

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,620

2
00:00:02,620 --> 00:00:04,494
(film slating)

3
00:00:04,494 --> 00:00:07,980

4
00:00:07,980 --> 00:00:13,410
There's no doubt that
he had no physical fear

5
00:00:13,410 --> 00:00:22,160
but I would say he
wasn't aware and perhaps,

6
00:00:22,160 --> 00:00:31,360
coming from where he came
and with his lack on capacity

7
00:00:31,360 --> 00:00:36,280
to see the situation
as it developed,

8
00:00:36,280 --> 00:00:42,800
he still thought that
he could do something.

9
00:00:42,800 --> 00:00:46,090
That was the reason
why I went to talk

10
00:00:46,090 --> 00:00:52,660
to him and in the first
meeting which was in July, just

11
00:00:52,660 --> 00:00:58,000
after the deportation
started, we

12

00:00:58,000 --> 00:01:00,100
had a kind of talk
we never had before.

13
00:01:00,100 --> 00:01:05,560
And I think I've never had
that afterwards with anybody

14
00:01:05,560 --> 00:01:06,370
in the world.

15
00:01:06,370 --> 00:01:10,060
We shouted at each
other terribly.

16
00:01:10,060 --> 00:01:11,750
And we went away.

17
00:01:11,750 --> 00:01:13,960
And I went out.

18
00:01:13,960 --> 00:01:20,200
I went to the factory and we
talked in his private office.

19
00:01:20,200 --> 00:01:22,300
He was still
running his factory?

20
00:01:22,300 --> 00:01:23,920
No, I left him--

21
00:01:23,920 --> 00:01:24,660
He's?

22
00:01:24,660 --> 00:01:26,140
He was still working
in his office.

23
00:01:26,140 --> 00:01:30,180
He worked in his office I
think till the last day.

24

00:01:30,180 --> 00:01:31,600

His factory I mean?

25

00:01:31,600 --> 00:01:33,610

In his factory, at
the diamond factory.

26

00:01:33,610 --> 00:01:39,730

An the diamond industry
was a protected industry.

27

00:01:39,730 --> 00:01:45,310

In the diamond industry, there
were no people to go over.

28

00:01:45,310 --> 00:01:49,120

The Jews themselves
we are allowed

29

00:01:49,120 --> 00:01:52,060

to run the business because
the Germans wanted to keep

30

00:01:52,060 --> 00:01:54,250

the diamond industry intact.

31

00:01:54,250 --> 00:01:56,600

Till the last
moment they wanted.

32

00:01:56,600 --> 00:01:59,500

The Jews couldn't be
replaced because they knew--

33

00:01:59,500 --> 00:02:00,680

It was the Jewish--

34

00:02:00,680 --> 00:02:02,740

In Holland, it was
a Jewish industry

35

00:02:02,740 --> 00:02:05,980

not only with
regards to the bosses

36
00:02:05,980 --> 00:02:09,039
as it was also in Antwerp,
but also with regards

37
00:02:09,039 --> 00:02:10,449
to the laborers.

38
00:02:10,449 --> 00:02:13,660
The best laborers,
the best workers

39
00:02:13,660 --> 00:02:18,070
where Jews and it was
a Jewish industry.

40
00:02:18,070 --> 00:02:19,120
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

41
00:02:19,120 --> 00:02:22,630
It was a Jewish proletariat
in the diamond industry,

42
00:02:22,630 --> 00:02:28,630
which is quite an
interesting fact in its own.

43
00:02:28,630 --> 00:02:30,200
But I won't go into it.

44
00:02:30,200 --> 00:02:31,050
He wasn't--

45
00:02:31,050 --> 00:02:31,900
No, it's important.

46
00:02:31,900 --> 00:02:34,700
He was in his office
and I came down there.

47

00:02:34,700 --> 00:02:39,040

Excuse me, these personal
conditions of leaving,

48

00:02:39,040 --> 00:02:42,430

did they change for the worse?

49

00:02:42,430 --> 00:02:43,530

Like for what--

50

00:02:43,530 --> 00:02:47,340

Of course, they had a certain--

51

00:02:47,340 --> 00:02:51,610

all the Jews were limited
in their possibilities

52

00:02:51,610 --> 00:02:52,550

how to live.

53

00:02:52,550 --> 00:02:55,780

They had to be at
home at 8 o'clock

54

00:02:55,780 --> 00:02:58,660

and perhaps,
Asscher shouldn't be

55

00:02:58,660 --> 00:03:01,420

or Asscher and Cohen
could go out after 8:00

56

00:03:01,420 --> 00:03:03,040

but he had nothing to go to.

57

00:03:03,040 --> 00:03:05,380

They were not allowed
to go o the sea.

58

00:03:05,380 --> 00:03:08,780

They were not allowed
to drive in cars.

59

00:03:08,780 --> 00:03:13,940

I think that he was allowed
to keep his bicycle,

60

00:03:13,940 --> 00:03:16,540

but of course, they didn't
live in the same way

61

00:03:16,540 --> 00:03:18,310

as they did before.

62

00:03:18,310 --> 00:03:19,330

Not at all.

63

00:03:19,330 --> 00:03:20,050

Not at all.

64

00:03:20,050 --> 00:03:25,060

They were part of the Jewish
community with some privileges

65

00:03:25,060 --> 00:03:34,420

they got for reasons of
efficiency of their work.

66

00:03:34,420 --> 00:03:36,490

But he was still in
his office, and--

67

00:03:36,490 --> 00:03:38,590

He was running a bicycle?

68

00:03:38,590 --> 00:03:40,480

He was running a bicycle.

69

00:03:40,480 --> 00:03:42,340

All Dutch are running bicycles.

