1 00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,690

2 00:00:05,690 --> 00:00:09,130 (film slating)

3 00:00:09,130 --> 00:00:14,200 Well, we were talking, Claude, about the recommendations,

4 00:00:14,200 --> 00:00:23,080 the pleas, the proposals that the rail lines between Hungary

5 00:00:23,080 --> 00:00:24,160 and other--

6 00:00:24,160 --> 00:00:26,390 Germany--

7 00:00:26,390 --> 00:00:27,190 Auschwitz.

8 00:00:27,190 --> 00:00:31,760 --Auschwitz be bombed and destroyed

9 00:00:31,760 --> 00:00:37,780 as at least a temporary way of stopping, alleviating.

10 00:00:37,780 --> 00:00:41,200 I forwarded that recommendation, certainly

11 00:00:41,200 --> 00:00:42,640 on three or four occasions.

12 00:00:42,640 --> 00:00:44,680 I made it myself. 13 00:00:44,680 --> 00:00:46,930 I can remember going to some pains

14 00:00:46,930 --> 00:00:52,330 to get accurate maps that were understandable in the United

15 00:00:52,330 --> 00:00:54,460 States to suggest where this place was.

16 00:00:54,460 --> 00:00:57,550

17 00:00:57,550 --> 00:00:59,530 I, myself, did not know at that time

18 00:00:59,530 --> 00:01:02,890 that it was also, other that in very general terms, a very

19 00:01:02,890 --> 00:01:05,243 large industrial complex associated

20 00:01:05,243 --> 00:01:06,410 with Auschwitz and Birkenau.

21 00:01:06,410 --> 00:01:10,420

22 00:01:10,420 --> 00:01:16,150 This recommendation was never followed out,

23 00:01:16,150 --> 00:01:19,060 either mine or others.

24 00:01:19,060 --> 00:01:23,620 I don't recall ever receiving a specific explanation,

25 00:01:23,620 --> 00:01:27,850 other than that this was not possible within the--

26 00:01:27,850 --> 00:01:31,450 was not within the tactical or strategic possibilities

27 00:01:31,450 --> 00:01:32,365 of the war effort.

28 00:01:32,365 --> 00:01:37,350

29 00:01:37,350 --> 00:01:42,600 One, again, comes back to the inability

30 00:01:42,600 --> 00:01:46,810 to understand what was going on.

31 00:01:46,810 --> 00:01:49,440 And I think one of the most striking examples

32 00:01:49,440 --> 00:01:52,230 of that is some of the memoranda that

33 00:01:52,230 --> 00:01:56,040 went back and forth in the Department of Defense

34 00:01:56,040 --> 00:02:00,600 between the then secretary of the army

35 00:02:00,600 --> 00:02:03,550 and the War Refugee Board regarding this. 36 00:02:03,550 --> 00:02:09,240 And in one of which, and I think I quoted accurately,

37 00:02:09,240 --> 00:02:11,970 the secretary of the army stated that--

38 00:02:11,970 --> 00:02:13,050 Who was he?

39 00:02:13,050 --> 00:02:18,000 I think it was Mr. McCloy, John McCloy.

40 00:02:18,000 --> 00:02:24,210 That even if this action had been practicable,

41 00:02:24,210 --> 00:02:28,140 it might provoke even more vindictive action

42 00:02:28,140 --> 00:02:31,170 on the part of the Germans.

43 00:02:31,170 --> 00:02:34,450 Well, this is, of course, absolute nonsense.

44 00:02:34,450 --> 00:02:37,530 I mean, how can you treat people more vindictively

45 00:02:37,530 --> 00:02:44,080 than gassing them and burning them up afterwards?

46 00:02:44,080 --> 00:02:44,820 I don't know.

47 00:02:44,820 --> 00:02:48,120 I suppose this was a subject of debate in the Jewish community

48 00:02:48,120 --> 00:02:49,260 on the outside.

49 00:02:49,260 --> 00:02:53,700 But I suppose the consensus was that these poor people were

50 00:02:53,700 --> 00:02:55,350 going to be killed anyway.

51 00:02:55,350 --> 00:02:57,300 It's the old business, do you--

52 00:02:57,300 --> 00:03:01,890 personally, would prefer to be killed by a high-explosive bomb

53 00:03:01,890 --> 00:03:03,816 then gassed with cyanide.

