

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:05,090

2  
00:00:05,090 --> 00:00:07,580  
(film slating)

3  
00:00:07,580 --> 00:00:12,650  
The news about the Holocaust  
were not put together

4  
00:00:12,650 --> 00:00:16,580  
into one big picture.

5  
00:00:16,580 --> 00:00:19,160  
There were the individual  
news that came in.

6  
00:00:19,160 --> 00:00:23,480  
For instance, you have  
in March 17, 1942,

7  
00:00:23,480 --> 00:00:26,900  
in the Hebrew paper,  
Davar, an article

8  
00:00:26,900 --> 00:00:31,760  
by a very well-known  
journalist who complains

9  
00:00:31,760 --> 00:00:33,530  
about the spreading of rumors.

10  
00:00:33,530 --> 00:00:37,850  
He said, "don't those who  
spread the rumors about tens

11  
00:00:37,850 --> 00:00:41,000  
of thousands and about a quarter  
of a million of massacred Jews

12  
00:00:41,000 --> 00:00:43,010

feel that the  
majority does not tend

13  
00:00:43,010 --> 00:00:46,310  
to get overexcited from  
the facts and the numbers

14  
00:00:46,310 --> 00:00:48,140  
in these news because  
of their being

15  
00:00:48,140 --> 00:00:51,440  
unreliable and exaggerated?"

16  
00:00:51,440 --> 00:00:56,810  
And in fact, in July  
1942, Gruenbaum--

17  
00:00:56,810 --> 00:01:03,268  
Yitzhak Gruenbaum, who was in  
charge of relations with Jews

18  
00:01:03,268 --> 00:01:05,810  
in the diaspora on behalf of  
the Jewish agency in Palestine--

19  
00:01:05,810 --> 00:01:07,640  
He was a very important member--

20  
00:01:07,640 --> 00:01:10,220  
He was a member of the  
Jewish agency, yes.

21  
00:01:10,220 --> 00:01:12,410  
A Jewish Agency Executive.

22  
00:01:12,410 --> 00:01:16,520  
And he was asked in  
the executive, what

23  
00:01:16,520 --> 00:01:19,965  
about all these news about  
Vilna, that masses of Jews

24  
00:01:19,965 --> 00:01:20,840  
were killed in Vilna?

25  
00:01:20,840 --> 00:01:23,000  
He said, it can't  
possibly be true

26  
00:01:23,000 --> 00:01:27,440  
because the rumors talk about  
more Jews in Vilna being killed

27  
00:01:27,440 --> 00:01:30,230  
than there were Jews in  
Vilna before the war, which

28  
00:01:30,230 --> 00:01:33,140  
shows that all these  
news are exaggerated.

29  
00:01:33,140 --> 00:01:42,590  
Now this same Gruenbaum  
later on, in December 1942,

30  
00:01:42,590 --> 00:01:45,800  
says that he knew about the  
slaughter in Poland in August

31  
00:01:45,800 --> 00:01:49,100  
but refrained from  
making it public because

32  
00:01:49,100 --> 00:01:52,200  
of the threat of  
the German invasion

33  
00:01:52,200 --> 00:01:54,590  
to Palestine, which  
was then overwhelming,

34  
00:01:54,590 --> 00:02:00,020  
and he did not want to make  
the atmosphere in Palestine,

35  
00:02:00,020 --> 00:02:03,710  
in Jewish Palestine,  
deteriorate even more.

36  
00:02:03,710 --> 00:02:05,240  
There is something in that.

37  
00:02:05,240 --> 00:02:09,020  
He received news, very detailed  
news, and one of these--

38  
00:02:09,020 --> 00:02:11,000  
or rather, two of these--

39  
00:02:11,000 --> 00:02:14,210  
dealt with the Holocaust itself.

40  
00:02:14,210 --> 00:02:21,000  
There was a news item coming out  
of England of the Bund report,

41  
00:02:21,000 --> 00:02:24,680  
which came which was  
publicized in Britain in June,

42  
00:02:24,680 --> 00:02:29,480  
and which reached Palestine  
in July, that the Jews were

43  
00:02:29,480 --> 00:02:30,980  
being killed in Poland.