70

00:03:42,340 --> 00:03:46,300

There are no Dutch who
can't run on a bicycle.

71

00:03:46,300 --> 00:03:49,760

The normal Jews were not
allowed their bicycle anymore.

72

00:03:49,760 --> 00:03:53,125

And I think in the
beginning of '43, they--

73

00:03:53,125 --> 00:03:54,250

Are they not allowed even--

74

00:03:54,250 --> 00:03:54,950

No.

75

00:03:54,950 --> 00:03:58,120

They had to deliver their
bicycles to the Germans

76

00:03:58,120 --> 00:04:01,630

and they had to go on feet if
they wanted to go anywhere.

77

00:04:01,630 --> 00:04:07,150

That was all in the framework
of limiting the possibility

78

00:04:07,150 --> 00:04:10,330

for them to go anywhere.

79

00:04:10,330 --> 00:04:12,610

They wanted the Jews
to be on the place

80

00:04:12,610 --> 00:04:17,260

where they could get them,
where they could keep them,

81

00:04:17,260 --> 00:04:19,510

and could get them,
and sent them away.

82

00:04:19,510 --> 00:04:23,870

That was the whole
purpose of the exercise.

83
00:04:23,870 --> 00:04:27,670

But when we talked in
that first meeting,

84
00:04:27,670 --> 00:04:31,640

I was very much
influenced by the fact,

85
00:04:31,640 --> 00:04:35,930

that I was at that time a
teacher in the Jewish school,

86
00:04:35,930 --> 00:04:39,960

and my pupils were sent away.

87
00:04:39,960 --> 00:04:43,150

And I asked him
how he could take

88
00:04:43,150 --> 00:04:50,970

the responsibility of sending
away children of 18 and 19,

89
00:04:50,970 --> 00:04:54,910

would go to a place where he
couldn't guarantee anything

90
00:04:54,910 --> 00:04:58,300

at all, even if he thought
that it would be in Germany.

91
00:04:58,300 --> 00:05:02,140

But nobody promised that or
that it would be near to Germany

92
00:05:02,140 --> 00:05:02,920

as they said.

93
00:05:02,920 --> 00:05:05,690

94
00:05:05,690 --> 00:05:08,780
It was unbelievable.

95
00:05:08,780 --> 00:05:11,710
And he thought that
if he would keep them,

96
00:05:11,710 --> 00:05:13,900
if he would be able
to slow it down,

97
00:05:13,900 --> 00:05:19,480
that that would be worthwhile
to do stay there and he didn't--

98
00:05:19,480 --> 00:05:22,990

99
00:05:22,990 --> 00:05:24,530
perhaps he didn't understand.

100
00:05:24,530 --> 00:05:26,540
But in any case, he
didn't want to understand.

101
00:05:26,540 --> 00:05:29,830
What did you tell him
and what did he answer?

102
00:05:29,830 --> 00:05:31,960
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

103
00:05:31,960 --> 00:05:33,070
I'll tell you.

104
00:05:33,070 --> 00:05:34,770
I'll tell you.

105
00:05:34,770 --> 00:05:36,730
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

106

00:05:36,730 --> 00:05:38,290

I would shout.

107

00:05:38,290 --> 00:05:40,990

I shouted in the
first meeting but what

108

00:05:40,990 --> 00:05:44,230

I said to him in the second
meeting without shouting

109

00:05:44,230 --> 00:05:46,090

was much worse.

110

00:05:46,090 --> 00:05:48,990

I decided after four
weeks to go back to him

111

00:05:48,990 --> 00:05:50,430

because the better--

112

00:05:50,430 --> 00:05:54,470

OK the first meeting
is already finished.

113

00:05:54,470 --> 00:06:01,220

But in the first
meeting, we talked

114

00:06:01,220 --> 00:06:08,160

and we shouted
about the attitude

115

00:06:08,160 --> 00:06:14,630

which the Jewish leaders should
take towards the Germans.

116

00:06:14,630 --> 00:06:19,580

And I told him that
what he's doing

117

00:06:19,580 --> 00:06:29,420

is not only morally not
acceptable, any measure.

118
00:06:29,420 --> 00:06:38,930
But that even-- practically,
it will only help the Germans.

119
00:06:38,930 --> 00:06:42,080
And he said that
what I'm saying is

120
00:06:42,080 --> 00:06:47,210
that we are advising the
Jews to try to disappear,

121
00:06:47,210 --> 00:06:49,230
to go into hiding.

122
00:06:49,230 --> 00:06:56,180
And that he considered an advice
like that as very detrimental

123
00:06:56,180 --> 00:07:01,790
to what would happen to the Jews
because the Germans would act

124
00:07:01,790 --> 00:07:05,960
much more severely
than they are doing now

125
00:07:05,960 --> 00:07:09,200
than they are doing at that
time, there would be razzias.

126
00:07:09,200 --> 00:07:12,560
And I didn't say to
him that it wouldn't.

127
00:07:12,560 --> 00:07:17,000
But I said that it would
be a sign for the Jews

128
00:07:17,000 --> 00:07:19,790

that everything is lost.

129

00:07:19,790 --> 00:07:23,540

And he thought that if
he would say to the Jews,

130

00:07:23,540 --> 00:07:29,660

if he would keep the thing
more normal that the Jews would

131

00:07:29,660 --> 00:07:34,445

be willing to stay and that
things would go on normally.

132

00:07:34,445 --> 00:07:39,440

133

00:07:39,440 --> 00:07:44,210

And I am telling it not
only from my point of view,

134

00:07:44,210 --> 00:07:48,820

I'm giving you also
the arguments he had.