54 00:03:03,816 --> 00:03:07,350

55 00:03:07,350 --> 00:03:09,750 And then, of course, when it came out afterwards,

56 00:03:09,750 --> 00:03:11,460 which I did not know at the time,

57 00:03:11,460 --> 00:03:16,740 that from a military and tactical point of view,

58 00:03:16,740 --> 00:03:19,810 that this would have been perfectly feasible. 00:03:19,810 --> 00:03:20,310 It was.

60 00:03:20,310 --> 00:03:25,920 They were bombing within industrial the rubber, IG

61 00:03:25,920 --> 00:03:30,390 Farben thing within 25 kilometers of the crematoria.

62 00:03:30,390 --> 00:03:34,050 They could have knocked those out.

63 00:03:34,050 --> 00:03:35,910 Bombing railroad lines, of course,

64 00:03:35,910 --> 00:03:38,160 is a very temporary expedient, as we've

65 00:03:38,160 --> 00:03:40,800 learned in a lot of places, Vietnam not the least.

66 00:03:40,800 --> 00:03:44,010 You can put them back together in a couple of days.

67 00:03:44,010 --> 00:03:47,160 But I expect it would have taken the Germans some time

68 00:03:47,160 --> 00:03:51,260 to reconstruct that horrible apparatus.

69 00:03:51,260 --> 00:03:57,420 [INAUDIBLE] do we consider, too, what they were doing? 00:03:57,420 --> 00:04:00,740 Because they would have known that if the crematoria

71 00:04:00,740 --> 00:04:03,690 precisely are bombed, this would have--

72 00:04:03,690 --> 00:04:05,730 I think too, one should also feel,

73 00:04:05,730 --> 00:04:08,790 and I always felt a little about the War Refugee Board

74 00:04:08,790 --> 00:04:12,750 that you had to give these people some indication

75 00:04:12,750 --> 00:04:14,790 that they were not abandoned, that somebody

76 00:04:14,790 --> 00:04:16,660 was trying to do something for them,

77 00:04:16,660 --> 00:04:20,455 however inadequate or late or--

78 00:04:20,455 --> 00:04:21,600 That's very true.

79 00:04:21,600 --> 00:04:23,040 --or small.

80 00:04:23,040 --> 00:04:26,078 I'm sure that would have changed the morale.

81 00:04:26,078 --> 00:04:27,120 And this was [INAUDIBLE]. 82 00:04:27,120 --> 00:04:29,915 It might have scared the Nazis a little bit.

83 00:04:29,915 --> 00:04:32,040 I don't know whether they were susceptible to being

84 00:04:32,040 --> 00:04:32,940 frightened.

85 00:04:32,940 --> 00:04:38,725 Yes, because one of the deepest--

86 00:04:38,725 --> 00:04:42,214

87 00:04:42,214 --> 00:04:43,965 how can I say?

88 00:04:43,965 --> 00:04:44,840 Well, like they had--

89 00:04:44,840 --> 00:04:45,673 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

90 00:04:45,673 --> 00:04:48,840 --so terrible because it's Jews that

91 00:04:48,840 --> 00:04:51,350 were dying, not only at Auschwitz, but even

92 00:04:51,350 --> 00:04:53,170 before, in Treblinka.

93 00:04:53,170 --> 00:04:56,390 And those extermination camps had such a feeling 94 00:04:56,390 --> 00:04:58,580 of absolute loneliness.

95 00:04:58,580 --> 00:04:59,080 Abandonment.

96 00:04:59,080 --> 00:05:00,370 Of being completely abandoned.

97 00:05:00,370 --> 00:05:01,670 That's a good word.

98 00:05:01,670 --> 00:05:04,820 And it is a point, and there is nothing to answer to this.

99 00:05:04,820 --> 00:05:07,700 They were, in large part.

100 00:05:07,700 --> 00:05:08,540 Yes.

101 00:05:08,540 --> 00:05:11,510 But I think, again, because people really

102 00:05:11,510 --> 00:05:14,750 didn't know and didn't realize, didn't understand.

