

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,210

2  
00:00:03,210 --> 00:00:04,440  
Tamir, set.

3  
00:00:04,440 --> 00:00:10,710

4  
00:00:10,710 --> 00:00:13,860  
Be replanted.

5  
00:00:13,860 --> 00:00:16,200  
This was the idea  
of Jabotinsky--

6  
00:00:16,200 --> 00:00:20,280  
mass evacuation, mass  
rescue, and the building

7  
00:00:20,280 --> 00:00:27,740  
of a new country of the same  
very people, but in altogether

8  
00:00:27,740 --> 00:00:31,580  
a new environment,  
a new climate,

9  
00:00:31,580 --> 00:00:35,670  
a new framework of sovereignty.

10  
00:00:35,670 --> 00:00:42,960  
Zionism, original  
Zionism, is basically

11  
00:00:42,960 --> 00:00:46,260  
a humanistic movement.

12  
00:00:46,260 --> 00:00:53,330  
And its uppermost consideration  
was the rescue of the Jews,

13  
00:00:53,330 --> 00:00:57,110  
not just a spiritual movement.

14  
00:00:57,110 --> 00:01:04,819  
And therefore, this  
exceptional case of betrayal

15  
00:01:04,819 --> 00:01:09,020  
is anti-Zionist, is  
contrary to Zionism.

16  
00:01:09,020 --> 00:01:10,760  
It's a single case.

17  
00:01:10,760 --> 00:01:16,340  
And it's very far from being  
a typical to Zionist activity.

18  
00:01:16,340 --> 00:01:19,040

19  
00:01:19,040 --> 00:01:21,800  
Yes, I agree fully with you.

20  
00:01:21,800 --> 00:01:25,820  
But don't you think  
that the picture was

21  
00:01:25,820 --> 00:01:28,410  
distorted a little bit later?

22  
00:01:28,410 --> 00:01:31,020  
I mean, this quotation  
of Chaim Cohen

23  
00:01:31,020 --> 00:01:36,410  
is not unique, not only is the  
quotation, but the attitude.

24  
00:01:36,410 --> 00:01:38,430  
For instance, you

talked about rescue,

25

00:01:38,430 --> 00:01:41,660

but there was a rescue  
committee in Palestine

26

00:01:41,660 --> 00:01:46,790

during the war,  
1942, 1943, 1944.

27

00:01:46,790 --> 00:01:53,800

And the president of this rescue  
committee was this [INAUDIBLE]..

28

00:01:53,800 --> 00:02:02,390

So there are many criticism  
of speeches that he gave.

29

00:02:02,390 --> 00:02:07,250

When he said, if I have to  
choose, we have no money,

30

00:02:07,250 --> 00:02:12,650

but a few money we  
have, we have to choose

31

00:02:12,650 --> 00:02:17,870

between to give this money  
to the currently made Jewish

32

00:02:17,870 --> 00:02:21,320

National Fund in Israel  
in order to buy land

33

00:02:21,320 --> 00:02:24,440

or to buy and so on,  
or to give this money

34

00:02:24,440 --> 00:02:27,600

to rescue the masses  
of the Jews of Europe

35

00:02:27,600 --> 00:02:30,530

who were in danger  
of extermination.

36  
00:02:30,530 --> 00:02:36,690  
Very consciously  
I choose the cow.

37  
00:02:36,690 --> 00:02:39,230  
I'm not sure your quote  
is totally accurate.

38  
00:02:39,230 --> 00:02:40,250  
But the spirit was--

39  
00:02:40,250 --> 00:02:42,710  
Well, the spirit issue.

40  
00:02:42,710 --> 00:02:49,250  
His spirit was, his line was,  
that the work of building

41  
00:02:49,250 --> 00:02:55,590  
the country and concentrating  
on this operation,

42  
00:02:55,590 --> 00:02:59,600  
his first priority  
even over sending money

43  
00:02:59,600 --> 00:03:04,100  
to rescue of Jews  
in Europe, I think

44  
00:03:04,100 --> 00:03:07,180  
it was a very wrong attitude.

45  
00:03:07,180 --> 00:03:11,600  
I've attacked this attitude  
in the trial of Kasztner.