135

00:07:48,820 --> 00:07:52,010

And we both lost our temper.

136

00:07:52,010 --> 00:07:54,450

So I bent back after four weeks.

137

00:07:54,450 --> 00:07:58,730

And I said to him, let's
us to talk about it again.

138

00:07:58,730 --> 00:08:02,040

And not shout at each other.

139

00:08:02,040 --> 00:08:04,740

But in the second
meeting, I said to him

140

00:08:04,740 --> 00:08:07,080
and I remember up
till today the words

141
00:08:07,080 --> 00:08:12,270
I said to him I said,
if you are going on,

142
00:08:12,270 --> 00:08:17,600
you will be the
murderer of Jews.

143
00:08:17,600 --> 00:08:24,450
And he said to me, if you
advised the Jews to hide,

144
00:08:24,450 --> 00:08:27,120
and that's what
you want me to do,

145
00:08:27,120 --> 00:08:30,960
you will take upon yourself
the danger that Jews

146
00:08:30,960 --> 00:08:32,909
will be sent to Mauthausen.

147
00:08:32,909 --> 00:08:36,539
And Mauthausen was not
only a concentration camp,

148
00:08:36,539 --> 00:08:38,130
it wasn't a Jewish community.

149
00:08:38,130 --> 00:08:40,740

150
00:08:40,740 --> 00:08:46,780
Consider this the worst thing
which could happen to anybody.

151
00:08:46,780 --> 00:08:55,220
And I said that it would

be aware but that it

152
00:08:55,220 --> 00:09:01,820
would be a fair chance for
every Jew to stay alive

153
00:09:01,820 --> 00:09:04,380
or to be caught.

154
00:09:04,380 --> 00:09:09,990
And that no Jewish leader
can be in a position

155
00:09:09,990 --> 00:09:13,710
that he will make the
decision was who going to live

156
00:09:13,710 --> 00:09:16,170
and who's going to die.

157
00:09:16,170 --> 00:09:20,970
Because life and death are
the only absolute things

158
00:09:20,970 --> 00:09:26,700
in our human community.

159
00:09:26,700 --> 00:09:35,490
And I must say that
perhaps the worst thing

160
00:09:35,490 --> 00:09:44,760
was that he succeeded, that
by helping the Germans--

161
00:09:44,760 --> 00:09:51,660
and I'm not saying
that they took a part.

162
00:09:51,660 --> 00:09:55,740
affects your life
in the deportation.

163

00:09:55,740 --> 00:09:56,770

They did.

164

00:09:56,770 --> 00:09:58,560

But that's not the
important part,

165

00:09:58,560 --> 00:10:02,790

they gave the Jews a
feeling of security,

166

00:10:02,790 --> 00:10:06,510

which they should have
done everything to destroy.

167

00:10:06,510 --> 00:10:09,750

168

00:10:09,750 --> 00:10:12,240

And they do so easily.

169

00:10:12,240 --> 00:10:13,740

I don't understand,
what do you mean

170

00:10:13,740 --> 00:10:16,207

you said they succeeded,
they succeeded with what?

171

00:10:16,207 --> 00:10:16,832

They succeeded.

172

00:10:16,832 --> 00:10:22,380

They gave the Jews again
a feeling off of normalcy.

173

00:10:22,380 --> 00:10:28,020

It is true that even
when they stayed,

174

00:10:28,020 --> 00:10:30,550

the Jews almost never came.

175
00:10:30,550 --> 00:10:32,640
The percentages of
the Jews who came

176
00:10:32,640 --> 00:10:38,020
when they were told to come to
the central station where small

177
00:10:38,020 --> 00:10:39,560
and they became--

178
00:10:39,560 --> 00:10:43,105
in every deportation in the
beginning when they started out

179
00:10:43,105 --> 00:10:45,390
they called the Jews
and said they should

180
00:10:45,390 --> 00:10:47,220
go to the central station.

181
00:10:47,220 --> 00:10:51,120
And in first, they came
somewhat higher percentage

182
00:10:51,120 --> 00:10:55,200
and then it went down and
then the German changed the--

183
00:10:55,200 --> 00:10:56,910
The quota was not fulfilled?

184
00:10:56,910 --> 00:10:57,930
Never.

185
00:10:57,930 --> 00:10:59,100
Never.

186
00:10:59,100 --> 00:11:01,080
It was never fulfilled.

187
00:11:01,080 --> 00:11:05,850
If the Jews had to
come themselves.

188
00:11:05,850 --> 00:11:08,020
But when they changed the--

189
00:11:08,020 --> 00:11:14,221

190
00:11:14,221 --> 00:11:17,090
(film slating)

191
00:11:17,090 --> 00:11:21,170
So there was a willingness
in the Jews not to go.

192
00:11:21,170 --> 00:11:27,170
I'm not saying that the
Jews were going willingly.

193
00:11:27,170 --> 00:11:28,700
They didn't.

194
00:11:28,700 --> 00:11:30,980
They were not revolting
too, they were?

195
00:11:30,980 --> 00:11:33,380
They were not
revolting and perhaps

196
00:11:33,380 --> 00:11:36,230
here, I have to come
back about something

197
00:11:36,230 --> 00:11:41,750
I said in the beginning that
the Jewish community in Holland

198
00:11:41,750 --> 00:11:47,060

was not accustomed
to anti-Semitism

199
00:11:47,060 --> 00:11:49,070
which was violent.

200
00:11:49,070 --> 00:11:52,160
I see no Jew in the world
who was accustomed to what

201
00:11:52,160 --> 00:11:53,660
the Germans did to them.

202
00:11:53,660 --> 00:11:59,880
But to the Jewish community
was a settled community.