103 00:05:14,750 --> 00:05:19,020 It's not only that they didn't know it, it's credibility--

104 00:05:19,020 --> 00:05:23,940 How do you decide what hell is like, you know?

105 00:05:23,940 --> 00:05:25,560 It's everybody's version. 106 00:05:25,560 --> 00:05:29,283

107 00:05:29,283 --> 00:05:31,239 That's a good question.

108 00:05:31,239 --> 00:05:42,490

109 00:05:42,490 --> 00:05:47,790 So it's hard to know by after sight what would have happened.

110 00:05:47,790 --> 00:05:52,440 I'm sure it would have given them pause.

111 00:05:52,440 --> 00:05:55,740 This was fairly late, too, that we're talking about.

112 00:05:55,740 --> 00:06:01,590 What, we're talking about July 1944, August 1944?

113 00:06:01,590 --> 00:06:02,090 Yes.

114 00:06:02,090 --> 00:06:06,590

115 00:06:06,590 --> 00:06:10,250 You know, think of the commando and operations,

116 00:06:10,250 --> 00:06:12,710 the sabotage operations that were carried out

117 00:06:12,710 --> 00:06:14,960 by S.S. organizations. 118

00:06:14,960 --> 00:06:17,870 I'm sure you could have recruited a Jewish parachute

119

00:06:17,870 --> 00:06:18,485 unit.

120

00:06:18,485 --> 00:06:23,900 A unit that would have been charmed to drop in Auschwitz

121

00:06:23,900 --> 00:06:26,210 and shoot up Nazis and blow up the whole place,

122

00:06:26,210 --> 00:06:28,310 even if they all died.

123

00:06:28,310 --> 00:06:30,010 Don't you think that?

124

00:06:30,010 --> 00:06:31,850 I'm convinced of it.

125

00:06:31,850 --> 00:06:33,200 Convinced.

126

00:06:33,200 --> 00:06:36,260 But that took a little imagination and a little--

127

00:06:36,260 --> 00:06:37,840 Yes.

128

00:06:37,840 --> 00:06:38,860 --a will to--

129

00:06:38,860 --> 00:06:47,340

130

00:06:47,340 --> 00:06:51,320

(film slating)

131 00:06:51,320 --> 00:06:55,320 The first time I offered you to--

132

00:06:55,320 --> 00:06:58,680 I didn't offer, I begged you to participate.

133

00:06:58,680 --> 00:07:00,080 I think you were more diplomatic.

134

00:07:00,080 --> 00:07:00,990 You proposed--

135

00:07:00,990 --> 00:07:02,600 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

136

00:07:02,600 --> 00:07:04,840 In my heart, I begged.

137

00:07:04,840 --> 00:07:11,900 You express some reservations about your participation.

138

00:07:11,900 --> 00:07:16,566 And you change your mind, which I am very glad and grateful.

139

00:07:16,566 --> 00:07:18,170 And could you--

140

00:07:18,170 --> 00:07:26,360 Well, as you know, I had certain misgivings and doubts, as well

141

00:07:26,360 --> 00:07:29,660 as the natural emotional reaction

142

00:07:29,660 --> 00:07:36,620 to reliving, resuscitating a very sad and difficult chapter

143

00:07:36,620 --> 00:07:41,870 of history, which was then many years back.

144

00:07:41,870 --> 00:07:43,610 Again, we had our old gap.

145

00:07:43,610 --> 00:07:46,440 I was sitting quietly in the countryside of New York.

146

00:07:46,440 --> 00:07:50,750 And you turned up out of the blue from Europe

147

00:07:50,750 --> 00:07:54,140 with an old story that, in some ways,

148

00:07:54,140 --> 00:07:56,780 I had purposely forgotten.

149

00:07:56,780 --> 00:08:02,090 Because I'm fundamentally an optimistic man, and I think

150

00:08:02,090 --> 00:08:05,030 it's a little morbid to dwell on the evils of the world.

151

00:08:05,030 --> 00:08:07,430 God knows there are enough of them.

152

00:08:07,430 --> 00:08:09,500 So I went through a certain process

153

00:08:09,500 --> 00:08:16,070

of trying to think through in my own mind

154

00:08:16,070 --> 00:08:18,500 whether this would be helpful and useful.