44  
00:02:30,980 --> 00:02:34,480  
And there was a  
letter from Lichtheim,

45  
00:02:34,480 --> 00:02:36,890  
who was the representative  
of the Jewish agency

46  
00:02:36,890 --> 00:02:41,210

in Switzerland, who was  
the only one of Gruenbaum's

47  
00:02:41,210 --> 00:02:44,960  
correspondents who put  
this in very clear language

48  
00:02:44,960 --> 00:02:47,630  
that the Jews are being  
systematically killed

49  
00:02:47,630 --> 00:02:49,220  
in Europe.

50  
00:02:49,220 --> 00:02:52,310  
The reply of  
Gruenbaum to Lichtheim

51  
00:02:52,310 --> 00:02:55,580  
is different from  
what, in December 1942,

52  
00:02:55,580 --> 00:02:58,520  
he said because in his  
reply to Lichtheim,

53  
00:02:58,520 --> 00:03:01,340  
he said he did not believe him.

54  
00:03:01,340 --> 00:03:06,350  
The fact is that he did  
not make Lichtheim's letter

55  
00:03:06,350 --> 00:03:09,860  
public, either to the  
Jewish agency executive

56  
00:03:09,860 --> 00:03:13,460  
or to the general public,  
whatever his reasons were.

57  
00:03:13,460 --> 00:03:15,050  
But why?

58  
00:03:15,050 --> 00:03:16,130  
What was the reason?

59  
00:03:16,130 --> 00:03:18,500  
I think that the real reason  
was that he did not want

60  
00:03:18,500 --> 00:03:21,410  
to believe what he was reading.

61  
00:03:21,410 --> 00:03:26,480  
And when the news  
did come through,

62  
00:03:26,480 --> 00:03:32,660  
the shock was tremendous,  
both to Gruenbaum himself,

63  
00:03:32,660 --> 00:03:36,020  
who felt himself responsible  
for not having reported what

64  
00:03:36,020 --> 00:03:39,530  
he knew before, and  
to the general public

65  
00:03:39,530 --> 00:03:45,440  
because in November, these  
69 largely women and children

66  
00:03:45,440 --> 00:03:49,610  
came who were Palestinian  
subjects, citizens in Europe,

67  
00:03:49,610 --> 00:03:51,920  
exchanged for  
Germans in Palestine.

68  
00:03:51,920 --> 00:03:54,740  
They reached Palestine with  
the news they had seen!

69

00:03:54,740 --> 00:03:56,100  
They were coming from Poland.

70

00:03:56,100 --> 00:03:58,700  
They came from Poland,  
from Germany, from Belgium,

71

00:03:58,700 --> 00:03:59,630  
from France.

72

00:03:59,630 --> 00:04:02,750  
They came here and they told  
the story of the Holocaust.

73

00:04:02,750 --> 00:04:04,400  
They saw it.

74

00:04:04,400 --> 00:04:06,810  
And suddenly, you  
see, all of a sudden,

75

00:04:06,810 --> 00:04:10,490  
from one day to the  
other, there was a shock

76

00:04:10,490 --> 00:04:13,370  
to the whole population.

77

00:04:13,370 --> 00:04:19,519  
Newspapers appeared in black  
margins, black borders,

78

00:04:19,519 --> 00:04:22,910  
and the reaction of  
the agency executive

79

00:04:22,910 --> 00:04:25,400  
and of the leadership  
of the newspapers

80

00:04:25,400 --> 00:04:29,780  
and of Gruenbaum, who was

responsible for rescue action--

81  
00:04:29,780 --> 00:04:32,060  
Yet this must be  
said, he was a--

82  
00:04:32,060 --> 00:04:32,977  
He was, at that time--

83  
00:04:32,977 --> 00:04:34,102  
Palestine Rescue Committee.

84  
00:04:34,102 --> 00:04:35,315  
He was the Rescue Committee.

85  
00:04:35,315 --> 00:04:37,190  
But I'll say something  
about that in a moment

86  
00:04:37,190 --> 00:04:39,020  
because it's not  
as simple as that.