46  
00:03:11,600 --> 00:03:17,210  
I think it's a very egocentric  
non-Zionist attitude.

47  
00:03:17,210 --> 00:03:25,910  
And the failure  
of this philosophy

48  
00:03:25,910 --> 00:03:30,050  
was proven in a very  
catastrophic way.

49  
00:03:30,050 --> 00:03:38,210  
This was not the only  
grave mistake of leadership

50  
00:03:38,210 --> 00:03:40,970  
in the free world.

51  
00:03:40,970 --> 00:03:50,120  
Apparently, among all people,  
the immediate light or slight

52  
00:03:50,120 --> 00:03:55,310  
pain of your own is much  
more important to you

53  
00:03:55,310 --> 00:04:01,950  
than the most horrible  
savage atrocities

54  
00:04:01,950 --> 00:04:06,360  
committed against tens  
of thousands far away.

55  
00:04:06,360 --> 00:04:10,590  
The human being is built  
in a very egotistic way.

56  
00:04:10,590 --> 00:04:15,420  
But if it can be understood  
as to private people,

57  
00:04:15,420 --> 00:04:21,300  
it still remain a very grave  
mistake, sometimes crime,

58

00:04:21,300 --> 00:04:26,440

when it remains  
in the leadership,

59

00:04:26,440 --> 00:04:29,700

especially of your own people.

60

00:04:29,700 --> 00:04:37,560

But this is an internal  
retroactive deep painful debate

61

00:04:37,560 --> 00:04:38,910

among our own people.

62

00:04:38,910 --> 00:04:41,790

63

00:04:41,790 --> 00:04:45,840

We have been faced, in  
the second World War,

64

00:04:45,840 --> 00:04:55,080

in the time of the Holocaust,  
with a combination, the most

65

00:04:55,080 --> 00:05:02,845

dreadful combination any people,  
any nation, any community ever

66

00:05:02,845 --> 00:05:03,345

faced.

67

00:05:03,345 --> 00:05:05,890

68

00:05:05,890 --> 00:05:15,560

Killers over our heads in Europe  
headed by the Nazi Germans

69

00:05:15,560 --> 00:05:19,430

worked in cooperation

with Hungarian Nazis,

70

00:05:19,430 --> 00:05:24,020

with Romanian Nazis, with Polish  
Nazis, with Ukrainian Nazis,

71

00:05:24,020 --> 00:05:27,890

with French Nazis, and so on.

72

00:05:27,890 --> 00:05:36,230

And the other world, the free  
world, was fighting Nazism--

73

00:05:36,230 --> 00:05:40,690

England, America, and  
even the Soviet Union.

74

00:05:40,690 --> 00:05:43,260

75

00:05:43,260 --> 00:05:45,330

And there is a reason  
why I say even,

76

00:05:45,330 --> 00:05:50,160

because it was their fight to  
rescue a good number of Jews

77

00:05:50,160 --> 00:05:51,780

eventually.

78

00:05:51,780 --> 00:05:56,600

But the rest of  
the world has acted

79

00:05:56,600 --> 00:06:02,690

in a conspiracy of  
silence, of acquiescence

80

00:06:02,690 --> 00:06:05,480

with the death of the Jews.

81

00:06:05,480 --> 00:06:10,610

Not only acquiescence,  
there was even

82

00:06:10,610 --> 00:06:21,050

a partial indirect cooperation  
in bringing about the death.

83

00:06:21,050 --> 00:06:25,820

Because the refusal  
of England and America

84

00:06:25,820 --> 00:06:34,370

to dispatch one single bomber  
to explode Auschwitz crematoria,

85

00:06:34,370 --> 00:06:37,430

thus saving tens of  
thousands, if not more,

86

00:06:37,430 --> 00:06:40,760

Jews was not just an omission.

87

00:06:40,760 --> 00:06:43,480

88

00:06:43,480 --> 00:06:46,650

It was an act of  
cooperation with death

89

00:06:46,650 --> 00:06:50,040

because it was done knowingly.