155

00:08:18,500 --> 00:08:20,640 And I did come to that conclusion.

156

00:08:20,640 --> 00:08:23,510 And I think maybe in the light of some

157

00:08:23,510 --> 00:08:27,670 of the things that are going on in the world,

158

00:08:27,670 --> 00:08:34,940 a conscious and purposeful effort

159

00:08:34,940 --> 00:08:41,690 to obliterate this record on the part of certain groups

160

00:08:41,690 --> 00:08:43,850 to contend that it never happened, that this

161

00:08:43,850 --> 00:08:52,010 is all Jewish propaganda or lies or fantasy, that one has a duty

162

00:08:52,010 --> 00:08:56,840 to make the record clear those people who had any role in it.

163

00:08:56,840 --> 00:09:05,600

164

00:09:05,600 --> 00:09:08,630

It seems to me when you examine the situation that you

165 00:09:08,630 --> 00:09:11,060 might draw two analogies.

166 00:09:11,060 --> 00:09:14,870 How, for example, is a pathologist

167 00:09:14,870 --> 00:09:18,200 to work on the problems of disease

168 00:09:18,200 --> 00:09:24,350 without a very clear pathological record of what

169 00:09:24,350 --> 00:09:27,800 passes under his microscope?

170 00:09:27,800 --> 00:09:33,170 You cannot combat a disease without knowing the nature

171 00:09:33,170 --> 00:09:33,740 of it.

172 00:09:33,740 --> 00:09:36,800

173 00:09:36,800 --> 00:09:42,140 What the Nazis did, whether you call it a disease or--

174 00:09:42,140 --> 00:09:45,470 one is at a loss for adjectives in this whole thing

175 00:09:45,470 --> 00:09:48,380 because, essentially, you are attempting 176

00:09:48,380 --> 00:09:50,930 to describe the indescribable.

177

00:09:50,930 --> 00:09:54,590 Or as someone said, you are you were asked to tell a tale that

178

00:09:54,590 --> 00:09:57,080 cannot really be told.

179

00:09:57,080 --> 00:10:02,660 Do you think that Holocaust is something unique which had no--

180

00:10:02,660 --> 00:10:04,850 without precedent?

181

00:10:04,850 --> 00:10:07,670 In certain respects, yes.

182

00:10:07,670 --> 00:10:09,320 In certain respects, yes.

183

00:10:09,320 --> 00:10:14,450 Unhappily, the history of man's inhumanity to man

184

00:10:14,450 --> 00:10:16,910 has had a variety of chapters.

185

00:10:16,910 --> 00:10:22,040 I don't think it has ever had a chapter quite like this one.

186

00:10:22,040 --> 00:10:24,000 There have been other genocidal--

187

00:10:24,000 --> 00:10:26,610

00:10:26,610 --> 00:10:27,110 Attacks.

189

00:10:27,110 --> 00:10:30,080 --attacks, efforts.

190

00:10:30,080 --> 00:10:32,420 I suppose the famous one of the Armenians

191 00:10:32,420 --> 00:10:35,390 that I remember from my childhood.

192

00:10:35,390 --> 00:10:38,240 But on a different scale and without this sort

193

00:10:38,240 --> 00:10:45,320 of horrible mechanistic input of the modern world.

194

00:10:45,320 --> 00:10:47,030 Again, that was one of the things

195

00:10:47,030 --> 00:10:48,860 that I feel strongly about.

196

00:10:48,860 --> 00:10:51,920 We've developed a highly successful

197

00:10:51,920 --> 00:10:55,370 technical civilization, but we are far,

198

00:10:55,370 --> 00:11:03,800 far behind in developing any equal moral civilization.

199

00:11:03,800 --> 00:11:06,440

It always comes to

my mind the phrase

200

00:11:06,440 --> 00:11:09,380 of Georges Bernanos your Catholic philosopher

201

00:11:09,380 --> 00:11:09,980 and writer--

202

00:11:09,980 --> 00:11:15,249

203

00:11:15,249 --> 00:11:19,090 (film slating)

204

00:11:19,090 --> 00:11:21,670

Well, I was talking

Claude about my feelings

205

00:11:21,670 --> 00:11:25,240

that we're in a

period where we have

206

00:11:25,240 --> 00:11:28,510

an ascendancy of a

technical civilization

207

00:11:28,510 --> 00:11:36,010

over any corresponding

moral philosophy, morality

208

00:11:36,010 --> 00:11:39,980

being far behind technology.

