

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,520
--which was--

2
00:00:01,520 --> 00:00:03,804
(film technical matter)

3
00:00:03,804 --> 00:00:05,196
No?

4
00:00:05,196 --> 00:00:06,510
(film slating)

5
00:00:06,510 --> 00:00:10,740

6
00:00:10,740 --> 00:00:14,510
By December of
1943, the pressure

7
00:00:14,510 --> 00:00:19,430
for some action on the
part of the governments

8
00:00:19,430 --> 00:00:21,590
grew much more intense.

9
00:00:21,590 --> 00:00:24,020
In the Senate,
the resolution had

10
00:00:24,020 --> 00:00:29,780
been introduced, signed
by 12 different senators

11
00:00:29,780 --> 00:00:34,460
and asking that
plans be formulated

12
00:00:34,460 --> 00:00:38,690
to save the Jews of
Europe from extinction.

13
00:00:38,690 --> 00:00:44,360
The resolution ended, we have
talked, we have sympathized,

14
00:00:44,360 --> 00:00:46,370
we have expressed our horror.

15
00:00:46,370 --> 00:00:51,555
The time to act is
long, long past due.

16
00:00:51,555 --> 00:00:52,055
Yes.

17
00:00:52,055 --> 00:00:58,600
There is a striking fact too,
is that the all the reports

18
00:00:58,600 --> 00:01:01,310
and the statements from
the State Department

19
00:01:01,310 --> 00:01:03,599
that we have a right
and that we have a--

20
00:01:03,599 --> 00:01:04,099
Yes.

21
00:01:04,099 --> 00:01:05,580
--our disposal.

22
00:01:05,580 --> 00:01:10,810
When they handled with the
problem of the refugees,

23
00:01:10,810 --> 00:01:13,830
in such a case it was,
as a matter of fact,

24
00:01:13,830 --> 00:01:16,230

specifically the Jews.

25

00:01:16,230 --> 00:01:22,040

They never dared to use
specifically the word Jewish.

26

00:01:22,040 --> 00:01:24,440

They always refused
this, to have

27

00:01:24,440 --> 00:01:27,770

even quotations of
the Breckenridge Long

28

00:01:27,770 --> 00:01:30,500

or the head of the European
Division of the State

29

00:01:30,500 --> 00:01:33,660

Department, would
say that in handling

30

00:01:33,660 --> 00:01:35,740

this problem of the refugees.

31

00:01:35,740 --> 00:01:38,480

32

00:01:38,480 --> 00:01:43,510

One must not deal with the
people of a particular race

33

00:01:43,510 --> 00:01:45,680

or face.

34

00:01:45,680 --> 00:01:47,045

This is a very--

35

00:01:47,045 --> 00:01:49,910

this is very striking,
they wanted one way

36

00:01:49,910 --> 00:01:54,710
to draw on the Jewish question
in a much more general problem,

37
00:01:54,710 --> 00:01:56,960
and the Jews actually
were the only one

38
00:01:56,960 --> 00:01:59,955
who were in danger
of imminent death.

39
00:01:59,955 --> 00:02:02,943

40
00:02:02,943 --> 00:02:04,610
I don't know if they
were the only ones,

41
00:02:04,610 --> 00:02:08,630
I think there were some Poles
that were non-Jewish too.

42
00:02:08,630 --> 00:02:11,870
But the answer is
that the basic problem

43
00:02:11,870 --> 00:02:15,060
had to do with the Jews,
and everybody knew it.

44
00:02:15,060 --> 00:02:16,740
Yes.

45
00:02:16,740 --> 00:02:17,870
Everybody knew it?

46
00:02:17,870 --> 00:02:18,990
Of course.

47
00:02:18,990 --> 00:02:19,490
Yes.

48

00:02:19,490 --> 00:02:22,200

49

00:02:22,200 --> 00:02:24,350

Well, let's find
out what to find,

50

00:02:24,350 --> 00:02:30,020

how is the Treasury
which was dealing mainly

51

00:02:30,020 --> 00:02:33,780

with the financial problems,
with money problems.

52

00:02:33,780 --> 00:02:38,270

How was the Treasury became
involved in this story,

53

00:02:38,270 --> 00:02:42,830

and when did it start,
under each circumstances?

54

00:02:42,830 --> 00:02:47,780

Well, the story goes
back to March of 1943.

55

00:02:47,780 --> 00:02:50,510

This was before the
Treasury had any knowledge

56

00:02:50,510 --> 00:02:54,680

of what was going on as far
as the State Department was

57

00:02:54,680 --> 00:02:56,600

concerned.

58

00:02:56,600 --> 00:03:00,830

In March of '43, the World
Jewish Congress representative

59

00:03:00,830 --> 00:03:06,920
in London sent word that there
was a possibility of rescuing

60
00:03:06,920 --> 00:03:12,298
Jews in Romania and they got--

61
00:03:12,298 --> 00:03:14,590
and this was brought to the
attention of Sumner Welles.

62
00:03:14,590 --> 00:03:17,240
Sumner Welles was
the Undersecretary

63
00:03:17,240 --> 00:03:18,910
of the State Department.

64
00:03:18,910 --> 00:03:22,220
Did they say how many
Jews could be rescued?

65
00:03:22,220 --> 00:03:25,790
They said a substantial
number at this point,

66
00:03:25,790 --> 00:03:29,480
and Sumner Welles then
cabled to our Legation

67
00:03:29,480 --> 00:03:33,050
in Switzerland, which was
a key place because all

68
00:03:33,050 --> 00:03:35,750
the information as
to what was going

69
00:03:35,750 --> 00:03:39,170
on filtered into
Switzerland, and asked

70
00:03:39,170 --> 00:03:43,160

for more specific information.