203
00:11:59,880 --> 00:12:07,340
They were never aware
of what could really

204
00:12:07,340 --> 00:12:11,470
happen to them, even
in a less violent form.

205
00:12:11,470 --> 00:12:14,660
But to go themselves,
that was too much.

206
00:12:14,660 --> 00:12:19,160
So the German changed the
system, and in my opinion,

207
00:12:19,160 --> 00:12:23,840
Jewish council helped them
in changing the system

208
00:12:23,840 --> 00:12:31,040
by giving lists to the Germans.

209
00:12:31,040 --> 00:12:34,760
And they went to
their homes at night.

210
00:12:34,760 --> 00:12:38,360
There was a curfew from 8
o'clock in the morning to--

211
00:12:38,360 --> 00:12:42,830
8 o'clock in the evening to
6 o'clock in the morning.

212
00:12:42,830 --> 00:12:44,480
And they got them
from their homes

213
00:12:44,480 --> 00:12:49,530
and they went down this lists
which were typed in the--

214
00:12:49,530 --> 00:12:52,220

215
00:12:52,220 --> 00:12:55,990
it was the help of
the Jewish cops.

216
00:12:55,990 --> 00:12:59,240
You mean the German
went to the Jews.

217
00:12:59,240 --> 00:13:00,980

218
00:13:00,980 --> 00:13:02,020
And the Dutch--

219
00:13:02,020 --> 00:13:02,840
The Dutch police?

220
00:13:02,840 --> 00:13:05,660
The Dutch police went.

221
00:13:05,660 --> 00:13:12,470
We should never, never

forget that in 1942 and 1943,

222

00:13:12,470 --> 00:13:20,520
civil obedience in
Holland was very strong

223

00:13:20,520 --> 00:13:29,600
and the Dutch population
in its large majority

224

00:13:29,600 --> 00:13:35,630
was against the Germans,
was against the persecution

225

00:13:35,630 --> 00:13:38,210
of the Jews, and didn't
do anything against it.

226

00:13:38,210 --> 00:13:42,910

227

00:13:42,910 --> 00:13:50,180
I'll never say that the attitude
of the Dutch population was

228

00:13:50,180 --> 00:13:58,880
a factor in which anti-Semitism
had a big hole, it hadn't.

229

00:13:58,880 --> 00:14:03,800
But if I would say
that 5% of the Dutch

230

00:14:03,800 --> 00:14:10,790
were in favor to
actively help the Jews,

231

00:14:10,790 --> 00:14:12,620
I'm giving a high percentage.

232

00:14:12,620 --> 00:14:16,850
And I would say that even 5%
which would be against the Jews

233
00:14:16,850 --> 00:14:18,230
is a high percentage.

234
00:14:18,230 --> 00:14:22,580
More than 90% of
the Dutch population

235
00:14:22,580 --> 00:14:26,220
wanted to be left
alone with the problem.

236
00:14:26,220 --> 00:14:28,970
They were against it, but they
weren't willing to do anything

237
00:14:28,970 --> 00:14:29,870
about it.

238
00:14:29,870 --> 00:14:38,840
And that had its consequences
in the practical government

239
00:14:38,840 --> 00:14:44,750
of the Dutch in those
days, added in the police,

240
00:14:44,750 --> 00:14:50,420
and had it in the difficulty
which existed in '42 to much

241
00:14:50,420 --> 00:14:56,720
more than in '43 and '44 in
finding addresses for Jews

242
00:14:56,720 --> 00:14:58,680
to go into hiding.

243
00:14:58,680 --> 00:15:01,910
So the situation wasn't
a complicated one,

244

00:15:01,910 --> 00:15:08,600
but also here, the
form of normalcy,

245
00:15:08,600 --> 00:15:12,540
the form of that
everything is going on

246
00:15:12,540 --> 00:15:20,630
as a truth was a factor in
keeping the sayings as they

247
00:15:20,630 --> 00:15:21,440
were.

248
00:15:21,440 --> 00:15:24,950
And in Holland, the
Germans, in my opinion,

249
00:15:24,950 --> 00:15:29,270
as a result, also as a
result of the actions

250
00:15:29,270 --> 00:15:35,990
of the Jewish Council succeeded
more than in any other country

251
00:15:35,990 --> 00:15:40,580
to deport the Jews quietly.

252
00:15:40,580 --> 00:15:45,110
Yeah but what you are saying
though about the feeling

253
00:15:45,110 --> 00:15:51,740
of security of no
mercy, I think that is

254
00:15:51,740 --> 00:15:55,100
a good example
because is it true

255
00:15:55,100 --> 00:15:57,260

that that the
Jewish council send

256
00:15:57,260 --> 00:16:02,390
even delegates to the Jews?

257
00:16:02,390 --> 00:16:04,370
Jewish delegates,
to the Jews in order

258
00:16:04,370 --> 00:16:11,360
to convince them one by
one by word of mouth to go?

259
00:16:11,360 --> 00:16:14,630
Well, I really
don't know how far

260
00:16:14,630 --> 00:16:18,020
they went which it is
possible that some did it.

261
00:16:18,020 --> 00:16:20,780
Without any doubt
a way of Jews also

262
00:16:20,780 --> 00:16:28,000
in the bureaucracy of the
council will get into that.

263
00:16:28,000 --> 00:16:33,680
Or would say, if you were
to ask them, in any case,

264
00:16:33,680 --> 00:16:34,850
wouldn't say go.

265
00:16:34,850 --> 00:16:39,170
But I don't think that that's
the truth of the matter.

266
00:16:39,170 --> 00:16:40,620
But official line--

267
00:16:40,620 --> 00:16:42,190
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

268
00:16:42,190 --> 00:16:48,950
The official line was that
you should act legally.