209

00:11:39,980 --> 00:11:47,890

And one of the most telling

phrases in this context that I

210

00:11:47,890 --> 00:11:51,160

recall is that of Georges

Bernanos in a book a good many

00:11:51,160 --> 00:11:54,760 years ago in which he referred to the fact that it is no

212

00:11:54,760 --> 00:11:57,745 longer a question of [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

213

00:11:57,745 --> 00:12:01,990

214

00:12:01,990 --> 00:12:04,420 "No longer the man handling the machine gun,

215

00:12:04,420 --> 00:12:06,400 but the machine gun handling the man."

216

00:12:06,400 --> 00:12:09,940

217

00:12:09,940 --> 00:12:15,760 Obviously, we've got a lot of ground to catch up.

218

00:12:15,760 --> 00:12:20,440 Thinking parallel to the analogy of the pathologist,

219

00:12:20,440 --> 00:12:22,300 I think of the psychiatrist.

220

00:12:22,300 --> 00:12:25,360 The psychiatrist has to study people's nightmares

221

00:12:25,360 --> 00:12:28,120 and their aberrations.

222

00:12:28,120 --> 00:12:33,760 And this frightful

aberration of human history

223

00:12:33,760 --> 00:12:37,240 is of concern to everybody.

224

00:12:37,240 --> 00:12:39,550 It's not unique in that sense.

225

00:12:39,550 --> 00:12:42,610 It should not be allowed to remain unique.

226

00:12:42,610 --> 00:12:45,490 It's something that all of mankind, Jewish and non-Jewish,

227

00:12:45,490 --> 00:12:47,440 should address themselves to.

228

00:12:47,440 --> 00:12:51,150

229

00:12:51,150 --> 00:12:56,910 Another aspect of the moral and on the moral plane,

230

00:12:56,910 --> 00:13:00,780 I'm inclined to believe in the old Augustinian

231

00:13:00,780 --> 00:13:04,230 doctrine of sin and atonement.

232

00:13:04,230 --> 00:13:08,250 The atonement has to be commensurate with the sin.

233

00:13:08,250 --> 00:13:13,480 And in order for people to make amends

234

00:13:13,480 --> 00:13:14,855 for the sins they

have committed,

235

00:13:14,855 --> 00:13:18,150 you've got to know what the dimensions of the sin are--

236

00:13:18,150 --> 00:13:19,080 sins are.

237

00:13:19,080 --> 00:13:22,715 And people tend to forget those things, understandably.

238

00:13:22,715 --> 00:13:24,840 Pretend that they never happened, that they weren't

239

00:13:24,840 --> 00:13:26,130 as bad as they really were.

240

 $00:13:26,130 \longrightarrow 00:13:29,100$

241

00:13:29,100 --> 00:13:30,990 Quite apart from a conscious effort

242

00:13:30,990 --> 00:13:36,690 on the part of some people to carry this out.

243

00:13:36,690 --> 00:13:39,750 I think we have to have resolve that it will never

244

00:13:39,750 --> 00:13:40,830 happen again.

245

00:13:40,830 --> 00:13:45,300 But how can you be sure of the never again? 00:13:45,300 --> 00:13:47,610 It's a question of eternal vigilance,

247

00:13:47,610 --> 00:13:50,670 of having a very clear and specific record, which

248

00:13:50,670 --> 00:13:56,790 I think is one of your purposes in making this film, in order

249

00:13:56,790 --> 00:14:02,370 that humankind, civilization, whatever we want to call it,

250

00:14:02,370 --> 00:14:05,790 can realize that it has some terrible defects that

251

00:14:05,790 --> 00:14:12,030 have to be corrected and should not allowed to happen again.

252

00:14:12,030 --> 00:14:17,610 You have also the question of retribution and punishment,

253

00:14:17,610 --> 00:14:20,520 I think one that's quite strong in Jewish philosophy.