87  
00:04:39,020 --> 00:04:43,160  
He was responsible  
and the reaction

88  
00:04:43,160 --> 00:04:47,240  
that you see in his  
activities, and in fact,

89  
00:04:47,240 --> 00:04:50,120  
in the activities of the  
leadership in Palestine

90  
00:04:50,120 --> 00:04:53,150  
altogether, is one  
that says, look,

91  
00:04:53,150 --> 00:04:56,310  
there is no chance of  
saving anyone in any case.



92

00:04:56,310 --> 00:05:01,000

The only way to save the people  
is to win the war quickly.

93

00:05:01,000 --> 00:05:03,810

As Gruenbaum says  
in December 1942,

94

00:05:03,810 --> 00:05:08,170

in an article in a  
Hebrew paper, he says,

95

00:05:08,170 --> 00:05:11,440

if there will be rescue, it  
will come from the American

96

00:05:11,440 --> 00:05:12,910

and Soviet armies.

97

00:05:12,910 --> 00:05:14,305

It will not come from us.

98

00:05:14,305 --> 00:05:18,610

He talked exactly like the  
Americans, like the British,

99

00:05:18,610 --> 00:05:19,960

rescues through victory.

100

00:05:19,960 --> 00:05:21,395

A rescue through victory.

101

00:05:21,395 --> 00:05:23,050

And what is the use of this?

102

00:05:23,050 --> 00:05:23,860

Precisely.

103

00:05:23,860 --> 00:05:27,130

Now that was the  
attitude of Gruenbaum.

104

00:05:27,130 --> 00:05:29,950

Now one must, however,  
understand that Gruenbaum--

105

00:05:29,950 --> 00:05:32,140

[AIRPLANE ENGINE HUMMING]

106

00:05:32,140 --> 00:05:33,430

Shall I repeat this again?

107

00:05:33,430 --> 00:05:37,669

108

00:05:37,669 --> 00:05:39,090

OK.

109

00:05:39,090 --> 00:05:39,860

Let it go.

110

00:05:39,860 --> 00:05:40,685

Let it go, OK.

111

00:05:40,685 --> 00:05:46,320

112

00:05:46,320 --> 00:05:50,420

The attitude of  
Gruenbaum has to be

113

00:05:50,420 --> 00:05:52,160

understood against  
the background

114

00:05:52,160 --> 00:05:53,810

of his position in the agency.

115

00:05:53,810 --> 00:05:57,150

He was a minority  
representative.

116

00:05:57,150 --> 00:06:00,950

He was shunted onto  
the Rescue Committee

117  
00:06:00,950 --> 00:06:03,800  
because the majority  
party in the Jewish agency

118  
00:06:03,800 --> 00:06:07,730  
executive, the Labor Party,  
occupied the major positions.

119  
00:06:07,730 --> 00:06:11,120  
Finance, foreign policy,  
leadership, and so on

120  
00:06:11,120 --> 00:06:12,140  
and so forth.

121  
00:06:12,140 --> 00:06:14,300  
Gruenbaum was a member  
of the Hashomer Hatzair?

122  
00:06:14,300 --> 00:06:17,420  
No, Gruenbaum was a member  
of the General Zionists.

123  
00:06:17,420 --> 00:06:21,200  
He was a minority  
representative.

124  
00:06:21,200 --> 00:06:24,410  
When you look at the  
actions that were done,

125  
00:06:24,410 --> 00:06:27,560  
whatever was done, it  
wasn't through Gruenbaum.

126  
00:06:27,560 --> 00:06:31,220  
Gruenbaum never sent the  
emissaries to Istanbul

127  
00:06:31,220 --> 00:06:34,340

to contact the Jews in Slovakia,  
and Hungary, and Romania,

128  
00:06:34,340 --> 00:06:36,635  
and Poland and send their money.

129  
00:06:36,635 --> 00:06:38,760  
That wasn't done through  
Gruenbaum, that was done--

130  
00:06:38,760 --> 00:06:40,550  
OK, but why such a  
man was appointed

131  
00:06:40,550 --> 00:06:42,335  
as the head of the  
Rescue Committee?