90

00:06:50,040 --> 00:06:55,140

And that's what  
contributed greatly

91

00:06:55,140 --> 00:06:57,330

to our revolt  
against the British

92

00:06:57,330 --> 00:07:00,300

towards the end of the second



World War in this country,

93

00:07:00,300 --> 00:07:04,710  
in Israel, in Palestine,  
in the then Palestine.

94

00:07:04,710 --> 00:07:08,970  
So we were trapped  
between killers

95

00:07:08,970 --> 00:07:13,770  
and between  
conspirators of silence

96

00:07:13,770 --> 00:07:15,750  
of the whole world, isolated.

97

00:07:15,750 --> 00:07:18,680

98

00:07:18,680 --> 00:07:23,690  
And in view of this  
combination, all the debates

99

00:07:23,690 --> 00:07:28,250  
that we have internally as  
to what were our mistakes

100

00:07:28,250 --> 00:07:34,040  
or mistakes of our leadership  
are fading in comparison

101

00:07:34,040 --> 00:07:40,130  
to this dreadful unique  
unprecedented combination

102

00:07:40,130 --> 00:07:47,780  
of evil doers, Nazi  
warmongers, killers, fanatics,

103

00:07:47,780 --> 00:08:00,340  
exterminators, and the calm,  
nonchalant, possibly somewhere

104  
00:08:00,340 --> 00:08:05,500  
satisfied people  
elsewhere who saw

105  
00:08:05,500 --> 00:08:08,230  
the death of the  
Jewish people and did

106  
00:08:08,230 --> 00:08:16,910  
nothing specific to save  
the Jews in the worst hour.

107  
00:08:16,910 --> 00:08:23,080  
What do you remember yourself  
personally over this time?

108  
00:08:23,080 --> 00:08:25,240  
I do.

109  
00:08:25,240 --> 00:08:25,780  
I do.

110  
00:08:25,780 --> 00:08:30,600  
I was a very young man.

111  
00:08:30,600 --> 00:08:33,950

112  
00:08:33,950 --> 00:08:39,320  
And we heard rumors  
that there might

113  
00:08:39,320 --> 00:08:45,140  
have been chances of rescue,  
and they were not exploited.

114  
00:08:45,140 --> 00:08:51,320  
And we were here in the safe  
Palestine, then Palestine.

115  
00:08:51,320 --> 00:08:53,880

116  
00:08:53,880 --> 00:09:01,140  
We knew of boats who were turned  
back by the British loaded

117  
00:09:01,140 --> 00:09:03,690  
with refugees.

118  
00:09:03,690 --> 00:09:06,480  
Even at the  
beginning of the war,

119  
00:09:06,480 --> 00:09:12,270  
we had the case of Struma, the  
boat with close to 1,000 Jews--

120  
00:09:12,270 --> 00:09:15,150  
men, women, and children--

121  
00:09:15,150 --> 00:09:19,200  
was disallowed to continue  
the way to Palestine.

122  
00:09:19,200 --> 00:09:24,280  
Sank into the ocean.

123  
00:09:24,280 --> 00:09:30,790  
And this was a direct  
result of British policy.

124  
00:09:30,790 --> 00:09:36,580  
And this was one of the very  
strong contributing factors

125  
00:09:36,580 --> 00:09:40,810  
that pushed a young man  
like me into the underground

126  
00:09:40,810 --> 00:09:45,550  
to fight the British while  
the war was going on.

127

00:09:45,550 --> 00:09:50,360

I can go even to detail.

128

00:09:50,360 --> 00:09:56,350

I remember the real direct  
push to join the underground,

129

00:09:56,350 --> 00:09:58,540

the underground  
Irgun Tzva Leumi was

130

00:09:58,540 --> 00:10:02,840

the desire for an independent  
country of our own.

131

00:10:02,840 --> 00:10:06,280

On the other hand,  
there were all kinds

132

00:10:06,280 --> 00:10:08,230

of deterrent elements--

133

00:10:08,230 --> 00:10:15,820

fear, doubt whether  
we can be successful.

134

00:10:15,820 --> 00:10:20,850

And there was a certain balance  
in the calculation in the mind.

135

00:10:20,850 --> 00:10:24,030

Should I do it or shouldn't I?

