

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,140

2  
00:00:05,140 --> 00:00:06,960  
(film slating)

3  
00:00:06,960 --> 00:00:10,715  
But do you see that  
Weissmandel was a mad man,

4  
00:00:10,715 --> 00:00:12,975  
a fool, a [? yellow ?] man?

5  
00:00:12,975 --> 00:00:15,580

6  
00:00:15,580 --> 00:00:18,180  
What do you see?

7  
00:00:18,180 --> 00:00:21,250  
I am not a judge.

8  
00:00:21,250 --> 00:00:24,280  
I'm only a witness.

9  
00:00:24,280 --> 00:00:28,520  
I can only say what  
I know for sure.

10  
00:00:28,520 --> 00:00:35,230  
And I know for sure what was  
happening in 1942 and 1944.

11  
00:00:35,230 --> 00:00:38,980  
Weissmandel has done  
something wrong.

12  
00:00:38,980 --> 00:00:42,010  
It is not for me to forgive  
him but for his God,

13

00:00:42,010 --> 00:00:43,360  
if there is one.

14

00:00:43,360 --> 00:00:45,580  
And I don't know.

15

00:00:45,580 --> 00:00:50,530  
But if you ask me about the  
whole situation, in my opinion

16

00:00:50,530 --> 00:00:53,287  
and in my reflection,  
it looks the following.

17

00:00:53,287 --> 00:00:56,870

18

00:00:56,870 --> 00:01:03,010  
The Nazis understood  
certain intricacies

19

00:01:03,010 --> 00:01:07,270  
of ethnic structures of the  
people who they subjugated.

20

00:01:07,270 --> 00:01:08,710  
They were by no means stupid.

21

00:01:08,710 --> 00:01:11,890  
They were cruel and  
inhuman and ruthless

22

00:01:11,890 --> 00:01:14,410  
in an unprecedented  
way in history,

23

00:01:14,410 --> 00:01:15,670  
but stupid they were not.

24

00:01:15,670 --> 00:01:18,410

25

00:01:18,410 --> 00:01:23,410

And they analyzed  
certain characters

26

00:01:23,410 --> 00:01:29,030

not only of the Jewish ethnic  
community as a whole in Europe,

27

00:01:29,030 --> 00:01:34,570

but also in its details,  
which were caused

28

00:01:34,570 --> 00:01:36,490

by historical development  
of this community

29

00:01:36,490 --> 00:01:37,540

in various countries.

30

00:01:37,540 --> 00:01:39,130

The Polish Jewish  
ethnic community

31

00:01:39,130 --> 00:01:41,740

was different from the  
Slovak in small differences

32

00:01:41,740 --> 00:01:43,570

and in many ways similar.

33

00:01:43,570 --> 00:01:45,360

Hungarian was different.

34

00:01:45,360 --> 00:01:46,910

The German was different.

35

00:01:46,910 --> 00:01:49,220

The French was different.

36

00:01:49,220 --> 00:01:52,870

It's obvious to me that  
the Nazis [INAUDIBLE]

37  
00:01:52,870 --> 00:01:56,140  
have studied certain  
characteristic streaks

38  
00:01:56,140 --> 00:01:59,650  
of those communities  
and also have

39  
00:01:59,650 --> 00:02:03,580  
studied the personalities  
within those communities

40  
00:02:03,580 --> 00:02:09,669  
before they could even  
think of a major plot

41  
00:02:09,669 --> 00:02:14,830  
like an industrialized slaughter  
of human beings in Auschwitz

42  
00:02:14,830 --> 00:02:17,110  
and in other places.

43  
00:02:17,110 --> 00:02:20,140  
If I do not accept  
this hypothesis,

44  
00:02:20,140 --> 00:02:22,030  
then I must believe  
that everything

45  
00:02:22,030 --> 00:02:26,890  
was playing into the hands of  
Nazis by chance, by accident.

46  
00:02:26,890 --> 00:02:28,720  
And this is not likely.

47  
00:02:28,720 --> 00:02:32,440  
There was a master  
plan behind it.

48

00:02:32,440 --> 00:02:35,020

Now, as far as the Jewish  
ethnic communities,

49

00:02:35,020 --> 00:02:37,420

there is one thing that was--

50

00:02:37,420 --> 00:02:41,400

and especially here  
we see it among

51

00:02:41,400 --> 00:02:43,630

the Jewish ethnic  
community in America.

