

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:01,850

2
00:00:01,850 --> 00:00:08,870
(film slating)

3
00:00:08,870 --> 00:00:13,960
Do you remember the case-- it
was the Jews of the province

4
00:00:13,960 --> 00:00:18,980
who had to come to Amsterdam
to leave their places

5
00:00:18,980 --> 00:00:21,660
and to and who were (background
noise interference) --

6
00:00:21,660 --> 00:00:30,510

7
00:00:30,510 --> 00:00:32,400
Yes.

8
00:00:32,400 --> 00:00:40,530
And they had to be
located in Jewish houses.

9
00:00:40,530 --> 00:00:43,350
And what is very
interesting is that I

10
00:00:43,350 --> 00:00:49,440
think it's the first time
where the Jewish Council--

11
00:00:49,440 --> 00:00:57,400
the Joodsche Raad Judenrat,
asked the Germans for power--

12
00:00:57,400 --> 00:00:59,770

for compensatory power.

13
00:00:59,770 --> 00:01:08,010
This means that they
didn't wait to be asked.

14
00:01:08,010 --> 00:01:11,550
They were the first to ask
for compensatory powers

15
00:01:11,550 --> 00:01:14,420
against the Jewish occupation.

16
00:01:14,420 --> 00:01:15,720
No, I don't.

17
00:01:15,720 --> 00:01:18,120
I don't remember.

18
00:01:18,120 --> 00:01:24,520
I wasn't very much at
that time connected

19
00:01:24,520 --> 00:01:29,040
with the actions of
the Jewish Council,

20
00:01:29,040 --> 00:01:39,030
and I know that the Germans
decided to make first

21
00:01:39,030 --> 00:01:43,050
the rest of Holland
judenrein and wanted

22
00:01:43,050 --> 00:01:46,710
to do to concentrate all
the Jews in Amsterdam.

23
00:01:46,710 --> 00:01:49,530
And in reality, they did it.

24

00:01:49,530 --> 00:01:54,450
And for all practical
purposes in the eastern part

25
00:01:54,450 --> 00:02:00,390
of Amsterdam a kind of
ghetto was really formed.

26
00:02:00,390 --> 00:02:07,380
But I don't know how far the
Jewish Council interfered

27
00:02:07,380 --> 00:02:09,870
actively in this thing or not.

28
00:02:09,870 --> 00:02:14,850
I've read about it, but I
don't so much for my own

29
00:02:14,850 --> 00:02:18,550
experience about it.

30
00:02:18,550 --> 00:02:22,110
It's clear that from
everything which happened,

31
00:02:22,110 --> 00:02:27,510
the Jewish Council wanted to see
itself as, I would almost say,

32
00:02:27,510 --> 00:02:30,870
the government of
the Jewish community.

33
00:02:30,870 --> 00:02:37,630
And for that, they wanted
also executive power.

34
00:02:37,630 --> 00:02:41,220
But how far they did
it and what cases they

35
00:02:41,220 --> 00:02:48,570

did it, from my own experience,
I'm almost not aware.

36
00:02:48,570 --> 00:02:54,270
We all knew that that's the way
they wanted to see themselves--

37
00:02:54,270 --> 00:02:57,260
they saw themselves--
and they wanted

38
00:02:57,260 --> 00:02:58,980
the Jews to see themselves.

39
00:02:58,980 --> 00:03:02,355
Do you remember for
instance, The Jewish Weekly--

40
00:03:02,355 --> 00:03:03,330
the newspaper.

41
00:03:03,330 --> 00:03:04,890
Oh, yes, of course.

42
00:03:04,890 --> 00:03:05,880
Everybody read it.

43
00:03:05,880 --> 00:03:08,520
We had to read it, because
otherwise you didn't know what

44
00:03:08,520 --> 00:03:11,170
you were allowed to
do or you weren't.

45
00:03:11,170 --> 00:03:14,800
But it was never
clear from that paper

46
00:03:14,800 --> 00:03:18,660
what was the initiative
of the Germans

47

00:03:18,660 --> 00:03:23,000

or what was the initiative
of the Jews themselves.

48

00:03:23,000 --> 00:03:27,230

And that was the
purpose of all--

49

00:03:27,230 --> 00:03:28,950

This is a very
interesting point.

50

00:03:28,950 --> 00:03:30,780

Could you elaborate on this?

51

00:03:30,780 --> 00:03:32,100

It's very important.

52

00:03:32,100 --> 00:03:38,070

The way that the
paper was written

53

00:03:38,070 --> 00:03:50,610

was to give the Jews the feeling
that they got the information

54

00:03:50,610 --> 00:03:57,240

from the source,
which was officially

55

00:03:57,240 --> 00:04:01,710

acknowledged as the source who
could give those directions.

56

00:04:01,710 --> 00:04:06,000

But they almost
never said-- there

57

00:04:06,000 --> 00:04:14,280

were cases in which it was clear
that it was a German directive.