136

00:10:24,030 --> 00:10:30,240

It was involving danger for  
your own life and everything

137

00:10:30,240 --> 00:10:32,760

that is connected with it.

138

00:10:32,760 --> 00:10:37,050

The deciding factor, which

brought about my decision,

139

00:10:37,050 --> 00:10:45,870  
yes, take all these chances, was  
the Holocaust and the feeling

140

00:10:45,870 --> 00:10:53,280  
that the British who fought  
Nazis at the same time

141

00:10:53,280 --> 00:10:57,240  
prevented the Jews from rescue.

142

00:10:57,240 --> 00:11:04,380  
So it was a fight of freedom  
combined with the reaction

143

00:11:04,380 --> 00:11:09,180  
to the role of the  
good part of the world

144

00:11:09,180 --> 00:11:12,660  
and the horrible tragedy.

145

00:11:12,660 --> 00:11:14,100  
So excuse me.

146

00:11:14,100 --> 00:11:26,160

147

00:11:26,160 --> 00:11:33,690  
Tamir (film slating)

148

00:11:33,690 --> 00:11:36,840  
Paradoxically and  
tragically, the British

149

00:11:36,840 --> 00:11:41,220  
who fought the Nazis,  
the very same time

150

00:11:41,220 --> 00:11:43,510

prevented the Jews  
from being rescued.

151  
00:11:43,510 --> 00:11:46,910

152  
00:11:46,910 --> 00:11:54,980  
So both the most evil part  
of the world, Nazi Germany,

153  
00:11:54,980 --> 00:12:04,160  
and the bastion of freedom,  
England and the United States,

154  
00:12:04,160 --> 00:12:12,610  
in this dreadful combination  
by active killing

155  
00:12:12,610 --> 00:12:21,040  
and by passive acquiescence  
wound up with the fact

156  
00:12:21,040 --> 00:12:24,070  
that the Jews were slaughtered.

157  
00:12:24,070 --> 00:12:33,300  
And this feeling pushed  
boys like me in this country

158  
00:12:33,300 --> 00:12:40,110  
then to feel that we are  
not better than our brethren

159  
00:12:40,110 --> 00:12:42,000  
in Europe.

160  
00:12:42,000 --> 00:12:46,500  
And that we have to  
make the ultimate risk

161  
00:12:46,500 --> 00:12:51,630  
and to take all chances to  
put an end to this situation

162  
00:12:51,630 --> 00:12:56,280  
where Jews are being  
squeezed between killers

163  
00:12:56,280 --> 00:12:59,790  
and between  
conspirators of silence

164  
00:12:59,790 --> 00:13:03,660  
and eventually go  
to death chambers.

165  
00:13:03,660 --> 00:13:06,360  
And therefore,  
fight for freedom,

166  
00:13:06,360 --> 00:13:09,240  
for sovereignty,  
for independence,

167  
00:13:09,240 --> 00:13:13,020  
for a new Jewish Renaissance.

168  
00:13:13,020 --> 00:13:18,270  
In what rescue was concerned,  
rescue of the European Jews,

169  
00:13:18,270 --> 00:13:24,040  
did you have a feeling  
of helplessness?

170  
00:13:24,040 --> 00:13:25,290  
We felt that--

171  
00:13:25,290 --> 00:13:27,540  
Of powerlessness.

172  
00:13:27,540 --> 00:13:30,180  
Well, there were efforts.

173  
00:13:30,180 --> 00:13:33,510

You know of the parachutists,  
the few parachutists who were

174  
00:13:33,510 --> 00:13:35,760  
sent to Europe by the Haganah.

175  
00:13:35,760 --> 00:13:36,780  
Yes.

176  
00:13:36,780 --> 00:13:43,380  
And there was an attempt to  
organize a similar group,

177  
00:13:43,380 --> 00:13:49,230  
a bigger group by the Irgun  
which failed because it

178  
00:13:49,230 --> 00:13:50,475  
was dependent on the British.

179  
00:13:50,475 --> 00:13:53,070

180  
00:13:53,070 --> 00:14:00,630  
But above all, even in  
'44, the actual knowledge

181  
00:14:00,630 --> 00:14:09,410  
of ours in this country was  
very limited, very obscured.