269
00:16:48,950 --> 00:16:52,580
To act legally was
to stay in your home.

270
00:16:52,580 --> 00:16:55,230
That's what they
wrote in the paper.

271
00:16:55,230 --> 00:16:57,980
That's what they let
people understand.

272
00:16:57,980 --> 00:17:02,880
And they-- and I'm not
saying it about all of them.

273
00:17:02,880 --> 00:17:11,089
I know of people who
worked in the bureaucracy

274
00:17:11,089 --> 00:17:16,460
of the Jewish Council who
actively helped people

275
00:17:16,460 --> 00:17:18,329
to try to get away.

276
00:17:18,329 --> 00:17:27,980
It is not true that this black
and white with the people

277
00:17:27,980 --> 00:17:30,920
who work there, but
the official line

278

00:17:30,920 --> 00:17:35,720
was that the Jews
should act legally.

279

00:17:35,720 --> 00:17:41,420
Without taking into account,
that the laws, which were made,

280

00:17:41,420 --> 00:17:43,980
were made to deport them.

281

00:17:43,980 --> 00:17:46,100
And I'm not saying
that to kill them.

282

00:17:46,100 --> 00:17:47,790
I know, we know.

283

00:17:47,790 --> 00:17:52,670
But if I'm giving the credit,
the benefit of the doubt,

284

00:17:52,670 --> 00:17:56,660
you could say that they didn't
know that they would straight

285

00:17:56,660 --> 00:18:00,250
kill them or kill them
in this proportion.

286

00:18:00,250 --> 00:18:03,950
I really have to say
that again and again,

287

00:18:03,950 --> 00:18:06,710
but they knew that they
wanted to deport them.

288

00:18:06,710 --> 00:18:11,390
And in that field,
the official line

289

00:18:11,390 --> 00:18:15,950
which was in their
publications and in partly

290
00:18:15,950 --> 00:18:19,610
without doubt also in
the general attitude

291
00:18:19,610 --> 00:18:23,990
was that the Jews
should behaved legally.

292
00:18:23,990 --> 00:18:28,970
And I think personally,
that that had an influence

293
00:18:28,970 --> 00:18:31,490
on the Jews and on the Dutch.

294
00:18:31,490 --> 00:18:37,040
But did this Jewish Council
had a huge bureaucracy now?

295
00:18:37,040 --> 00:18:38,480
Oh, yes, they had it.

296
00:18:38,480 --> 00:18:40,370
And they made it
bigger and bigger

297
00:18:40,370 --> 00:18:44,270
because that were the
people they could save.

298
00:18:44,270 --> 00:18:51,560
They had the system of giving
to people in their identity card

299
00:18:51,560 --> 00:18:57,620
number on which they
were, for the time being,

300
00:18:57,620 --> 00:19:02,030

prevented to be caught
and to be deported.

301
00:19:02,030 --> 00:19:06,440
And the whole bureaucracy
of the Jewish Council

302
00:19:06,440 --> 00:19:11,400
was belonging to the people
who wouldn't be deported.

303
00:19:11,400 --> 00:19:18,350
And perhaps, from a
moral point of view,

304
00:19:18,350 --> 00:19:20,850
that's the worst which happened.

305
00:19:20,850 --> 00:19:25,620
Now, they know that it didn't
give them an absolute security.

306
00:19:25,620 --> 00:19:27,950
There were people from
the Jewish Council which

307
00:19:27,950 --> 00:19:31,940
were caught and sent
deported already in '42.

308
00:19:31,940 --> 00:19:39,050
And not only the little
officials, even the higher

309
00:19:39,050 --> 00:19:45,140
officials, people who are
members of the Jewish Council

310
00:19:45,140 --> 00:19:51,290
or at very high positions
there were suddenly called

311
00:19:51,290 --> 00:19:54,470

for some reason, which
nobody knew exactly why,

312
00:19:54,470 --> 00:20:00,170
and were sent away and
killed by the Germans.

313
00:20:00,170 --> 00:20:05,360
But the whole atmosphere,
the whole attitude,

314
00:20:05,360 --> 00:20:11,810
the whole system was
to keep it quiet,

315
00:20:11,810 --> 00:20:15,117
and to keep it, as I say,
as normal as possible.

316
00:20:15,117 --> 00:20:15,950
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

317
00:20:15,950 --> 00:20:18,090
But in my opinion,
was detrimental.

318
00:20:18,090 --> 00:20:23,030
Which is worse and the worse is
that after a time, they started

319
00:20:23,030 --> 00:20:28,430
to spread false information's
about the conditions

320
00:20:28,430 --> 00:20:32,300
of living in the East.

321
00:20:32,300 --> 00:20:35,810
I mean this is a
picture a very idyllic.

322
00:20:35,810 --> 00:20:38,760

323

00:20:38,760 --> 00:20:43,210

They give a very idyllic
picture of the conditions.

324

00:20:43,210 --> 00:20:46,640

There wasn't a Jewish Weekly but
there was internal information

325

00:20:46,640 --> 00:20:49,880

[? bulletin. ?]

326

00:20:49,880 --> 00:20:54,110

I agree with you but
everything has its own dynamic.

327

00:20:54,110 --> 00:20:55,610

Everything has its own dynamic.

328

00:20:55,610 --> 00:20:59,180

If you start on that way, that's
where you are going to end.

329

00:20:59,180 --> 00:21:04,190

You want people to be quiet,
so you don't tell them

330

00:21:04,190 --> 00:21:07,940

that the situation is very
bad because if you tell them

331

00:21:07,940 --> 00:21:09,480

the situation is--

332

00:21:09,480 --> 00:21:11,890

It was with your line of
normalcy and security.