58

00:04:14,280 --> 00:04:16,620
But generally, they would
put it in such a way

59
00:04:16,620 --> 00:04:20,910
that you didn't know if it was
something the Jews thought what

60
00:04:20,910 --> 00:04:24,270
would be that the Jewish
leaders thought which would be

61
00:04:24,270 --> 00:04:27,180
good for the Jews, or
what the Germans thought

62
00:04:27,180 --> 00:04:32,210
would be the right policy
to act towards the Jews.

63
00:04:32,210 --> 00:04:34,410
And it was clear
that if the Jews knew

64
00:04:34,410 --> 00:04:38,850
that it was a German directive,
they were very suspicious.

65
00:04:38,850 --> 00:04:41,340
When they thought
that they were--

66
00:04:41,340 --> 00:04:42,930
in a certain sense
their own leader

67
00:04:42,930 --> 00:04:45,220
thought that that's
the way to act,

68
00:04:45,220 --> 00:04:47,610
they generally acted that way.

69

00:04:47,610 --> 00:04:58,030
And perhaps one of the most
principally right things

70
00:04:58,030 --> 00:05:01,950
which we had against
the Jewish Council--

71
00:05:01,950 --> 00:05:04,350
that people who were
acknowledged leaders

72
00:05:04,350 --> 00:05:12,030
of the community before the
war were giving directions

73
00:05:12,030 --> 00:05:16,000
to the Jews in the
service of the Germans.

74
00:05:16,000 --> 00:05:17,700
And it was clear to the Jews--

75
00:05:17,700 --> 00:05:23,040
to all the Jews-- that the
Germans meant that to all

76
00:05:23,040 --> 00:05:24,810
the Jews perhaps--

77
00:05:24,810 --> 00:05:29,580
no, I wouldn't even say
that the Jewish leaders

78
00:05:29,580 --> 00:05:31,530
were convinced of that.

79
00:05:31,530 --> 00:05:33,210
They didn't act it all the time.

80
00:05:33,210 --> 00:05:34,950
The Jewish leaders were?

81

00:05:34,950 --> 00:05:39,360

I think they were also
convicted that the Germans had

82

00:05:39,360 --> 00:05:43,920

bad purposes, although they
forgot it from time to time.

83

00:05:43,920 --> 00:05:48,000

They thought they had
personal contacts with them,

84

00:05:48,000 --> 00:05:54,210

and they couldn't always
realize that human beings would

85

00:05:54,210 --> 00:05:57,510

be so bad as they really were.

86

00:05:57,510 --> 00:06:01,200

But the bad influence
of The Jewish Weekly

87

00:06:01,200 --> 00:06:10,580

was that the German measures
were brought to the Jews

88

00:06:10,580 --> 00:06:16,760

in a way as if it were
Jewish decisions then.

89

00:06:16,760 --> 00:06:22,628

90

00:06:22,628 --> 00:06:25,520

(film slating)

91

00:06:25,520 --> 00:06:29,750

How did it look,
The Jewish Weekly?

92

00:06:29,750 --> 00:06:32,570

How do you mean how it looks?

93

00:06:32,570 --> 00:06:36,140

It was the size of a newspaper--

94

00:06:36,140 --> 00:06:37,100

That same size--

95

00:06:37,100 --> 00:06:38,200

It has how many pages?

96

00:06:38,200 --> 00:06:40,550

It has the same
size that same size

97

00:06:40,550 --> 00:06:46,460

as The Jewish Weekly which
was published before the war--

98

00:06:46,460 --> 00:06:47,570

exactly the same size.

99

00:06:47,570 --> 00:06:51,320

It was printed on
the same presses.

100

00:06:51,320 --> 00:06:57,410

I don't remember if it had 8
pages or 12, but it had less.

101

00:06:57,410 --> 00:07:02,260

Perhaps I should say something
about the whole development.

102

00:07:02,260 --> 00:07:05,810

If you say how did
The Jewish Weekly look

103

00:07:05,810 --> 00:07:08,720

or how did the
Jewish Council acted,

104

00:07:08,720 --> 00:07:10,640
you should always
take into account

105
00:07:10,640 --> 00:07:16,776
that there was a development
in the time that the--

106
00:07:16,776 --> 00:07:18,950
It's a reason why I ask.

107
00:07:18,950 --> 00:07:24,800
Well, it went from
bad to worse--

108
00:07:24,800 --> 00:07:27,980
everything, everything.

109
00:07:27,980 --> 00:07:34,510
I can't say about anything
that situation became better.

110
00:07:34,510 --> 00:07:39,560
It was worse-- the
situation became worse.

111
00:07:39,560 --> 00:07:43,450
But it was not only the
situation became worse.

112
00:07:43,450 --> 00:07:45,680
The attitude of the
Jews became worse.

113
00:07:45,680 --> 00:07:50,240

114
00:07:50,240 --> 00:07:53,390
The Jewish Weekly became worse.