182  
00:14:09,410 --> 00:14:13,980  
And this is an  
altogether another story,

183  
00:14:13,980 --> 00:14:16,560  
but it's a very important one.

184  
00:14:16,560 --> 00:14:22,350  
How the facts were brought to  
the knowledge of the people

185



00:14:22,350 --> 00:14:28,920  
in a way which didn't call  
them to an all out alarm.

186  
00:14:28,920 --> 00:14:33,990  
While there were elements  
who knew the facts for sure,

187  
00:14:33,990 --> 00:14:35,418  
the detailed facts.

188  
00:14:35,418 --> 00:14:36,960  
You're saying it  
was done in purpose?

189  
00:14:36,960 --> 00:14:40,050

190  
00:14:40,050 --> 00:14:42,870  
Some people thought  
this is the wise way.

191  
00:14:42,870 --> 00:14:45,420  
That things should be  
handled diplomatically.

192  
00:14:45,420 --> 00:14:48,210  
That efforts should  
be done in a way which

193  
00:14:48,210 --> 00:14:53,010  
won't create storms which  
may endanger this development

194  
00:14:53,010 --> 00:14:54,750  
or that development.

195  
00:14:54,750 --> 00:14:58,140  
These were very grave  
mistakes looking upon them

196  
00:14:58,140 --> 00:15:00,850  
retroactively, very

grave mistakes.

197

00:15:00,850 --> 00:15:04,890

But again, this is an  
internal accounting

198

00:15:04,890 --> 00:15:06,870

that we do in our midst.

199

00:15:06,870 --> 00:15:11,970

And we have to do as a  
lesson for the future.

200

00:15:11,970 --> 00:15:17,620

But in face of what we  
faced from the outside world

201

00:15:17,620 --> 00:15:23,220

from the global situation,  
all the Jewish mistakes

202

00:15:23,220 --> 00:15:26,460

fade in comparison.

203

00:15:26,460 --> 00:15:28,950

Although when we  
are in our midst,

204

00:15:28,950 --> 00:15:33,510

we have to go deep into them.

205

00:15:33,510 --> 00:15:39,390

You know, I come back just once  
to Kasztner and Weissmandel.

206

00:15:39,390 --> 00:15:46,500

I said at the beginning  
of this conversation

207

00:15:46,500 --> 00:15:49,140

that Weissmandel was  
the one who initiated

208

00:15:49,140 --> 00:15:56,550  
the bargaining with the Germans  
to save Jews with money.

209

00:15:56,550 --> 00:16:00,180  
And it's a very extraordinary  
and beautiful story

210

00:16:00,180 --> 00:16:03,510  
because the Germans  
were very interested

211

00:16:03,510 --> 00:16:11,490  
in the idea of the Jewish  
power, that international Jewry

212

00:16:11,490 --> 00:16:14,190  
was powerful and full of money.

213

00:16:14,190 --> 00:16:17,010  
And it was not true, of  
course, on Weissmandel

214

00:16:17,010 --> 00:16:24,690  
to invent even to create a  
character that he invented.

215

00:16:24,690 --> 00:16:27,480  
And he said to the  
Germans [INAUDIBLE]

216

00:16:27,480 --> 00:16:31,230  
I received the money from this  
one who work the International

217

00:16:31,230 --> 00:16:32,010  
Jew.

218

00:16:32,010 --> 00:16:36,990  
But yourself in  
principle, where you

219

00:16:36,990 --> 00:16:42,460  
are you opposed to the  
idea of this negotiation?

220  
00:16:42,460 --> 00:16:46,410  
No, I saw nothing wrong  
in trying to save Jews

221  
00:16:46,410 --> 00:16:48,930  
for money or in any other way.

222  
00:16:48,930 --> 00:16:51,480

223  
00:16:51,480 --> 00:16:54,840  
Weissmandel, in  
my opinion, never

224  
00:16:54,840 --> 00:16:59,730  
came close to the demarcation  
line between an attempt

225  
00:16:59,730 --> 00:17:02,400  
to rescue and between  
collaboration, never.