71

00:03:43,160 --> 00:03:48,410

And then in April, a couple
of months having gone by,

72

00:03:48,410 --> 00:03:54,050

the State Department received
a cable from Bern, Switzerland

73

00:03:54,050 --> 00:03:56,960

indicating how financial
arrangements could be made

74

00:03:56,960 --> 00:04:02,870

to help rescue Romanian Jews.

75

00:04:02,870 --> 00:04:09,410

And then the State Department
then went back on May of 1943

76

00:04:09,410 --> 00:04:13,296

and asked for a clarification
of the financial arrangements.

77

00:04:13,296 --> 00:04:16,160

Now despite the fact that
the Treasury was in charge

78

00:04:16,160 --> 00:04:18,880

of the financial controls--

79

00:04:18,880 --> 00:04:22,420

No money could be given without
permission of the Treasury?

80

00:04:22,420 --> 00:04:23,960

No, it had to be--
the Foreign Funds

81

00:04:23,960 --> 00:04:25,450

Control had to issue a license.

82

00:04:25,450 --> 00:04:26,120

This means you?

83

00:04:26,120 --> 00:04:28,520

That meant me, that
meant our staff.

84

00:04:28,520 --> 00:04:31,040

85

00:04:31,040 --> 00:04:33,260

But this was not brought
to the Treasury's attention

86

00:04:33,260 --> 00:04:34,760

at that point at
all, we didn't know

87

00:04:34,760 --> 00:04:37,310

that anybody was trying
to send the funds

88

00:04:37,310 --> 00:04:40,580

or that it was being held up.

89

00:04:40,580 --> 00:04:43,160

But finally, the State
Department got in touch

90

00:04:43,160 --> 00:04:46,970

with the Treasury and we had
a conference with the State

91

00:04:46,970 --> 00:04:49,040

Department on this matter.

92

00:04:49,040 --> 00:04:49,910

When was it?

93

00:04:49,910 --> 00:04:51,640

This was in July of 1943--

94

00:04:51,640 --> 00:04:53,480

It's been much to July--

95

00:04:53,480 --> 00:04:54,120

--that's right.

96

00:04:54,120 --> 00:04:57,200

--it was already a lot
of time which passed.

97

00:04:57,200 --> 00:05:00,580

The day after the conference,
we advised the State Department

98

00:05:00,580 --> 00:05:01,080

we--

99

00:05:01,080 --> 00:05:03,050

Well then, could you talk
about the conference?

100

00:05:03,050 --> 00:05:04,770

Did you participate
yourself in--

101

00:05:04,770 --> 00:05:05,270

Yes, yes.

102

00:05:05,270 --> 00:05:06,170

--this matter?

103

00:05:06,170 --> 00:05:08,360

Do you remember the--

104

00:05:08,360 --> 00:05:11,290

how was the conference went on?

105

00:05:11,290 --> 00:05:13,090

Well, not precisely.

106

00:05:13,090 --> 00:05:14,830

I just remember
we discussed the--

107
00:05:14,830 --> 00:05:17,860

108
00:05:17,860 --> 00:05:20,830
what was wanted,
what was needed to--

109
00:05:20,830 --> 00:05:23,170
what kind of license
should be issued.

110
00:05:23,170 --> 00:05:27,910
And we said we'd consider
whether the safeguards were

111
00:05:27,910 --> 00:05:31,510
such that this would not result
in foreign exchange going

112
00:05:31,510 --> 00:05:33,470
to the Germans.

113
00:05:33,470 --> 00:05:34,690
This was a concern, yes.

114
00:05:34,690 --> 00:05:37,580
That was a concern, and the
Treasury up to that point,

115
00:05:37,580 --> 00:05:40,570
had taken a rather
absolute position

116
00:05:40,570 --> 00:05:42,990
that there should be
no communications,

117
00:05:42,990 --> 00:05:45,730
direct or indirect,
with enemy territory.

118
00:05:45,730 --> 00:05:48,970
So we had been very rigid
on this ground ourselves.

119
00:05:48,970 --> 00:05:53,380
But the day after the conference
in the State Department on July

120
00:05:53,380 --> 00:05:56,895
16, we had resolved
our problems and we

121
00:05:56,895 --> 00:05:58,270
told the State
Department we were

122
00:05:58,270 --> 00:05:59,950
prepared to issue the license.

123
00:05:59,950 --> 00:06:02,800
Yes but, this must
have been a real shock,

124
00:06:02,800 --> 00:06:06,570
your agreement from the people
of the State Department.

125
00:06:06,570 --> 00:06:07,070
Well--

126
00:06:07,070 --> 00:06:13,020
It was, as far as
the records are true,

127
00:06:13,020 --> 00:06:18,770
during this conference of July
15 in which you participated,

128
00:06:18,770 --> 00:06:22,730
there were people of the State
Department like Robert Borden

129

00:06:22,730 --> 00:06:30,150

Reams for instance, who threw
real cold water on the proposal

130

00:06:30,150 --> 00:06:32,980

saying that the--

131

00:06:32,980 --> 00:06:35,710

one should make an
agreement with the Germans

132

00:06:35,710 --> 00:06:40,960

before letting any Jew escape
from the Romania which was

133

00:06:40,960 --> 00:06:44,440

completely, completely wrong.

134

00:06:44,440 --> 00:06:46,200

Well in any event, the
Treasury Department

135

00:06:46,200 --> 00:06:52,130

decided to go ahead,
that was on July 16.