115
00:07:53,390 --> 00:07:56,960
The attitude of
the Jewish Council

116
00:07:56,960 --> 00:08:04,680
deteriorated first
slowly and then rapidly.

117
00:08:04,680 --> 00:08:11,250
And the whole purpose of
the exercise, which I am

118
00:08:11,250 --> 00:08:12,540
convinced that--

119
00:08:12,540 --> 00:08:17,030

120
00:08:17,030 --> 00:08:22,160
(film slating)

121
00:08:22,160 --> 00:08:27,010
It went everywhere
from bad to worse.

122
00:08:27,010 --> 00:08:35,280
And I would say that if you
take the Jewish Council,

123
00:08:35,280 --> 00:08:39,240
they certainly started out
with the best intentions

124
00:08:39,240 --> 00:08:42,669
for the whole Jewish community.

125
00:08:42,669 --> 00:08:49,170
But they were not willing
or not able to think

126
00:08:49,170 --> 00:08:51,000
about the whole thing again.

127
00:08:51,000 --> 00:08:54,780
And when it became clear that

they couldn't do anything

128
00:08:54,780 --> 00:08:58,430
for the whole community,
they decided to do something

129
00:08:58,430 --> 00:09:01,060
for a part of the community--

130
00:09:01,060 --> 00:09:02,460
their part.

131
00:09:02,460 --> 00:09:06,690
And then that every
time they made a circle,

132
00:09:06,690 --> 00:09:13,950
they tried to save
smaller until the end,

133
00:09:13,950 --> 00:09:16,260
they had only their
very close friends

134
00:09:16,260 --> 00:09:21,360
and family which they were
thinking they could save--

135
00:09:21,360 --> 00:09:23,260
they could protect.

136
00:09:23,260 --> 00:09:26,890
And you could see
it everywhere--

137
00:09:26,890 --> 00:09:28,230
everywhere.

138
00:09:28,230 --> 00:09:32,130
You mentioned the Jewish paper.

139
00:09:32,130 --> 00:09:36,840

Well, it started out as
a paper in which articles

140
00:09:36,840 --> 00:09:39,630
would be written about
Jewish problems--

141
00:09:39,630 --> 00:09:43,060
about Jewish culture.

142
00:09:43,060 --> 00:09:45,210
They did create
it, and in the end,

143
00:09:45,210 --> 00:09:51,460
it was two pages with
only instructions

144
00:09:51,460 --> 00:09:55,260
through the Jewish Council,
but from the Germans

145
00:09:55,260 --> 00:10:00,710
how the Jews should act.

146
00:10:00,710 --> 00:10:11,410
There were only the things which
were forbidden the Jews to do

147
00:10:11,410 --> 00:10:13,370
or the things they
should do so that they

148
00:10:13,370 --> 00:10:16,680
could be caught easily.

149
00:10:16,680 --> 00:10:19,740
And that was something
which, as I said,

150
00:10:19,740 --> 00:10:26,730
was on all fields
of Jewish life.

151
00:10:26,730 --> 00:10:31,800
And my main complaint
against Jewish authorities

152
00:10:31,800 --> 00:10:36,660
of those times is
that the they helped.

153
00:10:36,660 --> 00:10:37,890
They helped.

154
00:10:37,890 --> 00:10:41,420
I don't say that they were--

155
00:10:41,420 --> 00:10:45,540
I have to make it
clear every time.

156
00:10:45,540 --> 00:10:50,580
The Holocaust was made by
the Germans, not by the Jews,

157
00:10:50,580 --> 00:10:52,620
and the Jews never wanted it.

158
00:10:52,620 --> 00:10:56,155
Even if I say they helped them,
they didn't want to help them.

159
00:10:56,155 --> 00:10:57,030
But they helped them.

160
00:10:57,030 --> 00:10:58,500
Effectively, they helped them.

161
00:10:58,500 --> 00:11:03,370

162
00:11:03,370 --> 00:11:08,100
There's things that we should
take some precise examples.

163
00:11:08,100 --> 00:11:12,310
For instance, I
think in this case,

164
00:11:12,310 --> 00:11:15,570
of course many
Jews tried to enter

165
00:11:15,570 --> 00:11:21,450
in mixed marriages with
a woman or with a man

166
00:11:21,450 --> 00:11:25,770
in order to escape
the general fate.

167
00:11:25,770 --> 00:11:30,210
And the Germans took notice
of this and forbid it--

168
00:11:30,210 --> 00:11:37,030
in the spring of 1942--

169
00:11:37,030 --> 00:11:39,660
forbid a Jew to
contract marriages

170
00:11:39,660 --> 00:11:45,060
or to have a sexual
relationship with non Jews.

171
00:11:45,060 --> 00:11:49,070
The Jewish Council
started to protest,

172
00:11:49,070 --> 00:11:54,340
saying that this decision was
not based on any existing law.