333

00:21:11,890 --> 00:21:12,730

That's right.

334

00:21:12,730 --> 00:21:14,230

They did.

335

00:21:14,230 --> 00:21:15,030

They did.

336

00:21:15,030 --> 00:21:20,620

And I think some of them were convinced that it couldn't be.

337

00:21:20,620 --> 00:21:23,680

Perhaps I should make one thing clear.

338

00:21:23,680 --> 00:21:29,740

The magnitude of the action of the Germans

339

00:21:29,740 --> 00:21:34,930

was so large, was so unbelievable

340

00:21:34,930 --> 00:21:39,250

that if I will make a personal statement today,

341

00:21:39,250 --> 00:21:43,020

almost 40 years after it happened, is that today,

342

00:21:43,020 --> 00:21:48,340

I understand less how it could happen than I understood it

343

00:21:48,340 --> 00:21:55,900

at the time that I was in a common victim of their actions.

344

00:21:55,900 --> 00:22:01,600

If you think about it today in hindsight, it is unbelievable.

345

00:22:01,600 --> 00:22:05,980

It is unbelievable

that somebody could

346
00:22:05,980 --> 00:22:10,750
have taken the decision
to kill systematically

347
00:22:10,750 --> 00:22:13,923
6 million people.

348
00:22:13,923 --> 00:22:15,340
If they would have
succeeded, they

349
00:22:15,340 --> 00:22:17,490
would have killed
seven million people.

350
00:22:17,490 --> 00:22:24,750

351
00:22:24,750 --> 00:22:27,670
(film slating)

352
00:22:27,670 --> 00:22:35,540
So within that
framework of mind,

353
00:22:35,540 --> 00:22:41,350
and within their wish
to keep everything

354
00:22:41,350 --> 00:22:47,800
as normal as possible,
they did all the things

355
00:22:47,800 --> 00:22:53,020
which today are almost
impossible to understand.

356
00:22:53,020 --> 00:23:02,110
They were already 10,000
of Jews were deported.

357

00:23:02,110 --> 00:23:08,050

They made a lot of fuss
of letters which came

358

00:23:08,050 --> 00:23:14,580

and which should show that
the people were working there,

359

00:23:14,580 --> 00:23:18,540

that the situation
wasn't so bad.

360

00:23:18,540 --> 00:23:20,910

They didn't ask under
what conditions the people

361

00:23:20,910 --> 00:23:23,670

were forced to
write those letters.

362

00:23:23,670 --> 00:23:29,190

They wouldn't
publish words which

363

00:23:29,190 --> 00:23:33,420

were added to the cards in
which every normal man would

364

00:23:33,420 --> 00:23:35,035

understand it.

365

00:23:35,035 --> 00:23:38,440

It was at no--

366

00:23:38,440 --> 00:23:44,220

But we know today we must say
today that Jews from Holland

367

00:23:44,220 --> 00:23:48,810

shipped to Auschwitz
and to Sobibor, where

368

00:23:48,810 --> 00:23:50,520
they were immediately killed.

369
00:23:50,520 --> 00:23:52,720
For some of them
before being killed,

370
00:23:52,720 --> 00:23:54,750
they had to fill postcards.

371
00:23:54,750 --> 00:24:01,070
So to send to Holland in
order to give insurance.

372
00:24:01,070 --> 00:24:02,520
But--

373
00:24:02,520 --> 00:24:06,610
You are filming now?

374
00:24:06,610 --> 00:24:07,750
Of course.

375
00:24:07,750 --> 00:24:08,250
OK.

376
00:24:08,250 --> 00:24:13,980

377
00:24:13,980 --> 00:24:15,960
I would say that
the cards who came

378
00:24:15,960 --> 00:24:21,080
what we know today that part of
the people were killed at once

379
00:24:21,080 --> 00:24:24,370
and perhaps it's told that
before they were killed they

380
00:24:24,370 --> 00:24:28,530

were forced to send cards, but
we know that part of the people

381
00:24:28,530 --> 00:24:34,980
were taken out of the transports
and we were put to work

382
00:24:34,980 --> 00:24:37,110
and killed only afterwards.

383
00:24:37,110 --> 00:24:39,930
And of course, they had
time to write a letter.

384
00:24:39,930 --> 00:24:47,190
But the number of letters which
ever came were very small.

385
00:24:47,190 --> 00:24:54,180
And to make a lot of fuss
of 80 letters or 90 letters,

386
00:24:54,180 --> 00:24:58,430
which came form from tens
of thousands of people

387
00:24:58,430 --> 00:25:06,930
where the path it is in itself
something which shouldn't have

388
00:25:06,930 --> 00:25:10,080
been done, which
should have been

389
00:25:10,080 --> 00:25:17,790
stress that are only so little,
and not that they are at all.

390
00:25:17,790 --> 00:25:22,170
And the result of
it what's that--

391
00:25:22,170 --> 00:25:24,390

and that was, in
my opinion, what

392
00:25:24,390 --> 00:25:32,810
they wanted to show that
it isn't so bad that you

393
00:25:32,810 --> 00:25:37,490
have a fair chance to survive.

394
00:25:37,490 --> 00:25:40,180
They would never say
it is an easy life

395
00:25:40,180 --> 00:25:42,590
or would seem to go there.

396
00:25:42,590 --> 00:25:49,380
But they would say, you have
a fair chance to stay alive.

397
00:25:49,380 --> 00:25:52,310
And I can only--

398
00:25:52,310 --> 00:25:55,670
It was only the Jewish
weekly but there

399
00:25:55,670 --> 00:26:03,410
was an internal information,
[INAUDIBLE] bulletin.