136

00:06:52,130 --> 00:06:54,490

This means you
acted very quickly.

137

00:06:54,490 --> 00:06:56,750

Yes, the next day.

138

00:06:56,750 --> 00:06:59,740

But, the license was an issue.

139

00:06:59,740 --> 00:07:02,710

Without going through
all the delays

140

00:07:02,710 --> 00:07:06,520

that took place after

that, the State Department

141

00:07:06,520 --> 00:07:11,830
had cabled to our
embassy Legation in Bern

142

00:07:11,830 --> 00:07:15,760
saying the Treasury Department
wants to issue this license.

143

00:07:15,760 --> 00:07:19,470
And giving the Legation the
idea of the State Department

144

00:07:19,470 --> 00:07:23,110
didn't think so much of
this, and the Legation

145

00:07:23,110 --> 00:07:26,380
came back and said, we ought
to consult with the British.

146

00:07:26,380 --> 00:07:27,910
And they consulted
with the British,

147

00:07:27,910 --> 00:07:30,850
and the British raised
objections to this,

148

00:07:30,850 --> 00:07:35,260
so there was just one month
after another of delay.

149

00:07:35,260 --> 00:07:40,370
Why was it the Legation of
the United States in Bern

150

00:07:40,370 --> 00:07:43,020
who had to deal
with the British?

151

00:07:43,020 --> 00:07:45,190

Well because the United
States and the British

152
00:07:45,190 --> 00:07:49,420
had certain joint
controls on communications

153
00:07:49,420 --> 00:07:52,570
with enemy property
and enemy territory,

154
00:07:52,570 --> 00:07:56,170
and that procedure had
been established earlier.

155
00:07:56,170 --> 00:07:59,950
But it was used here
and the effect of it

156
00:07:59,950 --> 00:08:04,250
was to delay the issuance
of the license much further.

157
00:08:04,250 --> 00:08:07,580
This means after the
Treasury gave agreement--

158
00:08:07,580 --> 00:08:08,080
Yes.

159
00:08:08,080 --> 00:08:11,650
--the State Department succeeded
to delay for how many months?

160
00:08:11,650 --> 00:08:14,830
That was the effect
of it, until December.

161
00:08:14,830 --> 00:08:16,570
From July till December?

162
00:08:16,570 --> 00:08:17,920
That's right.

163
00:08:17,920 --> 00:08:22,660
And then only-- it was only
issued after Mr. Morgenthau had

164
00:08:22,660 --> 00:08:24,730
taken the matter up
with Secretary Hull

165
00:08:24,730 --> 00:08:28,010
and made an appointment
to see Secretary Hull

166
00:08:28,010 --> 00:08:28,860
And then?

167
00:08:28,860 --> 00:08:32,380
And then finally, the State
Department very hurriedly

168
00:08:32,380 --> 00:08:35,440
issued the license
without even consulting us

169
00:08:35,440 --> 00:08:37,659
as to what the
license would say.

170
00:08:37,659 --> 00:08:39,460
So then at least,
they were in a hurry.

171
00:08:39,460 --> 00:08:41,559
They were in a hurry
at the very end, yes.

172
00:08:41,559 --> 00:08:42,640
Why?

173
00:08:42,640 --> 00:08:46,270
Well because they recognized
that this-- there'd

174

00:08:46,270 --> 00:08:51,160

been all this delay
and we had also

175

00:08:51,160 --> 00:08:55,870

uncovered a matter involving
a cable that had been sent

176

00:08:55,870 --> 00:08:59,570

earlier to the Bern Legation.

177

00:08:59,570 --> 00:09:01,930

Well this means
that the proposal

178

00:09:01,930 --> 00:09:07,120

for the rescue of the Jews
in Romania was made in March.

179

00:09:07,120 --> 00:09:11,050

And that from March to December,
in spite that of the fact

180

00:09:11,050 --> 00:09:13,930

that the Treasury
gave its agreement

181

00:09:13,930 --> 00:09:19,430

as soon as you got some
knowledge of the facts,

182

00:09:19,430 --> 00:09:24,050

this means that there was
a delay of nine months.

183

00:09:24,050 --> 00:09:29,560

Really, really the Treasury
issued it and indicated in July

184

00:09:29,560 --> 00:09:32,080

that we would do it,
and it was in December

185

00:09:32,080 --> 00:09:33,628
that the license was issued--

186

00:09:33,628 --> 00:09:34,128
Yes.

187

00:09:34,128 --> 00:09:41,910

188

00:09:41,910 --> 00:09:42,940
Can you talk about the--

189

00:09:42,940 --> 00:09:51,760

190

00:09:51,760 --> 00:09:54,700
(film slating)

191

00:09:54,700 --> 00:09:56,660

192

00:09:56,660 --> 00:10:04,280
Finally in January 1944,
the Treasury got in the act.

193

00:10:04,280 --> 00:10:08,660
I say finally, because we
recognize it was very late,

194

00:10:08,660 --> 00:10:14,480
it was late in the
war and late in trying

195

00:10:14,480 --> 00:10:21,080
to do anything about the
extermination of the Jews.

196

00:10:21,080 --> 00:10:25,910
The Treasury had
encountered evidence

197

00:10:25,910 --> 00:10:29,480
that was so shocking
they felt it

198
00:10:29,480 --> 00:10:32,820
had to be brought to the
attention of the President.

199
00:10:32,820 --> 00:10:37,540
And this was done
in January '44.

200
00:10:37,540 --> 00:10:41,390
And these are the facts that
the Treasury brought out

201
00:10:41,390 --> 00:10:43,850
in Secretary
Morganthau's memorandum

202
00:10:43,850 --> 00:10:47,030
to President Roosevelt.