173
00:11:54,340 --> 00:11:56,570
Since they could not
accept responsibility

174
00:11:56,570 --> 00:12:00,880
for such a measure,
they had no means,

175
00:12:00,880 --> 00:12:05,600
and since they didn't
want to apply sanctions

176
00:12:05,600 --> 00:12:10,190
on that no penalty for
such a transgression,

177
00:12:10,190 --> 00:12:12,190
had been a secret--

178
00:12:12,190 --> 00:12:16,216
OK, this was the first
noble stand we could say.

179
00:12:16,216 --> 00:12:20,060
But afterwards, because
30 people of this--

180
00:12:20,060 --> 00:12:21,700
in one week's time--

181
00:12:21,700 --> 00:12:22,670
30 people.

182
00:12:22,670 --> 00:12:25,100
--had been arrested
by the Germans,

183
00:12:25,100 --> 00:12:28,870
it was a means of pressure.

184
00:12:28,870 --> 00:12:34,270
The Jewish Council forgot this
first noble stand or power

185
00:12:34,270 --> 00:12:39,200

sign, and started to
ask for more privileges

186
00:12:39,200 --> 00:12:42,250
to alleviate these things, OK?

187
00:12:42,250 --> 00:12:44,450
And at the end it
went so they asked

188
00:12:44,450 --> 00:12:47,630
for the release of
these people and it's

189
00:12:47,630 --> 00:12:55,700
a Asscher who approached
[Personal name] Lagas?

190
00:12:55,700 --> 00:13:02,660
a German SS and he asked
it in a begging way.

191
00:13:02,660 --> 00:13:06,170
Could you not choose your
greeting-- your great influence

192
00:13:06,170 --> 00:13:11,270
and your active benevolence to
free those who are still alive

193
00:13:11,270 --> 00:13:15,600
now of the 30
people who had been

194
00:13:15,600 --> 00:13:20,140
arrested, because when was
[INAUDIBLE] anticipation

195
00:13:20,140 --> 00:13:21,170
[INAUDIBLE].

196
00:13:21,170 --> 00:13:23,580
I mean, this is--

197
00:13:23,580 --> 00:13:27,460
You are right, but you
are right that that it

198
00:13:27,460 --> 00:13:33,530
is possible and an
example of the development

199
00:13:33,530 --> 00:13:40,820
which is certainly
not very pleasant.

200
00:13:40,820 --> 00:13:45,500
But I wouldn't take
that as an example

201
00:13:45,500 --> 00:13:52,550
of how bad it was,
because in reality they

202
00:13:52,550 --> 00:13:54,830
couldn't do much about it.

203
00:13:54,830 --> 00:13:57,410
In reality they couldn't
do much about it.

204
00:13:57,410 --> 00:14:03,980
And my criticism
on their policy has

205
00:14:03,980 --> 00:14:08,960
been not so much
that they acted,

206
00:14:08,960 --> 00:14:12,710
perhaps you should
say, dishonorable.

207
00:14:12,710 --> 00:14:17,360
I would have forgiven them a
lot if by acting dishonorable

208
00:14:17,360 --> 00:14:21,850
they would have
saved Jewish lives.

209
00:14:21,850 --> 00:14:26,420
But my criticism with
regards to their actions

210
00:14:26,420 --> 00:14:36,500
is that I believe that by making
the situation for the Jews

211
00:14:36,500 --> 00:14:42,710
as normal as possible,
they actually

212
00:14:42,710 --> 00:14:48,200
made the chance of Jews
to stay alive smaller.

213
00:14:48,200 --> 00:14:54,390
That's a very serious
matter, and for that reason,

214
00:14:54,390 --> 00:14:59,600
I have always been very
much less interested

215
00:14:59,600 --> 00:15:08,330
in all kinds of
unpleasant and bad things

216
00:15:08,330 --> 00:15:14,750
they did with regards to
their personal attitude

217
00:15:14,750 --> 00:15:17,270
towards the Germans.

218
00:15:17,270 --> 00:15:21,660
If they would have been
talking nicely to the Germans--

219
00:15:21,660 --> 00:15:22,410
And succeeded.

220
00:15:22,410 --> 00:15:26,000
It would have succeeded.

221
00:15:26,000 --> 00:15:28,460
I would leave it alone.

222
00:15:28,460 --> 00:15:31,290
I would even defend them.

223
00:15:31,290 --> 00:15:34,190
But I think that
the main thing which

224
00:15:34,190 --> 00:15:40,910
made the situation in Holland
so bad was a result of the fact

225
00:15:40,910 --> 00:15:55,400
that the Jews were lulled
into a psychological attitude

226
00:15:55,400 --> 00:15:57,470
that things would
arrange themselves

227
00:15:57,470 --> 00:15:59,270
some way or the other.