52

00:02:43,630 --> 00:02:47,900

There appears suddenly  
in this Jewish community,

53

00:02:47,900 --> 00:02:55,390

which was once a carrier of  
ethics in form of Judaism

54

00:02:55,390 --> 00:02:58,000

and later in form  
of Christianity.

55

00:02:58,000 --> 00:03:00,520

There appear-- and  
I'm sorry to say so.

56

00:03:00,520 --> 00:03:03,520

There appear signs  
of the generation,

57

00:03:03,520 --> 00:03:04,900

which are just incredible.

58

00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:08,740

For instance, when I look at  
the American Jews who constantly

59

00:03:08,740 --> 00:03:10,900

protest on the streets  
that the Soviet Jews should

60

00:03:10,900 --> 00:03:15,430

go to fight to Palestine,  
and they don't go there.

61

00:03:15,430 --> 00:03:19,510

I mean, I cannot  
understand that.

62

00:03:19,510 --> 00:03:23,200

Now, you see, and nobody  
sees that there's something

63

00:03:23,200 --> 00:03:26,050

wrong with this attitude.

64

00:03:26,050 --> 00:03:27,370

This is only a small example.

65

00:03:27,370 --> 00:03:30,610

Now, if I go back to the  
Jewish communities in Europe,

66

00:03:30,610 --> 00:03:34,090

let us not forget  
those communities were

67

00:03:34,090 --> 00:03:37,270

isolated from the rest of the  
world in ghettos for centuries.

68

00:03:37,270 --> 00:03:39,980

And the culture  
is relatively new.

69

00:03:39,980 --> 00:03:41,800

And not each in those  
Jewish communities

70

00:03:41,800 --> 00:03:45,310

is an Einstein or  
other wonderful Jews

71  
00:03:45,310 --> 00:03:46,750  
of wonderful achievement.

72  
00:03:46,750 --> 00:03:54,310  
The Jewish community has  
kept certain standards,

73  
00:03:54,310 --> 00:03:55,840  
which from an  
ethical point of view

74  
00:03:55,840 --> 00:03:58,195  
are difficult to understand.

75  
00:03:58,195 --> 00:03:59,320  
Now, wait. excuse me.

76  
00:03:59,320 --> 00:04:00,110  
Yes.

77  
00:04:00,110 --> 00:04:02,380  
I think we are going  
to far, I cannot --

78  
00:04:02,380 --> 00:04:03,760  
Yes, I agree with you.

79  
00:04:03,760 --> 00:04:05,170  
It's a philosophical question.

80  
00:04:05,170 --> 00:04:06,610  
But you asked me that.

81  
00:04:06,610 --> 00:04:07,110  
No.

82  
00:04:07,110 --> 00:04:09,530  
I asked you if you  
consider that Weissmandel

83  
00:04:09,530 --> 00:04:14,740  
a fool or [? a yellow ?]  
man or was stupid man?

84  
00:04:14,740 --> 00:04:18,160  
He was in a precarious  
situation, in my opinion.

85  
00:04:18,160 --> 00:04:19,440  
The precarious situation--

86  
00:04:19,440 --> 00:04:22,140  
[INAUDIBLE]  
[? sincerity ?] or not.

87  
00:04:22,140 --> 00:04:22,805  
Yes.

88  
00:04:22,805 --> 00:04:24,180  
He was in a  
precarious situation.

89  
00:04:24,180 --> 00:04:27,820  
Because he conceived even  
this so-called Europa

90  
00:04:27,820 --> 00:04:31,720  
plan in order to save the whole  
of the European Jews, which was

91  
00:04:31,720 --> 00:04:33,520  
[INAUDIBLE].

92  
00:04:33,520 --> 00:04:35,380  
This is truly the fact.

93  
00:04:35,380 --> 00:04:41,140  
But I ask you was  
he at least sincere?

94  
00:04:41,140 --> 00:04:43,540



I cannot see into his soul.

95

00:04:43,540 --> 00:04:45,790

I can see only one thing.

96

00:04:45,790 --> 00:04:52,330

He was in a precarious situation  
because while the Zionists were

97

00:04:52,330 --> 00:04:56,380

brooms which Nazis  
used for sweeping

98

00:04:56,380 --> 00:04:58,120

the Jews in the  
open in Auschwitz

99

00:04:58,120 --> 00:05:01,960

voluntarily, going  
with little resistance,

100

00:05:01,960 --> 00:05:05,470

he was a puppet in the  
hands of the Zionists.