132  
00:06:42,335 --> 00:06:43,168  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

133  
00:06:43,168 --> 00:06:45,620  
This means as a rescue  
of the very side--

134  
00:06:45,620 --> 00:06:49,760  
That was one-- you  
can say that here, you

135  
00:06:49,760 --> 00:06:56,930  
had a scandal of a lack  
of proper organization

136  
00:06:56,930 --> 00:06:59,780  
at a time when such an  
organization was needed.

137  
00:06:59,780 --> 00:07:02,420  
I'm just explaining the facts.

138  
00:07:02,420 --> 00:07:05,090  
And the facts are that when--

139

00:07:05,090 --> 00:07:08,060

at the same time,  
at the end of 1942,

140

00:07:08,060 --> 00:07:12,680

the Jewish Agency tries to send  
parachutists, large numbers

141

00:07:12,680 --> 00:07:13,730

to Europe.

142

00:07:13,730 --> 00:07:15,650

There was a plan to  
send, immediately,

143

00:07:15,650 --> 00:07:20,960

500 parachutists from Palestine  
to organize resistance

144

00:07:20,960 --> 00:07:23,090

all over Jewish Europe.

145

00:07:23,090 --> 00:07:25,700

And this was proposed by  
the Jewish Agency Executive

146

00:07:25,700 --> 00:07:28,010

without Gruenbaum  
even knowing about it,

147

00:07:28,010 --> 00:07:30,380

never mind acting in it.

148

00:07:30,380 --> 00:07:35,180

So the personality of  
Gruenbaum is important,

149

00:07:35,180 --> 00:07:38,480

but it has to be taken  
in the proper context.

150

00:07:38,480 --> 00:07:41,810

The Jewish Agency Executive  
in Palestine at the time

151  
00:07:41,810 --> 00:07:48,170  
was generally of the view that  
very little could be done.

152  
00:07:48,170 --> 00:07:51,180  
Now, let's examine whether  
more could have been done?

153  
00:07:51,180 --> 00:07:53,930  
Yes, but I think that  
this lack of organization

154  
00:07:53,930 --> 00:07:56,450  
came from something much deeper.

155  
00:07:56,450 --> 00:07:57,320  
It's because--

156  
00:07:57,320 --> 00:07:58,220  
I'm coming to that.

157  
00:07:58,220 --> 00:08:03,050  
Now, you see, the problem  
with the Zionist movement

158  
00:08:03,050 --> 00:08:04,940  
in Palestine  
altogether, at the time,

159  
00:08:04,940 --> 00:08:09,470  
was you had a very weak Jewish  
population in Palestine,

160  
00:08:09,470 --> 00:08:11,330  
half a million.

161  
00:08:11,330 --> 00:08:13,940  
There was the  
British Empire that

162

00:08:13,940 --> 00:08:21,350  
was opposed to the continuation  
of the Zionist endeavor,

163

00:08:21,350 --> 00:08:23,690  
and there was a  
threat from Germany.

164

00:08:23,690 --> 00:08:28,010  
In 1942, Rommel stood in  
Al -- stood in Alexandria.

165

00:08:28,010 --> 00:08:31,700  
In this kind of environment,  
the Zionist leadership said,

166

00:08:31,700 --> 00:08:34,130  
there was no  
possibility, whatsoever,

167

00:08:34,130 --> 00:08:36,289  
for us helping European Jews.

168

00:08:36,289 --> 00:08:40,130  
But we must help ourselves,  
we must defend Palestine,

169

00:08:40,130 --> 00:08:43,309  
we must recruit ourselves  
to the British army

170

00:08:43,309 --> 00:08:46,280  
against the Germans,  
and so on and so forth.

171

00:08:46,280 --> 00:08:53,150  
The lack of Jewish power,  
the lack of Jewish influence

172

00:08:53,150 --> 00:08:55,970  
caused the Zionist  
leadership to say,

173

00:08:55,970 --> 00:09:00,230

all we can do is to  
look after Palestine.

174

00:09:00,230 --> 00:09:02,240

There's very little  
we can do abroad.

175

00:09:02,240 --> 00:09:03,410

Some, we can do.