228
00:15:59,270 --> 00:16:01,250
And they had very
good reason for it--

229
00:16:01,250 --> 00:16:04,550
that if their own
chosen leaders--

230
00:16:04,550 --> 00:16:08,720
I'm not talking about if

the Germans appointed them.

231

00:16:08,720 --> 00:16:13,050

But they had still the
feeling that Cohen and Asscher

232

00:16:13,050 --> 00:16:15,530

they had chosen them themselves.

233

00:16:15,530 --> 00:16:19,610

If they would say that
everybody should be quiet

234

00:16:19,610 --> 00:16:25,730

and that's what was said in
the paper almost every week--

235

00:16:25,730 --> 00:16:28,550

that you should
behave silently--

236

00:16:28,550 --> 00:16:31,490

that this should go
according to the laws.

237

00:16:31,490 --> 00:16:36,073

If they would have disappeared--
if in a certain moment they

238

00:16:36,073 --> 00:16:38,240

would have come to the
conclusion that they can't do

239

00:16:38,240 --> 00:16:40,380

anything real for the Jews--

240

00:16:40,380 --> 00:16:42,930

I'm not talking about
the small things.

241

00:16:42,930 --> 00:16:46,415

I'm talking especially at the
moment that the deportations--

242
00:16:46,415 --> 00:16:49,700
Yes, I would like
that we talk about it.

243
00:16:49,700 --> 00:16:56,120
At that time if they would have
said we have tried for a year--

244
00:16:56,120 --> 00:16:57,560
more than a year--

245
00:16:57,560 --> 00:16:59,720
to help the Jews.

246
00:16:59,720 --> 00:17:03,890
We have come to the
conclusion that it is futile--

247
00:17:03,890 --> 00:17:06,390
that we can't do
anything about it.

248
00:17:06,390 --> 00:17:12,079
That the thing is, in principle,
lost for the Jewish community

249
00:17:12,079 --> 00:17:15,190
as a whole and for the
Jews as individuals,

250
00:17:15,190 --> 00:17:20,000
it would have had a tremendous
impact, in my opinion,

251
00:17:20,000 --> 00:17:21,650
on the attitude of the Jews.

252
00:17:21,650 --> 00:17:24,380
I'm not talking about the
attitude of the Germans.

253

00:17:24,380 --> 00:17:26,210
It wouldn't have
worked in the way

254
00:17:26,210 --> 00:17:30,140
that the Germans would have
said, well, leave it alone.

255
00:17:30,140 --> 00:17:35,120
If you don't want us to deport
the Jews, we won't deport them.

256
00:17:35,120 --> 00:17:38,060
They would have tried to do it.

257
00:17:38,060 --> 00:17:43,400
But the attitude of the Jews
of compliance with everything--

258
00:17:43,400 --> 00:17:51,970
to stay at home, not to
leave, to go with the Jewish--

259
00:17:51,970 --> 00:17:52,910
Stars.

260
00:17:52,910 --> 00:17:59,830
The yellow star-- that
all would have changed

261
00:17:59,830 --> 00:18:02,110
for a number of the Jews.

262
00:18:02,110 --> 00:18:09,060
I don't want to
give any illusion.

263
00:18:09,060 --> 00:18:13,090
In my opinion, the Germans
would have gone on.

264
00:18:13,090 --> 00:18:16,990
A lot of Jews would

have perished,

265

00:18:16,990 --> 00:18:21,670
but I think that in the end,
we wouldn't have come out

266

00:18:21,670 --> 00:18:28,550
with about 15,000 Jews coming
out of hiding, but a larger

267

00:18:28,550 --> 00:18:29,050
number.

268

00:18:29,050 --> 00:18:30,970
And I don't want
to say how many.

269

00:18:30,970 --> 00:18:33,970

270

00:18:33,970 --> 00:18:37,540
I should like to
give some figures.

271

00:18:37,540 --> 00:18:41,750
We know now, as I
told you before,

272

00:18:41,750 --> 00:18:48,520
that more than 100,000 Jews
were deported, and less than 5%

273

00:18:48,520 --> 00:18:50,560
returned.

274

00:18:50,560 --> 00:18:55,880
About 25,000 Jews
went into hiding.

275

00:18:55,880 --> 00:18:58,490
About 1/3 were caught.

276

00:18:58,490 --> 00:19:01,550
That means 2/3 stayed alive.

277
00:19:01,550 --> 00:19:10,190
Now you can't make a calculation
that if all the Jews would

278
00:19:10,190 --> 00:19:14,270
have gone into hiding that
that percentage would have been

279
00:19:14,270 --> 00:19:18,230
the same and I wouldn't
say that all the Jews could

280
00:19:18,230 --> 00:19:19,850
go into hiding.

281
00:19:19,850 --> 00:19:25,320
I have to say something
with regards--

282
00:19:25,320 --> 00:19:26,930
No, but listen.