101

00:05:05,470 --> 00:05:09,220

The religious Jews could not  
contact the Nazis directly.

102

00:05:09,220 --> 00:05:12,550

There was never a direct contact  
between the religious Jews,

103

00:05:12,550 --> 00:05:15,670

the extreme orthodox  
Jews, and the Nazis.

104

00:05:15,670 --> 00:05:19,090

The contact from all  
the Jews to the Nazis

105

00:05:19,090 --> 00:05:22,060

was done through those

Judenrats or [GERMAN]

106  
00:05:22,060 --> 00:05:23,710  
or whatever you  
want to call them.

107  
00:05:23,710 --> 00:05:27,190  
Now, Judenrats, or  
Jewish councils, they,

108  
00:05:27,190 --> 00:05:29,200  
because of their  
Zionist background,

109  
00:05:29,200 --> 00:05:33,940  
had little influence  
upon the orthodox Jewry,

110  
00:05:33,940 --> 00:05:36,640  
must have come to the  
logical conclusion

111  
00:05:36,640 --> 00:05:38,770  
that it would be good  
for the orthodox Jewry

112  
00:05:38,770 --> 00:05:41,800  
to create an  
aristocracy, which also

113  
00:05:41,800 --> 00:05:44,740  
will get a delay of murder.

114  
00:05:44,740 --> 00:05:46,630  
And then the rest  
of orthodox Jews

115  
00:05:46,630 --> 00:05:50,320  
can be induced to a passive  
boarding of the trains

116  
00:05:50,320 --> 00:05:53,240  
to the slaughterhouse just

like the rest of them.

117

00:05:53,240 --> 00:05:56,800

And so once an exception  
was created, say, like Rabbi

118

00:05:56,800 --> 00:06:01,270

Weissmandel, with his wife  
and children and entourage

119

00:06:01,270 --> 00:06:04,540

of students, and  
school was created

120

00:06:04,540 --> 00:06:08,680

in the center of Bratislava  
so that it should appear

121

00:06:08,680 --> 00:06:13,590

that things are basically right,  
and as long as those Jews were

122

00:06:13,590 --> 00:06:16,120

boarding the trains and Rabbi  
Weissmandel did not come out

123

00:06:16,120 --> 00:06:18,900

from the school and didn't  
tell them, don't go,

124

00:06:18,900 --> 00:06:20,677

you are going to your  
death, fine, then he

125

00:06:20,677 --> 00:06:21,760

is has served his purpose.

126

00:06:21,760 --> 00:06:25,050

But you are so severe  
with these people.

127

00:06:25,050 --> 00:06:30,210

You seem to exonerate

completely the Nazis.

128  
00:06:30,210 --> 00:06:33,120  
I do not exonerate  
the Nazis at all.

129  
00:06:33,120 --> 00:06:38,550  
It should be clear that the  
Nazis were the murderers.

130  
00:06:38,550 --> 00:06:43,470  
I only tell you that to  
murder people is not so easy.

131  
00:06:43,470 --> 00:06:47,640  
A crazy murderer, we have  
seen who is a crazy murderer.

132  
00:06:47,640 --> 00:06:50,730  
A guy in Texas goes up  
on a university tower

133  
00:06:50,730 --> 00:06:52,710  
and shoots 20 or 15 people.

134  
00:06:52,710 --> 00:06:54,420  
And then he is  
licked by the police.

135  
00:06:54,420 --> 00:06:55,320  
He is crazy.

136  
00:06:55,320 --> 00:06:57,540  
That's what a crazy  
person can do,

137  
00:06:57,540 --> 00:07:01,630  
to kill 15, 20, or 50  
people or God knows what.

138  
00:07:01,630 --> 00:07:07,110  
But to kill millions of  
people on an industrial scale

139

00:07:07,110 --> 00:07:11,310  
in a slaughterhouse, reasonably  
intelligent, reasonably normal

140

00:07:11,310 --> 00:07:14,490  
people, as we see  
them on the street,

141

00:07:14,490 --> 00:07:19,170  
well, no crazy man can  
do that, can extinguish

142

00:07:19,170 --> 00:07:21,720  
the instinct of  
self determination

143

00:07:21,720 --> 00:07:26,520  
given by nature into  
those people, making them.