203
00:10:47,030 --> 00:10:49,580
Basically, the facts
were that there

204
00:10:49,580 --> 00:10:56,000
was a real possibility
in 1943 of rescuing

205
00:10:56,000 --> 00:11:00,020
a considerable number
of Jews in Romania.

206
00:11:00,020 --> 00:11:03,920
This had been uncovered by
the World Jewish Congress

207
00:11:03,920 --> 00:11:06,830
and its representative
in London sent a cable

208

00:11:06,830 --> 00:11:12,890
on March 13, 1943 to their
offices in the United States

209
00:11:12,890 --> 00:11:16,760
and said that this
possibility existed.

210
00:11:16,760 --> 00:11:18,590
The World Jewish Congress
then got in touch

211
00:11:18,590 --> 00:11:22,600
with Sumner Welles who was
Undersecretary of State,

212
00:11:22,600 --> 00:11:25,797
and he cabled our
Legation in Switzerland

213
00:11:25,797 --> 00:11:28,130
and requested them to get in
touch with the World Jewish

214
00:11:28,130 --> 00:11:32,840
Congress and get the
facts, which they did.

215
00:11:32,840 --> 00:11:35,600
On April 20, State
Department received a cable

216
00:11:35,600 --> 00:11:39,830
from Bern relating to the
proposed financial arrangements

217
00:11:39,830 --> 00:11:42,650
in connection with
the evacuation of Jews

218
00:11:42,650 --> 00:11:46,440
from Romania and France.

219

00:11:46,440 --> 00:11:49,550
In France, excuse me these were
mostly children who would--

220
00:11:49,550 --> 00:11:50,050
Yes.

221
00:11:50,050 --> 00:11:51,230
--being saved, yes.

222
00:11:51,230 --> 00:11:57,900
On April, following that
April 20 cable on May 25,

223
00:11:57,900 --> 00:12:00,200
the State Department asked
for further information

224
00:12:00,200 --> 00:12:03,480
about the financial
arrangements.

225
00:12:03,480 --> 00:12:05,480
This hadn't been brought
at all to the attention

226
00:12:05,480 --> 00:12:08,720
of the Treasury at that
time, despite the fact

227
00:12:08,720 --> 00:12:12,110
the Treasury was
responsible for licensing

228
00:12:12,110 --> 00:12:14,780
any transactions with Europe.

229
00:12:14,780 --> 00:12:17,660
Do you remember
if the transaction

230
00:12:17,660 --> 00:12:20,290
involved a lot of money?

231
00:12:20,290 --> 00:12:23,430
Oh well, I don't--
no, I don't remember,

232
00:12:23,430 --> 00:12:29,000
but I would assume 100,000
or so to start with.

233
00:12:29,000 --> 00:12:31,730
Then, finally, the
State Department

234
00:12:31,730 --> 00:12:37,130
raised it with the
Treasury on June 25, 1943

235
00:12:37,130 --> 00:12:39,650
and we had a conference
with the State Department

236
00:12:39,650 --> 00:12:42,710
on July 15, 1943.

237
00:12:42,710 --> 00:12:48,200
At that conference, the State
Department was quite negative.

238
00:12:48,200 --> 00:12:51,200
It worried about the
possibility of funds

239
00:12:51,200 --> 00:12:54,020
falling in the hands
of the Germans,

240
00:12:54,020 --> 00:12:56,450
giving them foreign exchange.

241
00:12:56,450 --> 00:13:01,280
It felt that the arrangements
for getting Romanian Jews out

242

00:13:01,280 --> 00:13:02,780

had to be cleared
with the Germans

243

00:13:02,780 --> 00:13:07,470

before any license was
issued, and so forth.

244

00:13:07,470 --> 00:13:12,650

The Treasury was sort of put
on the spot in this matter

245

00:13:12,650 --> 00:13:17,510

because our general
view had been

246

00:13:17,510 --> 00:13:21,440

we didn't allow any transactions
with enemy territory.

247

00:13:21,440 --> 00:13:25,310

However, we went back and
explored this very thoroughly

248

00:13:25,310 --> 00:13:30,650

in the Treasury and decided
that we could put safeguards

249

00:13:30,650 --> 00:13:34,820

in the procedures so that
no foreign exchange would

250

00:13:34,820 --> 00:13:36,320

come to the Germans.

251

00:13:36,320 --> 00:13:39,170

So the next day, we advised
the State Department

252

00:13:39,170 --> 00:13:41,740

that we were prepared
to issue the license.

253

00:13:41,740 --> 00:13:42,800

The next day--

254

00:13:42,800 --> 00:13:45,260

On July 16.

255

00:13:45,260 --> 00:13:51,530

Then from July 16 until

December, some five months,

256

00:13:51,530 --> 00:13:54,970

nothing, no license was issued.

257

00:13:54,970 --> 00:13:57,860

And no license was issued

because the State Department

258

00:13:57,860 --> 00:14:01,670

never was ready

to say, go ahead.

259

00:14:01,670 --> 00:14:03,680

They sent a cable to the

Legation in Switzerland

260

00:14:03,680 --> 00:14:06,830

and said, the

Treasury Department

261

00:14:06,830 --> 00:14:10,630

thinks they are prepared

to issue a license.

262

00:14:10,630 --> 00:14:13,160

The Legation in

Bern then took it up

263

00:14:13,160 --> 00:14:15,290

with the British and

the British objected,

264

00:14:15,290 --> 00:14:18,590

and one delay after
another ensued.