176

00:09:03,410 --> 00:09:05,780

Whatever we can  
do, we should do.

177

00:09:05,780 --> 00:09:07,880

But there's very  
little we can do.

178

00:09:07,880 --> 00:09:09,270

What can we do?

179

00:09:09,270 --> 00:09:14,630

We can press the British to send  
parachutists, military people

180

00:09:14,630 --> 00:09:16,490

to organize Jews in Europe.

181

00:09:16,490 --> 00:09:19,650

We can send money, whatever  
we can collect in Palestine,

182

00:09:19,650 --> 00:09:21,740

it's a very small community.

183

00:09:21,740 --> 00:09:26,930

We can try to influence  
the powers diplomatically.

184

00:09:26,930 --> 00:09:30,680

But let us not kid ourselves



that we can do more than that.

185  
00:09:30,680 --> 00:09:32,930  
That was the attitude  
of the leadership.

186  
00:09:32,930 --> 00:09:36,500  
That was not the attitude of  
some of the youth movements,

187  
00:09:36,500 --> 00:09:38,373  
of some individuals, and so on.

188  
00:09:38,373 --> 00:09:40,040  
But that was the  
attitude of leadership.

189  
00:09:40,040 --> 00:09:41,960  
It was accepted.

190  
00:09:41,960 --> 00:09:43,310  
By the majority--

191  
00:09:43,310 --> 00:09:46,090  
There is a text of  
Gruenbaum, precisely about

192  
00:09:46,090 --> 00:09:48,435  
the approach of the Germans.

193  
00:09:48,435 --> 00:09:49,310  
Well, that's what I--

194  
00:09:49,310 --> 00:09:52,430  
Where he says, we have  
to fight, and if we

195  
00:09:52,430 --> 00:10:00,020  
know that the Jews are  
killed like sheep in Europe,

196  
00:10:00,020 --> 00:10:03,180

this will destroy  
our fighting spirit.

197  
00:10:03,180 --> 00:10:03,680  
Yes.

198  
00:10:03,680 --> 00:10:04,330  
There is--

199  
00:10:04,330 --> 00:10:07,490  
Now this is-- Yeah,  
but you see, this

200  
00:10:07,490 --> 00:10:15,170  
is what he said in January 1943,  
about August and September,

201  
00:10:15,170 --> 00:10:19,220  
what is true, it is  
true of January 1943.

202  
00:10:19,220 --> 00:10:23,840  
In other words, he does not want  
to emphasize too much the news

203  
00:10:23,840 --> 00:10:29,480  
about the disasters in Europe  
because, and he says it openly,

204  
00:10:29,480 --> 00:10:33,602  
because he says, they will  
go, they went like sheep

205  
00:10:33,602 --> 00:10:34,310  
to the slaughter.

206  
00:10:34,310 --> 00:10:35,970  
We here must defend ourselves.

207  
00:10:35,970 --> 00:10:38,400  
We must be different.

208

00:10:38,400 --> 00:10:42,560

The point is that  
Gruenbaum and his group

209

00:10:42,560 --> 00:10:44,000

and the people who  
agreed with him

210

00:10:44,000 --> 00:10:48,200

did not change their basic  
attitude that nothing could

211

00:10:48,200 --> 00:10:50,890

be done, even after they  
knew about the Warsaw ghetto

212

00:10:50,890 --> 00:10:53,950

rebellion, which is  
three months after this.

213

00:10:53,950 --> 00:10:56,110

Because this is held in January.

214

00:10:56,110 --> 00:10:58,540

In April, they knew about  
the Warsaw rebellion,

215

00:10:58,540 --> 00:11:01,870

it was immediately publicized.

216

00:11:01,870 --> 00:11:03,820

And they did not change.

217

00:11:03,820 --> 00:11:07,330

They said, we can't do anything.

218

00:11:07,330 --> 00:11:12,820

Now what was done was done.

219

00:11:12,820 --> 00:11:13,640

Tres bien.

220

00:11:13,640 --> 00:11:15,710  
Very good.

221  
00:11:15,710 --> 00:11:19,120  
(film slating)

222  
00:11:19,120 --> 00:11:23,830  
The problem is what they  
could have done, you see?