283
00:19:26,930 --> 00:19:27,816
I would--

284
00:19:27,816 --> 00:19:30,810

285
00:19:30,810 --> 00:19:33,250
(iflm slating)

286
00:19:33,250 --> 00:19:36,250
Well, I would say
that the crucial point

287
00:19:36,250 --> 00:19:39,840
for the Jewish Council--

288
00:19:39,840 --> 00:19:43,340

and I'm not talking only
about the two chairmen.

289
00:19:43,340 --> 00:19:45,310
I'm talking about
the Jewish Council

290
00:19:45,310 --> 00:19:49,300
as a whole came at the
time of the deportation.

291
00:19:49,300 --> 00:19:54,880
And when it was
founded in such a way

292
00:19:54,880 --> 00:20:00,360
that one group was
represented there

293
00:20:00,360 --> 00:20:08,020
and that were generally the
more well-to-do Jews who

294
00:20:08,020 --> 00:20:16,750
had achieved social
acknowledgment, for large part,

295
00:20:16,750 --> 00:20:22,360
anti-Jewish, but always
also in the Dutch community.

296
00:20:22,360 --> 00:20:28,990
And they stood for the
choice to go on cooperating

297
00:20:28,990 --> 00:20:31,900
with the Germans or not.

298
00:20:31,900 --> 00:20:34,810
And as far as we
know, there have been,

299
00:20:34,810 --> 00:20:37,090

I think, two meetings
of the Jewish Council

300
00:20:37,090 --> 00:20:41,230
in which this was discussed.

301
00:20:41,230 --> 00:20:43,780
What was discussed--
whether to comply?

302
00:20:43,780 --> 00:20:46,570
If they would comply or
they wouldn't comply.

303
00:20:46,570 --> 00:20:47,260
And they--

304
00:20:47,260 --> 00:20:49,930
To give the deportation order.

305
00:20:49,930 --> 00:20:54,160
If they would comply, and
not only with the deportation

306
00:20:54,160 --> 00:20:56,830
order-- if they
would actively help

307
00:20:56,830 --> 00:21:03,820
them typing the calls
to come to the station.

308
00:21:03,820 --> 00:21:08,260
They started out calling the
people to the central stations.

309
00:21:08,260 --> 00:21:09,910
Making the list.

310
00:21:09,910 --> 00:21:13,810
Making the list--
making the list,

311

00:21:13,810 --> 00:21:17,560

telling what people should go
and what people shouldn't go,

312

00:21:17,560 --> 00:21:18,790

and sending them.

313

00:21:18,790 --> 00:21:26,470

They would send them the order
to come to the central station

314

00:21:26,470 --> 00:21:29,680

and to go for work in Germany.

315

00:21:29,680 --> 00:21:33,560

That's what they said--
for work in Germany.

316

00:21:33,560 --> 00:21:36,582

And I don't know if at
that time they knew.

317

00:21:36,582 --> 00:21:38,290

This was what was
said-- work in Germany.

318

00:21:38,290 --> 00:21:40,600

Work in Germany--
labor services.

319

00:21:40,600 --> 00:21:41,890

That was what was said.

320

00:21:41,890 --> 00:21:49,480

But everybody knew that was
the start of the deportation.

321

00:21:49,480 --> 00:21:52,060

I would say not only--

322

00:21:52,060 --> 00:21:53,470

not only the Jews knew it.

323
00:21:53,470 --> 00:21:55,810
Also the people of the
Jewish Council knew it.

324
00:21:55,810 --> 00:21:57,340
Also the chairman knew it.

325
00:21:57,340 --> 00:22:01,120
That was deporting the
Jews from Holland--

326
00:22:01,120 --> 00:22:04,720
something they had
stated in the beginning

327
00:22:04,720 --> 00:22:08,890
that they would never
allow, because they

328
00:22:08,890 --> 00:22:10,750
understood that that
would be the end

329
00:22:10,750 --> 00:22:12,940
of the Jewish community.

330
00:22:12,940 --> 00:22:14,540
Now they had a
number of reasons--

331
00:22:14,540 --> 00:22:16,900
I think all of them false--

332
00:22:16,900 --> 00:22:19,990
to cooperate.

333
00:22:19,990 --> 00:22:24,360
They thought that they would
be able to do it slowly.

334
00:22:24,360 --> 00:22:28,600

They held negotiations
if they would send--

335
00:22:28,600 --> 00:22:30,090
if I'm not mistaken--

336
00:22:30,090 --> 00:22:33,500
350 a day or 600 a day.

337
00:22:33,500 --> 00:22:41,470
And they would see it as
a success if they would

338
00:22:41,470 --> 00:22:46,270
send only 350 a day
and not 600, because

339
00:22:46,270 --> 00:22:50,380
even in '42 they already thought
that it would be an invasion,

340
00:22:50,380 --> 00:22:57,490
and perhaps in one or two months
the whole thing would collapse.