265

00:14:18,590 --> 00:14:23,910
And only after Mr. Morgenthau
had written to Secretary Hull,

266

00:14:23,910 --> 00:14:28,190
had asked for a conference
with Secretary of State Hull,

267

00:14:28,190 --> 00:14:32,240
did the Treasury-- the
State Department issue

268

00:14:32,240 --> 00:14:35,160
hurriedly the license
that was necessary.

269

00:14:35,160 --> 00:14:38,660
And of course then,
it was too late.

270

00:14:38,660 --> 00:14:40,160
It was too late, that's --

271

00:14:40,160 --> 00:14:43,400
Well it was pretty
much too late.

272

00:14:43,400 --> 00:14:45,710
The opportunity
to this situation

273

00:14:45,710 --> 00:14:48,310
had changed in
Europe by that time.

274

00:14:48,310 --> 00:14:48,810
Yes.

275

00:14:48,810 --> 00:14:51,260
And it was much more

difficult to get people out,

276

00:14:51,260 --> 00:14:55,910
and the Romanians were less free
to do what they wanted to do.

277

00:14:55,910 --> 00:14:59,810
Yes, it was too late for the
Jews of Romania whatsoever.

278

00:14:59,810 --> 00:15:03,590
One reason the State Department
might have hurriedly issued

279

00:15:03,590 --> 00:15:08,280
the license when Mr. Morgenthau
was going over to see Mr. Hull

280

00:15:08,280 --> 00:15:15,800
was that we had uncovered some
rather shocking information

281

00:15:15,800 --> 00:15:16,610
to this effect.

282

00:15:16,610 --> 00:15:20,390

283

00:15:20,390 --> 00:15:24,530
Our Legation in Bern had
been sending information

284

00:15:24,530 --> 00:15:29,810
to the United States for
various Jewish organizations.

285

00:15:29,810 --> 00:15:31,760
Some of this
information had to do

286

00:15:31,760 --> 00:15:35,088
with what was happening in
Germany and the extermination

287
00:15:35,088 --> 00:15:35,630
of the Jews--

288
00:15:35,630 --> 00:15:37,080
And in Poland?

289
00:15:37,080 --> 00:15:37,580
What?

290
00:15:37,580 --> 00:15:38,205
And in Poland--

291
00:15:38,205 --> 00:15:39,830
In Poland, yes.

292
00:15:39,830 --> 00:15:47,030
And finally, a cable was
sent to the Legation saying,

293
00:15:47,030 --> 00:15:50,870
please do not send any more
information of this nature

294
00:15:50,870 --> 00:15:54,440
to the United States, except
in exceptional circumstances.

295
00:15:54,440 --> 00:15:57,260

296
00:15:57,260 --> 00:16:02,150
We were able, through friends
in the State Department,

297
00:16:02,150 --> 00:16:09,650
to bring out that this
cable had been sent

298
00:16:09,650 --> 00:16:14,657
and we asked for a
copy of the cable.

299

00:16:14,657 --> 00:16:16,490

We knew the number of
it and the date of it,

300

00:16:16,490 --> 00:16:18,620

and we asked for a
copy of the cable.

301

00:16:18,620 --> 00:16:20,510

And when we got the
cable, it didn't

302

00:16:20,510 --> 00:16:23,540

contain this
instruction, but it just

303

00:16:23,540 --> 00:16:26,600

contained other material
that was in the cable.

304

00:16:26,600 --> 00:16:29,690

So it was deliberately
withheld from us

305

00:16:29,690 --> 00:16:32,210

and Mr. Morgenthau was
prepared to take this up

306

00:16:32,210 --> 00:16:36,020

with Secretary
Hull which he did.

307

00:16:36,020 --> 00:16:39,830

I think we should enter into
the details of the cables,

308

00:16:39,830 --> 00:16:42,690

because if we don't
enter into the details,

309

00:16:42,690 --> 00:16:48,210

it would be difficult

to understand.

310

00:16:48,210 --> 00:16:49,635
(film instructions - cut)

311

00:16:49,635 --> 00:16:54,660

312

00:16:54,660 --> 00:16:56,157
(film slating)

313

00:16:56,157 --> 00:16:59,740

314

00:16:59,740 --> 00:17:04,720
One reason the State
Department was on the defensive

315

00:17:04,720 --> 00:17:08,020
in the matter of licensing
the transaction involving

316

00:17:08,020 --> 00:17:11,020
the Romanian Jews,
and at the end

317

00:17:11,020 --> 00:17:17,470
hurriedly issued the license,
was because of a cable that

318

00:17:17,470 --> 00:17:20,839
later became rather famous.

319

00:17:20,839 --> 00:17:23,380
I'm reading now from
a memorandum that

320

00:17:23,380 --> 00:17:27,790
was sent by the general counsel
of the Treasury, Randolph Paul

321

00:17:27,790 --> 00:17:30,160

to the Secretary of
the Treasury which

322
00:17:30,160 --> 00:17:33,740
outlines the circumstances
under which this cable was sent.

323
00:17:33,740 --> 00:17:38,130

324
00:17:38,130 --> 00:17:42,000
On October 5,
1942, Sumner Welles

325
00:17:42,000 --> 00:17:43,800
as acting Secretary
of State, sent

326
00:17:43,800 --> 00:17:49,350
a cable to Minister Harrison,
our minister in Bern,

327
00:17:49,350 --> 00:17:51,480
saying that reports
had been received

328
00:17:51,480 --> 00:17:55,110
by the World Jewish Congress
of thousands of Jews

329
00:17:55,110 --> 00:17:58,170
in Eastern Europe
being slaughtered

330
00:17:58,170 --> 00:18:00,680
and asked that the--

331
00:18:00,680 --> 00:18:06,900
our minister contact
the Jewish organizations

332
00:18:06,900 --> 00:18:12,150
and see what information could

be received, was available.