400
00:26:03,410 --> 00:26:05,074
I mean for the--

401
00:26:05,074 --> 00:26:07,110
For the people in
the Jewish Council--

402
00:26:07,110 --> 00:26:07,943
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

403

00:26:07,943 --> 00:26:14,550
Jewish Council, which delivered
the most fantastic stories

404
00:26:14,550 --> 00:26:17,600
about schooling in Poland.

405
00:26:17,600 --> 00:26:21,360
Saying that the
Warsaw Jewish Council,

406
00:26:21,360 --> 00:26:25,720
we know what were the conditions
in Warsaw early in '42,

407
00:26:25,720 --> 00:26:28,756
during the mass
deportations to Treblinka,

408
00:26:28,756 --> 00:26:32,060
that the Warsaw Jewish
Council was very much success

409
00:26:32,060 --> 00:26:35,588
with the laying out
of playing fields

410
00:26:35,588 --> 00:26:38,130
in squares in the middle of the
city for the Jewish children.

411
00:26:38,130 --> 00:26:39,770
I agree.

412
00:26:39,770 --> 00:26:41,910
They did a picture
of Monowitz, which

413
00:26:41,910 --> 00:26:47,070
was IG Farben's slave
camp annex of Auschwitz,

414
00:26:47,070 --> 00:26:50,460

a picture which is
idyllic, the food.

415
00:26:50,460 --> 00:26:55,920
I read, the food is good with
hot lunches, cheese, and jam

416
00:26:55,920 --> 00:26:58,270
sandwiches in the evenings.

417
00:26:58,270 --> 00:27:02,200
We have central heating and
sleep under two blankets.

418
00:27:02,200 --> 00:27:05,240
There are magnificent
shower arrangements

419
00:27:05,240 --> 00:27:07,740
with hot and cold water.

420
00:27:07,740 --> 00:27:12,150
It's-- they published
this, your Jewish Council!

421
00:27:12,150 --> 00:27:17,625
My Jewish Council published it
and it is today, unbelievable.

422
00:27:17,625 --> 00:27:18,500
That is unbelievable.

423
00:27:18,500 --> 00:27:20,540
Theresienstadt was Acapulco.

424
00:27:20,540 --> 00:27:24,870
It is unbelievable, but I
want to make something which

425
00:27:24,870 --> 00:27:28,140
perhaps you wouldn't think me--

426

00:27:28,140 --> 00:27:30,090
as a statement for me.

427
00:27:30,090 --> 00:27:33,060
They made those statements
partly because they

428
00:27:33,060 --> 00:27:34,410
wanted to believe it.

429
00:27:34,410 --> 00:27:37,230

430
00:27:37,230 --> 00:27:42,930
So when I'm talking about
those things and I am--

431
00:27:42,930 --> 00:27:44,580
I'm not defending them.

432
00:27:44,580 --> 00:27:46,080
I'm not defending them.

433
00:27:46,080 --> 00:27:50,550
But I am against
it in accusing them

434
00:27:50,550 --> 00:27:55,650
of things from which we
know in hindsight that they

435
00:27:55,650 --> 00:28:01,260
were absolutely impossible
that it would happen.

436
00:28:01,260 --> 00:28:05,220
But you should know that
the Dutch Jews, and I'm not

437
00:28:05,220 --> 00:28:07,450
talking only about
the Jewish Council,

438

00:28:07,450 --> 00:28:11,940

didn't know anything
what happened in Poland.

439

00:28:11,940 --> 00:28:12,750

They didn't know.

440

00:28:12,750 --> 00:28:16,530

441

00:28:16,530 --> 00:28:18,980

I think that the leaders
of the Jewish community--

442

00:28:18,980 --> 00:28:21,993

They were not
afraid of the East?

443

00:28:21,993 --> 00:28:23,910

Well, of course, they
were afraid of the East.

444

00:28:23,910 --> 00:28:25,860

They were afraid to
the East because they

445

00:28:25,860 --> 00:28:28,800

didn't want to go there, they
didn't want to leave Holland.

446

00:28:28,800 --> 00:28:31,020

They knew that in
the East situation

447

00:28:31,020 --> 00:28:34,380

was bad and difficult,
but they didn't know

448

00:28:34,380 --> 00:28:36,900

exactly what happened there.

449

00:28:36,900 --> 00:28:40,470

I told you before and
I'm saying it again,

450
00:28:40,470 --> 00:28:43,080
they didn't know about
the gas chambers.

451
00:28:43,080 --> 00:28:44,550
They didn't know.

452
00:28:44,550 --> 00:28:50,930
They know that the people would
be under difficult situation.

453
00:28:50,930 --> 00:28:55,110
I know that today
it is unbelievable

454
00:28:55,110 --> 00:28:58,070
that there would be a man who
would publish those things

455
00:28:58,070 --> 00:29:00,790
in an internal information.

456
00:29:00,790 --> 00:29:03,560
Theresienstadt.

457
00:29:03,560 --> 00:29:08,300
They write in this
international-- internal

458
00:29:08,300 --> 00:29:11,060
bulletin, the Jewish
Council, Theresienstadt

459
00:29:11,060 --> 00:29:14,430
is a friendly town
with broad streets

460
00:29:14,430 --> 00:29:19,090
and lovely gardens on
single story houses.

461
00:29:19,090 --> 00:29:24,590
The women and children seem
to be very well looked after.

462
00:29:24,590 --> 00:29:25,660
OK.

463
00:29:25,660 --> 00:29:27,530
OK.

464
00:29:27,530 --> 00:29:28,030
OK.

465
00:29:28,030 --> 00:29:28,700
OK.