223  
00:11:23,830 --> 00:11:27,520  
For instance, you have here  
a quotation from Gruenbaum,

224  
00:11:27,520 --> 00:11:29,680  
early in 1943.

225  
00:11:29,680 --> 00:11:32,770  
He says, "Zionism is above all.

226  
00:11:32,770 --> 00:11:35,710  
This has to be said whenever  
a big Holocaust takes us

227  
00:11:35,710 --> 00:11:38,980  
from the struggle for  
redemption in Zion."

228  
00:11:38,980 --> 00:11:43,060  
"Redemption in Zion,"  
whose redemption in Zion?

229  
00:11:43,060 --> 00:11:46,270  
"Our redemption struggle  
does not develop from,

230  
00:11:46,270 --> 00:11:51,310  
and does not directly merge with  
the actions for the diaspora.

231  
00:11:51,310 --> 00:11:54,430  
This is our disaster."

232

00:11:54,430 --> 00:11:56,530

See, there is a  
contradiction there.

233

00:11:56,530 --> 00:12:00,735

The contradiction is that  
you want to create a state.

234

00:12:00,735 --> 00:12:02,110

If your are a  
Zionist, you wanted

235

00:12:02,110 --> 00:12:06,070

to create a state in  
Palestine for whom?

236

00:12:06,070 --> 00:12:07,660

For the Jews in the diaspora.

237

00:12:07,660 --> 00:12:10,750

I mean, who would  
populate such a state?

238

00:12:10,750 --> 00:12:13,240

It is a question for the  
Jews in the diaspora,

239

00:12:13,240 --> 00:12:15,100

for an elite of the Jews.

240

00:12:15,100 --> 00:12:16,000

No.

241

00:12:16,000 --> 00:12:18,730

But they wanted to create  
a mass Jewish state.

242

00:12:18,730 --> 00:12:20,530

For the mass Jewish  
state, they needed

243

00:12:20,530 --> 00:12:22,930

the masses of the Jewish  
people in the diaspora.

244  
00:12:22,930 --> 00:12:26,350  
They saw themselves  
as an avant-garde,

245  
00:12:26,350 --> 00:12:28,490  
and the others would follow.

246  
00:12:28,490 --> 00:12:30,070  
But if there was  
nobody to follow,

247  
00:12:30,070 --> 00:12:33,040  
they would remain an  
avant-garde without a following.

248  
00:12:33,040 --> 00:12:35,350  
And that would be a tragedy.

249  
00:12:35,350 --> 00:12:37,330  
Yes, but [INAUDIBLE]  
avant-garde.

250  
00:12:37,330 --> 00:12:38,350  
Yeah, all right.

251  
00:12:38,350 --> 00:12:39,520  
But what for?

252  
00:12:39,520 --> 00:12:42,790  
So they are struggling with  
themselves all the time.

253  
00:12:42,790 --> 00:12:45,040  
There's a contradiction in  
the very-- in the sentences

254  
00:12:45,040 --> 00:12:46,240  
that I was reading.

255

00:12:46,240 --> 00:12:48,370  
The contradiction inside.

256  
00:12:48,370 --> 00:12:49,960  
This was a  
contradiction with which

257  
00:12:49,960 --> 00:12:52,570  
they were living at that time.

258  
00:12:52,570 --> 00:12:56,200  
They were trying to establish--  
trying to fight for a state,

259  
00:12:56,200 --> 00:12:58,840  
because if they did  
not fight for a state,

260  
00:12:58,840 --> 00:13:00,850  
nothing would be safe.

261  
00:13:00,850 --> 00:13:04,900  
If they fought for a state,  
something would be saved.

262  
00:13:04,900 --> 00:13:09,310  
If there was, after the war,  
no Jewish state and no country

263  
00:13:09,310 --> 00:13:11,440  
that would absorb  
whatever's left,

264  
00:13:11,440 --> 00:13:12,880  
then everything would be lost.

265  
00:13:12,880 --> 00:13:16,780  
Yes but in one way, what you  
say is complete, perfectly true.

266  
00:13:16,780 --> 00:13:21,370  
But they took, in  
one way, easily.