333

00:18:12,150 --> 00:18:15,690

The State Department received
several cables in reply

334

00:18:15,690 --> 00:18:17,820

to this.

335

00:18:17,820 --> 00:18:25,690

The most significant was a cable
on January 21, 1943 number 482.

336

00:18:25,690 --> 00:18:29,490

It relayed a message
which was stated

337

00:18:29,490 --> 00:18:32,490

to be for the information of
the Undersecretary of State, Mr.

338

00:18:32,490 --> 00:18:36,930

Welles and to be transmitted
to Rabbi Stephen Wise,

339

00:18:36,930 --> 00:18:40,380

if the Undersecretary
should so determine.

340

00:18:40,380 --> 00:18:43,350

This message described a
horrible situation concerning

341

00:18:43,350 --> 00:18:45,660

the plight of Jews in Europe.

342

00:18:45,660 --> 00:18:48,630

They reported mass
execution of Jews

343

00:18:48,630 --> 00:18:50,850

in Poland, according
to one source,

344
00:18:50,850 --> 00:18:54,150
6,000 Jews were
being killed daily.

345
00:18:54,150 --> 00:18:56,140
The Jews were required
before execution

346
00:18:56,140 --> 00:18:58,890
to strip themselves of
all their clothing, which

347
00:18:58,890 --> 00:19:00,690
was sent to Germany.

348
00:19:00,690 --> 00:19:03,900
The remaining Jews in Poland
were confined in ghettos.

349
00:19:03,900 --> 00:19:06,780
In Germany, deportations
were continuing,

350
00:19:06,780 --> 00:19:08,616
many Jews were in
hiding, and there

351
00:19:08,616 --> 00:19:10,950
had been many cases of suicide.

352
00:19:10,950 --> 00:19:13,770
Jews were being deprived
of ration foodstuffs,

353
00:19:13,770 --> 00:19:17,280
no Jews would be left in Prague
or Berlin by the end of March.

354
00:19:17,280 --> 00:19:21,900
And in Romania, 130,000 Jews
were deported to Transnistria,

355

00:19:21,900 --> 00:19:25,680
about 60,000 had already
died and the remaining 70,000

356

00:19:25,680 --> 00:19:27,860
were starving.

357

00:19:27,860 --> 00:19:31,770
Sumner Welles then,
on his own initiative,

358

00:19:31,770 --> 00:19:35,970
furnished this information
to Rabbi Wise and it was then

359

00:19:35,970 --> 00:19:39,480
circulated among the
various Jewish organizations

360

00:19:39,480 --> 00:19:40,460
and became public.

361

00:19:40,460 --> 00:19:45,560

362

00:19:45,560 --> 00:19:49,790
That was done on
February 9, 1943,

363

00:19:49,790 --> 00:19:51,900
the information was
furnished to Rabbi Wise.

364

00:19:51,900 --> 00:19:54,410

365

00:19:54,410 --> 00:19:58,580
On February 10 the next
day, a significant cable

366

00:19:58,580 --> 00:20:02,480
was sent back to the

Legation in Switzerland.

Contact reference@ushmm.org for further information about this collection

367
00:20:02,480 --> 00:20:03,350
It read--

368
00:20:03,350 --> 00:20:04,912
By whom?

369
00:20:04,912 --> 00:20:06,620
Well it was sent by
the State Department,

370
00:20:06,620 --> 00:20:10,310
it was signed with
Welles' name, but this

371
00:20:10,310 --> 00:20:13,420
is the way the State
Department does things.

372
00:20:13,420 --> 00:20:17,630
The cable read,
your 482 January 21,

373
00:20:17,630 --> 00:20:21,330
meaning it was referring to
the report of the extermination

374
00:20:21,330 --> 00:20:23,710
to which I just referred to.

375
00:20:23,710 --> 00:20:25,820
And the cable went
on, in the future,

376
00:20:25,820 --> 00:20:29,360
we would suggest you do not
accept reports submitted

377
00:20:29,360 --> 00:20:32,900
to you to be transmitted to
private persons in the United

378

00:20:32,900 --> 00:20:36,260

States, unless such action
is advisable because

379

00:20:36,260 --> 00:20:38,540

of extraordinary circumstances.

380

00:20:38,540 --> 00:20:43,250

Such private messages circumvent
neutral countries censorship

381

00:20:43,250 --> 00:20:46,070

in itself that by sending
them, we risk the possibility

382

00:20:46,070 --> 00:20:49,730

that steps would necessarily be
taken by the neutral countries

383

00:20:49,730 --> 00:20:53,150

to curtail, or forbid,
our means of communication

384

00:20:53,150 --> 00:20:56,690

for confidential,
official matter.

385

00:20:56,690 --> 00:21:02,390

Now read in the light of
the reference to your 482

386

00:21:02,390 --> 00:21:05,995

January 21, this
cable makes it clear

387

00:21:05,995 --> 00:21:08,120

that the people in the
State Department are saying,

388

00:21:08,120 --> 00:21:11,090

don't send any
more messages over

389

00:21:11,090 --> 00:21:13,400

about what's
happening to the Jews.

390

00:21:13,400 --> 00:21:16,610

It was quite clear.