466
00:29:28,700 --> 00:29:32,150
But you have to
see it my opinion.

467
00:29:32,150 --> 00:29:33,840
No, but it's not an
academic discussion.

468
00:29:33,840 --> 00:29:34,715
Something is written.

469
00:29:34,715 --> 00:29:36,510
No, I understand.

470
00:29:36,510 --> 00:29:37,830
No, I understand.

471
00:29:37,830 --> 00:29:42,230
I understand the
publishing of those things.

472
00:29:42,230 --> 00:29:44,250
What I have against
those publications,

473

00:29:44,250 --> 00:29:48,630

that they all serve
the same purpose--

474

00:29:48,630 --> 00:29:51,240

to keep the Jews quiet.

475

00:29:51,240 --> 00:29:52,500

As quiet as possible.

476

00:29:52,500 --> 00:29:54,620

They couldn't keep them quiet.

477

00:29:54,620 --> 00:30:00,900

They were never, the people
will remember the atmosphere

478

00:30:00,900 --> 00:30:07,690

and the mood of the Jews
in 1942 and 1943 in Holland

479

00:30:07,690 --> 00:30:11,370

will never say that
they lived a normal life

480

00:30:11,370 --> 00:30:13,890

or that they even were
thinking that they were living

481

00:30:13,890 --> 00:30:17,790

a normal life, but they
weren't aware of what

482

00:30:17,790 --> 00:30:19,290

was the real situation.

483

00:30:19,290 --> 00:30:23,210

And the Jewish Council helped
with all those publications.

484

00:30:23,210 --> 00:30:26,220

Perfectly right, but they did

everything in order to see,

485
00:30:26,220 --> 00:30:29,520
in order to blind themselves.

486
00:30:29,520 --> 00:30:43,980
They did everything to blind
the Jews, the general public.

487
00:30:43,980 --> 00:30:47,060
And to do that, they
had to blind themselves.

488
00:30:47,060 --> 00:30:50,370

489
00:30:50,370 --> 00:30:52,740
Of course, there are
things in which, today we

490
00:30:52,740 --> 00:30:56,400
are sure that it is impossible
that they themselves

491
00:30:56,400 --> 00:30:57,420
believed it.

492
00:30:57,420 --> 00:30:59,040
But there were things in which--

493
00:30:59,040 --> 00:31:02,240

494
00:31:02,240 --> 00:31:04,650
perhaps you should--
some of them

495
00:31:04,650 --> 00:31:06,580
give the benefit of
the doubt and they

496
00:31:06,580 --> 00:31:13,110

want was all the statements
I've made about my uncle.

497
00:31:13,110 --> 00:31:16,010
He was an optimist.

498
00:31:16,010 --> 00:31:20,810

499
00:31:20,810 --> 00:31:22,590
An unbelievable optimist.

500
00:31:22,590 --> 00:31:27,630
I would say his optimism and
that happens in all of that.

501
00:31:27,630 --> 00:31:30,330
This is a Jewish--
this is a Jewish trend?

502
00:31:30,330 --> 00:31:31,370
This is a Jewish trend.

503
00:31:31,370 --> 00:31:32,140
It was him.

504
00:31:32,140 --> 00:31:38,460
It was absolutely very, very,
very strong in all things.

505
00:31:38,460 --> 00:31:40,080
Everything in life.

506
00:31:40,080 --> 00:31:43,530
And also is this,
and if he could

507
00:31:43,530 --> 00:31:53,010
find one reason to see some
light in a very dark situation,

508
00:31:53,010 --> 00:31:54,510

he would do it.

509

00:31:54,510 --> 00:32:00,420
And if a man is so conditioned,
then to come afterwards

510

00:32:00,420 --> 00:32:04,560
to say, how could you publish
it when it is in favor

511

00:32:04,560 --> 00:32:06,060
of this general policy.

512

00:32:06,060 --> 00:32:09,120

513

00:32:09,120 --> 00:32:12,930
I would say only in detail.

514

00:32:12,930 --> 00:32:18,690
It is not one of the
most important things.

515

00:32:18,690 --> 00:32:21,450
It is what happens
when you go that way.

516

00:32:21,450 --> 00:32:23,380
And I'm coming back on it.

517

00:32:23,380 --> 00:32:26,170
That you go from bad to worse.

518

00:32:26,170 --> 00:32:32,160
You start out by giving
not all the information

519

00:32:32,160 --> 00:32:33,750
you got from the Germans.

520

00:32:33,750 --> 00:32:37,860
So it started out they

came back from the meetings

521

00:32:37,860 --> 00:32:44,070
with the Germans, with
Ashtenfunten? and Lages

522

00:32:44,070 --> 00:32:49,020
And they would report, the
more pleasant things they said.

523

00:32:49,020 --> 00:32:51,760
And then you talked
to them two hours,

524

00:32:51,760 --> 00:32:55,120
there must have been two
sentences, which is worse.

525

00:32:55,120 --> 00:33:00,710
But they wouldn't tell
them the worst things.

526

00:33:00,710 --> 00:33:02,640
Possible they already
have forgotten them

527

00:33:02,640 --> 00:33:05,850
by going from them to
the Jewish Council,

528

00:33:05,850 --> 00:33:07,750
they would already
have forgotten them.

529

00:33:07,750 --> 00:33:12,440
And then afterwards, you may
give a little bit better.

530

00:33:12,440 --> 00:33:19,740
And my criticism is on the line.

531

00:33:19,740 --> 00:33:29,500
And, of course, there are many

details which are very ugly.

532
00:33:29,500 --> 00:33:30,180
OK.

533
00:33:30,180 --> 00:33:32,160
They are--

534
00:33:32,160 --> 00:33:43,000