226  
00:17:02,400 --> 00:17:03,734  
Very far from it.

227  
00:17:03,734 --> 00:17:05,129  
He was a beautiful soul.

228  
00:17:05,129 --> 00:17:07,920

229  
00:17:07,920 --> 00:17:13,800  
And the attempt to save  
souls with money, ransom

230  
00:17:13,800 --> 00:17:14,859  
is legitimate.

231

00:17:14,859 --> 00:17:17,710

It's tragic, but it's  
totally legitimate.

232

00:17:17,710 --> 00:17:18,900

It's so humane.

233

00:17:18,900 --> 00:17:23,170

What is money in comparison  
to a single human life?

234

00:17:23,170 --> 00:17:26,160

And it is what Weissmandel  
had actually asked.

235

00:17:26,160 --> 00:17:28,740

And he asked apart  
from other things,

236

00:17:28,740 --> 00:17:31,780

but he saw the whole scope.

237

00:17:31,780 --> 00:17:35,050

He said send us money  
to do it with money.

238

00:17:35,050 --> 00:17:38,710

Help us with other elements to--

239

00:17:38,710 --> 00:17:39,700

Bombers.

240

00:17:39,700 --> 00:17:40,990

No, no, before the bombers.

241

00:17:40,990 --> 00:17:43,990

To let people hide.

242

00:17:43,990 --> 00:17:50,200

Send bombers to drop  
leaflets all over Hungary

243

00:17:50,200 --> 00:17:53,980  
so that the people will know  
for sure that they are doomed

244  
00:17:53,980 --> 00:17:57,530  
and do everything  
to save their lives.

245  
00:17:57,530 --> 00:18:00,970  
This is contrary to the  
whole Kasztner operation.

246  
00:18:00,970 --> 00:18:03,370  
And then he said  
bomb the bridges.

247  
00:18:03,370 --> 00:18:04,810  
Bomb Auschwitz.

248  
00:18:04,810 --> 00:18:05,800  
Made an outcry.

249  
00:18:05,800 --> 00:18:08,380

250  
00:18:08,380 --> 00:18:11,980  
Make that the major  
powers declare

251  
00:18:11,980 --> 00:18:14,470  
to Germany and to  
every German that he

252  
00:18:14,470 --> 00:18:18,250  
will be punished to  
death after the war

253  
00:18:18,250 --> 00:18:21,370  
if he participates  
in the atrocities.

254  
00:18:21,370 --> 00:18:24,400  
He saw all the

scopes of activity

255

00:18:24,400 --> 00:18:26,530

because his heart was  
with these people.

256

00:18:26,530 --> 00:18:28,300

He identified himself  
with the people.

257

00:18:28,300 --> 00:18:29,980

He was a leader of the people.

258

00:18:29,980 --> 00:18:31,540

He was in the underground.

259

00:18:31,540 --> 00:18:34,510

And among other things, he  
tried the money element.

260

00:18:34,510 --> 00:18:40,810

Where is the pure Weissmandel  
really the leader of his people

261

00:18:40,810 --> 00:18:42,400

who initiated everything.

262

00:18:42,400 --> 00:18:44,050

Who cried his heart out.

263

00:18:44,050 --> 00:18:51,970

Who did everything in comparison  
with these terrible phenomena

264

00:18:51,970 --> 00:18:53,920

single.

265

00:18:53,920 --> 00:19:00,010

But frightful, which wound up in  
such a shameful collaboration.

266

00:19:00,010 --> 00:19:06,040

Single, not typical,  
which we can lament.

267  
00:19:06,040 --> 00:19:10,150  
And I would again  
define a man whose soul

268  
00:19:10,150 --> 00:19:11,770  
was burned in Auschwitz.

269  
00:19:11,770 --> 00:19:30,930

270  
00:19:30,930 --> 00:19:31,610  
That's it.

271  
00:19:31,610 --> 00:19:55,970

272  
00:19:55,970 --> 00:19:57,760  
(film logistics)

273  
00:19:57,760 --> 00:20:00,220  
Don't contain my smile.

274  
00:20:00,220 --> 00:20:12,000