254

00:14:20,520 --> 00:14:24,570

255

00:14:24,570 --> 00:14:28,110 If-- and there certainly has not been adequate punishment

256

00:14:28,110 --> 00:14:29,970 or retribution.

00:14:29,970 --> 00:14:33,840

All one has to do is examine the record that I think have been

258

00:14:33,840 --> 00:14:35,820 published quite clearly in a recent book

259

00:14:35,820 --> 00:14:42,120 of the whole German industrial complex, IG Farben.

260

00:14:42,120 --> 00:14:45,720 The people who were behind the slave labor

261

00:14:45,720 --> 00:14:51,300 industry, most of whom I think got off

262

00:14:51,300 --> 00:14:53,265 with a very minor sentence.

263

00:14:53,265 --> 00:14:55,800

264

00:14:55,800 --> 00:15:01,410 Whereas in my own philosophy, I'm not sure

265

00:15:01,410 --> 00:15:03,870 that the eye for the eye and the tooth for the tooth

266

00:15:03,870 --> 00:15:05,110 is the way to handle it.

267

00:15:05,110 --> 00:15:08,650 But as far as the Jewish people are concerned,

268

00:15:08,650 --> 00:15:14,160

this is an

inextinguishable crime.

269 00:15:14,160 --> 00:15:15,930 Anger and a rage.

270

00:15:15,930 --> 00:15:17,925 It can never be atone for, really.

271

00:15:17,925 --> 00:15:20,560

272

00:15:20,560 --> 00:15:22,660 But you have to try.

273

00:15:22,660 --> 00:15:27,980 You have to try and the record has to be clear.

274

00:15:27,980 --> 00:15:30,650 And I think that's why people should hear about it again.

275

00:15:30,650 --> 00:15:34,560 You've had public statements in the United States recently

276

00:15:34,560 --> 00:15:38,760 in connection with teaching part of the history of the Holocaust

277

00:15:38,760 --> 00:15:41,480 in the public school systems by certain groups

278

00:15:41,480 --> 00:15:44,670 that this is all a lie, this never happened.

279

00:15:44,670 --> 00:15:47,460

280

00:15:47,460 --> 00:15:50,925

And this is impermissible and wrong.

281

00:15:50,925 --> 00:15:54,160

282

00:15:54,160 --> 00:16:02,450 And I hope that this effort will contribute to stopping that.

283

00:16:02,450 --> 00:16:05,930 Well, I think it's very well said, what you said.

284

00:16:05,930 --> 00:16:10,770

285

00:16:10,770 --> 00:16:13,470 I know the book about the IG Farben.

286

00:16:13,470 --> 00:16:15,090 It was [INAUDIBLE].

287

00:16:15,090 --> 00:16:16,250 Yes.

288

00:16:16,250 --> 00:16:18,330 Yes.

289

00:16:18,330 --> 00:16:23,530 I suppose those people put pressure on the S.S.

290

00:16:23,530 --> 00:16:25,140 [INTERPOSING VOICES]

291

00:16:25,140 --> 00:16:26,070 Complicated.

292

00:16:26,070 --> 00:16:27,630

[INAUDIBLE]

293

00:16:27,630 --> 00:16:30,970 IG Farben is in the States too.

294

00:16:30,970 --> 00:16:36,150 The old business that money talks, far too much.

295

00:16:36,150 --> 00:16:39,650

296

00:16:39,650 --> 00:16:57,970 [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

297

00:16:57,970 --> 00:17:03,740 Do you know that the son of Ambros, IG Farben,

298

00:17:03,740 --> 00:17:06,270 he's an American citizen.

299

00:17:06,270 --> 00:17:09,839 He lives in [Place name] New Jersey.

300

00:17:09,839 --> 00:17:15,550 He's heading one of the affiliate of IG Farben.

301

00:17:15,550 --> 00:17:16,900 [Personal name] Ambros.

302

00:17:16,900 --> 00:17:20,109 I think I remember that from the reviews of the book.

303

00:17:20,109 --> 00:17:29,090

304

00:17:29,090 --> 00:17:31,040

You don't like to accept the fact that you

305 00:17:31,040 --> 00:17:35,630 have to track them down and flog them publicly,

306 00:17:35,630 --> 00:17:40,210 but the example has to be set.

307 00:17:40,210 --> 00:18:54,000