341
00:22:57,490 --> 00:23:02,200
The second thing which they
thought, and which they did,

342
00:23:02,200 --> 00:23:05,800
is that if they
would make the lists,

343
00:23:05,800 --> 00:23:10,360
they could see to it
that the important part

344
00:23:10,360 --> 00:23:18,370
of the Jewish community wouldn't
be deported in the beginning.

345
00:23:18,370 --> 00:23:21,570
What was the important part?

346
00:23:21,570 --> 00:23:27,810
Well, what they thought
was the important part is,

347
00:23:27,810 --> 00:23:31,330
I would say, almost
their whole circle--

348
00:23:31,330 --> 00:23:39,570
the people who had achievements,
who were considered the better

349
00:23:39,570 --> 00:23:40,680
part of--

350
00:23:40,680 --> 00:23:46,320
in their eyes, the better
part of the Jewish community.

351
00:23:46,320 --> 00:23:54,170
And I would say that I think
that this reason, which

352
00:23:54,170 --> 00:23:57,290
in my opinion
wasn't very strong,

353
00:23:57,290 --> 00:24:01,210
not only was the Germans, but
with the whole Jewish Council--

354
00:24:01,210 --> 00:24:05,360
that is the main
reason why I think

355
00:24:05,360 --> 00:24:10,670
that they should have gone.

356
00:24:10,670 --> 00:24:15,320
I think nobody in the
world is allowed to make

357

00:24:15,320 --> 00:24:20,880
a choice what Jew is going to--

358

00:24:20,880 --> 00:24:26,370
who is even, I would
say to his death.

359

00:24:26,370 --> 00:24:30,230
But even if I give them the
credit that they were not sure

360

00:24:30,230 --> 00:24:32,900
that they would
go to their death,

361

00:24:32,900 --> 00:24:34,700
they shouldn't have
make a choice who would

362

00:24:34,700 --> 00:24:36,810
be deported or not be deported.

363

00:24:36,810 --> 00:24:41,960
They had no illusions that
many of them would go back.

364

00:24:41,960 --> 00:24:44,960
They knew that
large number of them

365

00:24:44,960 --> 00:24:50,690
would go under in the
circumstances in which they had

366

00:24:50,690 --> 00:24:53,120
to leave, even if
they had no idea,

367

00:24:53,120 --> 00:24:55,160
really, what really happened.

368

00:24:55,160 --> 00:24:58,250

But this is a very important point.

369
00:24:58,250 --> 00:25:01,580

What did they say specifically before --

370
00:25:01,580 --> 00:25:03,907

Well, they said specifically that--

371
00:25:03,907 --> 00:25:05,240

Because they were to leave work.

372
00:25:05,240 --> 00:25:07,790

[INAUDIBLE] the Jewish Council, and they

373
00:25:07,790 --> 00:25:09,590

discussed precisely this.

374
00:25:09,590 --> 00:25:16,800

375
00:25:16,800 --> 00:25:21,680

They said that they wanted to keep intact as much as possible

376
00:25:21,680 --> 00:25:24,010

that the valuable part of the Jewish--

377
00:25:24,010 --> 00:25:24,510

Exactly.

378
00:25:24,510 --> 00:25:26,250

This not a question of quantity.

379
00:25:26,250 --> 00:25:28,731

It was a question of quality.

380
00:25:28,731 --> 00:25:29,820

It's a code.

381
00:25:29,820 --> 00:25:30,950
That's right.

382
00:25:30,950 --> 00:25:40,230
But in July 1942, there were
still 140,000 Jews in Holland.

383
00:25:40,230 --> 00:25:49,590
So they perhaps they weren't
aware of the terrible--

384
00:25:49,590 --> 00:25:51,870
I'm not sure, but
perhaps they weren't

385
00:25:51,870 --> 00:25:57,450
aware of the terrible
consequences of agreeing

386
00:25:57,450 --> 00:26:02,760
to act as a body, which
would decide who would go

387
00:26:02,760 --> 00:26:06,190
and who wouldn't go.

388
00:26:06,190 --> 00:26:13,590
And they thought that if they
would keep in Holland what

389
00:26:13,590 --> 00:26:16,530
they called a valuable part
of the Jewish community,

390
00:26:16,530 --> 00:26:21,360
that they would be able after
the war to build it up again.

391
00:26:21,360 --> 00:26:26,400
But the truth of the matter
is that in July, they

392
00:26:26,400 --> 00:26:34,270
made, in my opinion,
the most fatal decision

393
00:26:34,270 --> 00:26:38,830
in their existence
when they didn't decide

394
00:26:38,830 --> 00:26:44,620
to refuse to make a difference
between Jew and Jew with

395
00:26:44,620 --> 00:26:45,970
regards to this thing.

396
00:26:45,970 --> 00:26:49,100
And they took upon themselves
to decide who would go

397
00:26:49,100 --> 00:26:51,420
and who wouldn't go.