144

00:07:26,520 --> 00:07:29,170  
No crazy man can do that.

145

00:07:29,170 --> 00:07:34,620  
And once these Nazis,  
this inhuman visitation

146

00:07:34,620 --> 00:07:42,090  
upon this Earth, conceives the  
plan of such a mass murder,

147

00:07:42,090 --> 00:07:47,250  
they understood that such a  
plan can be carried out better

148

00:07:47,250 --> 00:07:49,860  
with the help of traitors.

149

00:07:49,860 --> 00:07:54,090  
I just say that they were a  
very special kind of traitor.

150

00:07:54,090 --> 00:07:57,755

They were not traitors in the ordinary sense of the word.

151

00:07:57,755 --> 00:07:58,680

I don't think so.

152

00:07:58,680 --> 00:08:00,780

They were some traitors, absolutely.

153

00:08:00,780 --> 00:08:01,470

I am not--

154

00:08:01,470 --> 00:08:05,880

At the beginning, these people didn't mean what would have --

155

00:08:05,880 --> 00:08:10,410

I am not a rabbi to explain differences and nuances

156

00:08:10,410 --> 00:08:14,820

in shades of treason at the expense of your neighbor.

157

00:08:14,820 --> 00:08:17,230

I leave this to the big philosophers.

158

00:08:17,230 --> 00:08:21,090

Yes, but I see that you have no nuance in this respect.

159

00:08:21,090 --> 00:08:21,870

I beg your pardon?

160

00:08:21,870 --> 00:08:24,960

I think that you have no nuance in this respect.

161

00:08:24,960 --> 00:08:26,460

But I leave that  
problem to them.

162  
00:08:26,460 --> 00:08:28,290  
It's bigger than for me.

163  
00:08:28,290 --> 00:08:31,920  
A Slovak proverb says that  
this is a problem for a horse.

164  
00:08:31,920 --> 00:08:35,870  
Because he has got a big  
head, he can think about it.

165  
00:08:35,870 --> 00:08:36,370  
Right.

166  
00:08:36,370 --> 00:08:44,230

167  
00:08:44,230 --> 00:08:46,020  
It's too complicated  
philosophical problem

168  
00:08:46,020 --> 00:08:50,220  
for me to find out  
nuances of treason.

169  
00:08:50,220 --> 00:08:54,750  
Why do do you smile so often  
when you talk about this?

170  
00:08:54,750 --> 00:09:00,600  
I am not aware that I am  
using that smile so often.

171  
00:09:00,600 --> 00:09:01,630  
But what should I do?

172  
00:09:01,630 --> 00:09:03,390  
Should I cry?

173

00:09:03,390 --> 00:09:05,490  
That's a question.

174  
00:09:05,490 --> 00:09:09,930  
I don't think that crying  
has helped anybody.

175  
00:09:09,930 --> 00:09:16,620  
But of course, when you tell  
me years after the event

176  
00:09:16,620 --> 00:09:19,860  
that there are some people  
living in a civilized world

177  
00:09:19,860 --> 00:09:21,870  
and claiming that they  
are living because Rabbi

178  
00:09:21,870 --> 00:09:26,210  
Weissmandel saves them  
with his negotiations,

179  
00:09:26,210 --> 00:09:27,200  
well, I can only smile.

180  
00:09:27,200 --> 00:09:28,130  
I didn't say this.

181  
00:09:28,130 --> 00:09:28,820  
I just--

182  
00:09:28,820 --> 00:09:30,380  
For instance, [INAUDIBLE].

183  
00:09:30,380 --> 00:09:32,780  
And you smile a lot of  
times not only talking

184  
00:09:32,780 --> 00:09:34,280  
about Rabbi Weissmandel.

185



00:09:34,280 --> 00:09:37,030

I look also nicer when I smile.

186

00:09:37,030 --> 00:09:40,810

187

00:09:40,810 --> 00:09:42,190

I'm not sure.

188

00:09:42,190 --> 00:09:42,880

I hope.

189

00:09:42,880 --> 00:09:50,820

190

00:09:50,820 --> 00:09:52,190

(film logistics - cut)

191

00:09:52,190 --> 00:09:54,290

192

00:09:54,290 --> 00:09:57,340

[AUDIO OUT]

193

00:09:57,340 --> 00:14:07,109