00:32:52,380 --> 00:32:55,620
And they think that it was
Weissmandel who saved them.

663

00:32:55,620 --> 00:32:57,870
It was the British,
the American,

664

00:32:57,870 --> 00:33:00,000
and the Russian armies
that defeated the Nazis.

665

00:33:00,000 --> 00:33:01,000
That's what saved them.

666

00:33:01,000 --> 00:33:02,708
But otherwise their
time would have come.

667

00:33:02,708 --> 00:33:07,430
Right, but do you doubt the
sincerity of Weissmandel

668

00:33:07,430 --> 00:33:12,190
when he was sitting
with the Nazis?

669

00:33:12,190 --> 00:33:16,530

How could he believe that
he can pay off Nazis.

670

00:33:16,530 --> 00:33:23,430

I mean, one can imagine a
type of a rabbinical folly,

671

00:33:23,430 --> 00:33:25,980

when a big rabbi thinks
that everybody is foolish

672

00:33:25,980 --> 00:33:27,920

and he's clever.

673

00:33:27,920 --> 00:33:39,000