391

00:21:16,610 --> 00:21:19,840

We were advised by--

392

00:21:19,840 --> 00:21:21,640

That's very strange
because the cable

393

00:21:21,640 --> 00:21:25,557

was sent at the request
of the acting Secretary--

394

00:21:25,557 --> 00:21:26,140

That's right--

395

00:21:26,140 --> 00:21:28,015

--of State [? that it had ?]
[? come from. ?]

396

00:21:28,015 --> 00:21:31,470

But I didn't quite understand.

397

00:21:31,470 --> 00:21:37,640

No, I mean the cable which,
for all this information

398

00:21:37,640 --> 00:21:40,190

was sent as a request
at some awareness--

399

00:21:40,190 --> 00:21:41,960

That's right.

400

00:21:41,960 --> 00:21:46,640

But nevertheless, it was
used as a vehicle for saying,

401
00:21:46,640 --> 00:21:49,130
don't send any more
information over the coast

402
00:21:49,130 --> 00:21:52,100
to private agencies, even
though the cables said,

403
00:21:52,100 --> 00:21:57,020
send it to Rabbi Wise if
you think it's advisable.

404
00:21:57,020 --> 00:22:01,640
In any event, we did discover
that this cable had been sent

405
00:22:01,640 --> 00:22:03,980
and we asked for a copy of it.

406
00:22:03,980 --> 00:22:04,700
And--

407
00:22:04,700 --> 00:22:07,370
Excuse me, from this
point, why didn't they

408
00:22:07,370 --> 00:22:11,720
want the Jewish organizations
gets the information?

409
00:22:11,720 --> 00:22:15,320
Well you're asking
for people's motives?

410
00:22:15,320 --> 00:22:19,070
I suppose that this
information necessarily

411
00:22:19,070 --> 00:22:20,660
would cause greater
pressure to be

412

00:22:20,660 --> 00:22:25,140
bought on the State Department
to do something and cause

413

00:22:25,140 --> 00:22:25,640
hysteria.

414

00:22:25,640 --> 00:22:30,150

415

00:22:30,150 --> 00:22:33,840
They felt it was
inadvisable in any event.

416

00:22:33,840 --> 00:22:35,660
This was a pressure
for action as well?

417

00:22:35,660 --> 00:22:37,450
Yes, of course.

418

00:22:37,450 --> 00:22:40,700
And immediately,
emergency meetings

419

00:22:40,700 --> 00:22:43,070
were held in New
York and people were

420

00:22:43,070 --> 00:22:46,130
getting in touch with their
congressmen and asking for--

421

00:22:46,130 --> 00:22:49,100
As the famous Rally of
Madison Square Garden?

422

00:22:49,100 --> 00:22:49,780
That's right.

423

00:22:49,780 --> 00:22:50,720
Or the--

424
00:22:50,720 --> 00:22:54,600
--direct result of this
information being available.

425
00:22:54,600 --> 00:22:57,560
We then asked for a
copy of this cable

426
00:22:57,560 --> 00:23:03,130
and we were advised that it was
a departmental communication,

427
00:23:03,130 --> 00:23:06,150
and it was a strictly
political communication,

428
00:23:06,150 --> 00:23:09,310
which had nothing to do
with economic affairs.

429
00:23:09,310 --> 00:23:11,570
It had only a
limited distribution

430
00:23:11,570 --> 00:23:17,820
within the Department and that
a copy could not be furnished.

431
00:23:17,820 --> 00:23:20,960
Why did you ask for
a copy of this cable?

432
00:23:20,960 --> 00:23:25,100
Well because we wanted to verify
that the State Department was

433
00:23:25,100 --> 00:23:29,110
shutting off information as to
what was happening in Europe.

434
00:23:29,110 --> 00:23:31,010
You had some intel with this.

435
00:23:31,010 --> 00:23:32,790
Oh yeah, we had a
copy of the cable.

436
00:23:32,790 --> 00:23:35,210
Well we wanted-- we were
told what the cable said,

437
00:23:35,210 --> 00:23:37,700
but we wanted a copy of it.

438
00:23:37,700 --> 00:23:42,860
Finally, the secretary in a
meeting with Secretary Hull

439
00:23:42,860 --> 00:23:47,000
asked Breckenridge
Long for this cable.

440
00:23:47,000 --> 00:23:50,350
Or asked Hull for it in the
presence of Breckenridge Long.

441
00:23:50,350 --> 00:23:53,960
Breckenridge Long was-- what
was exactly the function of--

442
00:23:53,960 --> 00:23:56,030
He was in charge
of European affairs

443
00:23:56,030 --> 00:23:57,440
in the Department of State.

444
00:23:57,440 --> 00:24:00,260

445
00:24:00,260 --> 00:24:04,280
Shortly thereafter, Breckenridge
Long sent to the secretary

446

00:24:04,280 --> 00:24:07,100
a paraphrase of this cable.

447
00:24:07,100 --> 00:24:10,100
However the cable,
as paraphrased,

448
00:24:10,100 --> 00:24:14,540
didn't refer at all to
the previous cable which

449
00:24:14,540 --> 00:24:17,300
made it clear that what
they were dealing with

450
00:24:17,300 --> 00:24:20,750
was information as to
the atrocities in Europe.

451
00:24:20,750 --> 00:24:24,740
And therefore we were
misled by this reference

452
00:24:24,740 --> 00:24:26,690
not being included.

453
00:24:26,690 --> 00:24:29,270
But we got this information
from friends in the State

454
00:24:29,270 --> 00:24:34,420
Department, so we knew that they
had intentionally misled us.

455
00:24:34,420 --> 00:24:37,260
Yes, this means that there
were two different things.