398
00:26:51,420 --> 00:26:59,230
They started out a way which
ended in September 1943

399
00:26:59,230 --> 00:27:04,720
in which they were willing
to keep it as a secret

400
00:27:04,720 --> 00:27:08,920
that the whole community would
be taken away on the condition

401
00:27:08,920 --> 00:27:14,950
that a very small part, perhaps
100 Jews of their own family

402
00:27:14,950 --> 00:27:17,590
and circle, would stay.

403

00:27:17,590 --> 00:27:20,620
And that last promise--

404
00:27:20,620 --> 00:27:23,890
even that last promise
the Germans didn't keep.

405
00:27:23,890 --> 00:27:25,270
They took them all.

406
00:27:25,270 --> 00:27:30,010
But they paid them off in a
certain sense by sending them

407
00:27:30,010 --> 00:27:32,140
not to the vernichtenslager,
not to the --

408
00:27:32,140 --> 00:27:34,750

409
00:27:34,750 --> 00:27:38,410
but to Theresienstadt
and Bergen-Belsen,

410
00:27:38,410 --> 00:27:45,310
which was a more or less
normal concentration camp,

411
00:27:45,310 --> 00:27:49,270
even for concentration camps--

412
00:27:49,270 --> 00:27:51,250
the camp in which you
had a better chance

413
00:27:51,250 --> 00:27:57,000
to stay alive than
in any other place.

414
00:27:57,000 --> 00:28:02,290
And if I may say
something personal,

415
00:28:02,290 --> 00:28:08,170
I told you that one of the
chairmen of the Jewish Council

416
00:28:08,170 --> 00:28:09,890
was my uncle.

417
00:28:09,890 --> 00:28:18,842
And not only that, I worked in
his enterprise up until '38.

418
00:28:18,842 --> 00:28:20,110
Oh, you worked--

419
00:28:20,110 --> 00:28:21,520
I worked in his enterprise.

420
00:28:21,520 --> 00:28:22,500
I have to say.

421
00:28:22,500 --> 00:28:23,470
In the diamond.

422
00:28:23,470 --> 00:28:25,080
In his diamond enterprise.

423
00:28:25,080 --> 00:28:32,440
I was the leader of the
bookkeeping department there.

424
00:28:32,440 --> 00:28:36,730
And not only that, I liked him.

425
00:28:36,730 --> 00:28:38,700
I would even say I
loved him very much.

426
00:28:38,700 --> 00:28:42,020
And which is still worse,
he liked me very much.

427

00:28:42,020 --> 00:28:44,060

And I would even
say he loved me.

428

00:28:44,060 --> 00:28:49,390

We were on very good
relations up until '41.

429

00:28:49,390 --> 00:28:52,720

And in '42 in July
and in August,

430

00:28:52,720 --> 00:28:58,840

I had two meetings with him
in which we, at the end,

431

00:28:58,840 --> 00:29:00,910

broke off all relations.

432

00:29:00,910 --> 00:29:01,670

[INAUDIBLE]

433

00:29:01,670 --> 00:29:02,880

Can you describe this?

434

00:29:02,880 --> 00:29:04,270

Well, I will describe it.

435

00:29:04,270 --> 00:29:08,740

I told him that, in my
opinion, with the start

436

00:29:08,740 --> 00:29:17,380

of the deportations,
the Germans made clear

437

00:29:17,380 --> 00:29:23,450

that they wanted finish with
the Jewish community in Holland.

438

00:29:23,450 --> 00:29:29,380

And that no Jew

should help with it.

439

00:29:29,380 --> 00:29:36,940

And that they should give a sign that the case is lost.

440

00:29:36,940 --> 00:29:38,360

To the community, you mean.

441

00:29:38,360 --> 00:29:41,500

To the community-- for the community as a whole,

442

00:29:41,500 --> 00:29:45,490

the case is lost, and they should

443

00:29:45,490 --> 00:29:52,600

announce that they can't take any responsibility any more

444

00:29:52,600 --> 00:29:56,710

for what's going to happen with the Jewish community.

445

00:29:56,710 --> 00:30:01,820

And I said to him, you don't have to go to the radio.

446

00:30:01,820 --> 00:30:04,480

It is enough if you disappear.

447

00:30:04,480 --> 00:30:13,260

And I knew that underground in Holland was willing to help him

448

00:30:13,260 --> 00:30:17,950

or to hide or to get away to England.

449

00:30:17,950 --> 00:30:20,380

I don't say that there was no danger there,

450

00:30:20,380 --> 00:30:26,290

but I want to stress
that it was not

451

00:30:26,290 --> 00:30:31,120

fear for his personal
physical well

452

00:30:31,120 --> 00:30:37,450

being which made it impossible
for him to go that way.

453

00:30:37,450 --> 00:30:38,170

Don't forget.

454

00:30:38,170 --> 00:30:39,350

It's very good.

455

00:30:39,350 --> 00:30:42,090

You are at the moment very good.

456

00:30:42,090 --> 00:30:52,000