456
00:24:37,260 --> 00:24:42,320
One is a concealment
of information--

457
00:24:42,320 --> 00:24:43,610

Repression.

458

00:24:43,610 --> 00:24:46,880
--exactly, repression of
information is a better word.

459

00:24:46,880 --> 00:24:49,660
And the other is
misleading us and failing

460

00:24:49,660 --> 00:24:54,190
to give us a copy of the
cable that was accurate

461

00:24:54,190 --> 00:24:56,560
and without that
reference in there,

462

00:24:56,560 --> 00:25:02,210
it could have been a
completely innocuous cable.

463

00:25:02,210 --> 00:25:04,540
And I think it was this
circumstance that they

464

00:25:04,540 --> 00:25:10,780
had done this that enabled
the Secretary to go

465

00:25:10,780 --> 00:25:12,250
to the President
and say, they're

466

00:25:12,250 --> 00:25:13,720
concealing what's happening.

467

00:25:13,720 --> 00:25:16,600
They're misleading us
and something drastic

468

00:25:16,600 --> 00:25:18,840
has to be done.

469
00:25:18,840 --> 00:25:24,040
This is a real origin of the
creation of the war which we--

470
00:25:24,040 --> 00:25:24,852
Yes, it is.

471
00:25:24,852 --> 00:25:26,540
Yes, it is.

472
00:25:26,540 --> 00:25:30,610
Well, can we enter
into the details,

473
00:25:30,610 --> 00:25:36,410
I mean, Morgenthau who was
the Secretary of the Treasury

474
00:25:36,410 --> 00:25:39,490
reported directly to
President Roosevelt?

475
00:25:39,490 --> 00:25:41,110
That's correct.

476
00:25:41,110 --> 00:25:43,410
He wrote him a very
strong memorandum

477
00:25:43,410 --> 00:25:46,360
and we had a meeting
with Roosevelt,

478
00:25:46,360 --> 00:25:48,140
and reviewed the matter.

479
00:25:48,140 --> 00:25:49,480
You participated, yourself--

480
00:25:49,480 --> 00:25:49,750
Yes,

481
00:25:49,750 --> 00:25:50,500
--in this meeting?

482
00:25:50,500 --> 00:25:51,390
Yes.

483
00:25:51,390 --> 00:25:56,140
The secretary Morgenthau
and Mr. DeBois and myself.

484
00:25:56,140 --> 00:25:59,440
Do you remember how
the meeting went--

485
00:25:59,440 --> 00:26:02,020
Well, I can just remember
that the President

486
00:26:02,020 --> 00:26:05,230
was very interested
in this and could

487
00:26:05,230 --> 00:26:09,910
see that this was an
important thing that had to be

488
00:26:09,910 --> 00:26:12,460
looked at and taken care of.

489
00:26:12,460 --> 00:26:17,890
And I would assume he recognized
his political implications too,

490
00:26:17,890 --> 00:26:20,230
because the State
Department was found

491
00:26:20,230 --> 00:26:25,000
to be taking these actions which
the American public wouldn't

492

00:26:25,000 --> 00:26:27,240
agree with.

493
00:26:27,240 --> 00:26:30,940
Yes, and could you
read the beginning

494
00:26:30,940 --> 00:26:39,355
of the report of these people
to the President which is the--

495
00:26:39,355 --> 00:26:40,736
I can't even find it.

496
00:26:40,736 --> 00:26:47,680

497
00:26:47,680 --> 00:26:48,220
Yes.

498
00:26:48,220 --> 00:26:50,500
Morganthau's memorandum
to the President

499
00:26:50,500 --> 00:26:53,830
said, one of the greatest
crimes in history,

500
00:26:53,830 --> 00:26:55,930
the slaughter of the Jews--

501
00:26:55,930 --> 00:27:00,190
Jewish people in Europe
is continuing unabated.

502
00:27:00,190 --> 00:27:01,750
This government
has for a long time

503
00:27:01,750 --> 00:27:03,880
maintained that its
policy is to work out

504

00:27:03,880 --> 00:27:07,840
programs to save those Jews
and other persecuted minorities

505

00:27:07,840 --> 00:27:10,480
of Europe who could be saved.

506

00:27:10,480 --> 00:27:12,820
You are probably
not as familiar as I

507

00:27:12,820 --> 00:27:15,310
with the utter failure of
certain officials in our State

508

00:27:15,310 --> 00:27:18,130
Department, who are charged
with actually carrying out

509

00:27:18,130 --> 00:27:21,640
this policy to take any
effective action to prevent

510

00:27:21,640 --> 00:27:27,202
the extermination of the Jews
in German control Europe.

511

00:27:27,202 --> 00:27:28,660
The State Department
officials have

512

00:27:28,660 --> 00:27:31,510
failed to take any positive
steps to reasonably calculate

513

00:27:31,510 --> 00:27:33,330
to save any of these people.

514

00:27:33,330 --> 00:27:35,530
Although they have used
devices, such as setting up

515

00:27:35,530 --> 00:27:39,040
intergovernmental organizations
to survey the whole refugee

516
00:27:39,040 --> 00:27:42,730
problem and calling conferences,
such as the Bermuda Conference

517
00:27:42,730 --> 00:27:45,160
to explore the whole
refugee problem,

518
00:27:45,160 --> 00:27:47,020
making it appear that
positive action could

519
00:27:47,020 --> 00:27:50,210
be expected in fact, nothing
has been accomplished.

520
00:27:50,210 --> 00:27:58,330
Yes But, what is a
little bit personal--

521
00:27:58,330 --> 00:28:01,980
(film instructions)

522
00:28:01,980 --> 00:28:04,421