267  
00:13:21,370 --> 00:13:22,633  
Or too easily--

268  
00:13:22,633 --> 00:13:23,550  
They did not take it--

269  
00:13:23,550 --> 00:13:27,280  
--for granted that there was  
nothing that could be done.

270  
00:13:27,280 --> 00:13:31,960  
Well, now the problem  
arises what could be done.

271  
00:13:31,960 --> 00:13:34,510  
As I said, there were  
differences of opinion.

272  
00:13:34,510 --> 00:13:37,690  
We take Gruenbaum as  
the extreme example.

273  
00:13:37,690 --> 00:13:39,610  
There were other members  
of the Jewish Agency

274  
00:13:39,610 --> 00:13:42,100  
that acted differently.

275  
00:13:42,100 --> 00:13:46,750  
But what they essentially saw  
was a completely powerless

276  
00:13:46,750 --> 00:13:49,090  
Jewish people.

277  
00:13:49,090 --> 00:13:54,070  
And in 1942 and [? 1943, ?]  
this is undoubtedly, exactly

278  
00:13:54,070 --> 00:13:55,270



correct.

279

00:13:55,270 --> 00:13:57,580

The Jews have no influence.

280

00:13:57,580 --> 00:13:59,320

They are pushed aside.

281

00:13:59,320 --> 00:14:01,300

Nothing will be done  
for their rescue,

282

00:14:01,300 --> 00:14:04,210

and all you can do is  
to run to the British,

283

00:14:04,210 --> 00:14:07,930

please, please send few hundred  
parachutists into Europe.

284

00:14:07,930 --> 00:14:09,370

They didn't do even that.

285

00:14:09,370 --> 00:14:12,070

In the end, they  
sent 31 parachutists.

286

00:14:12,070 --> 00:14:12,730

Jewish?

287

00:14:12,730 --> 00:14:14,560

Jewish parachutist  
from Palestine

288

00:14:14,560 --> 00:14:16,750

to help save Jewish  
communities in Europe.

289

00:14:16,750 --> 00:14:18,250

It was useless.

290

00:14:18,250 --> 00:14:20,800

They wouldn't even send a  
few hundred parachutists.

291  
00:14:20,800 --> 00:14:22,330  
So what else could you do?

292  
00:14:22,330 --> 00:14:25,633  
We had no ships,  
we had no aircraft,

293  
00:14:25,633 --> 00:14:26,800  
how would you get to Europe?

294  
00:14:26,800 --> 00:14:28,420  
Swim?

295  
00:14:28,420 --> 00:14:29,290  
There was no way.

296  
00:14:29,290 --> 00:14:30,730  
This was a country at war.

297  
00:14:30,730 --> 00:14:33,200  
There was no way  
to get to Europe.

298  
00:14:33,200 --> 00:14:34,720  
And so the only  
thing they could do

299  
00:14:34,720 --> 00:14:38,080  
was to get those few pounds  
together, collect money,

300  
00:14:38,080 --> 00:14:41,170  
send it to Istanbul,  
get it to Europe,

301  
00:14:41,170 --> 00:14:44,200  
advise them, and  
the parachutists.

302

00:14:44,200 --> 00:14:44,960  
And that was all.

303  
00:14:44,960 --> 00:14:46,370  
And that was all right --

304  
00:14:46,370 --> 00:14:50,080  
So practically speaking,  
there was the question

305  
00:14:50,080 --> 00:14:53,530  
that the leadership said, OK,  
you want us to do something.

306  
00:14:53,530 --> 00:14:55,600  
What shall we do?

307  
00:14:55,600 --> 00:14:58,780  
The youth movements, the kibbutz  
movements in this country,

308  
00:14:58,780 --> 00:15:02,200  
and others said, at  
least do what you can do.

309  
00:15:02,200 --> 00:15:04,360  
Yes, but about the  
Judenrat, you talked

310  
00:15:04,360 --> 00:15:06,280  
about the moral attitude.

311  
00:15:06,280 --> 00:15:06,910  
Yes.

312  
00:15:06,910 --> 00:15:11,703  
One could say that  
they behaved very--

313  
00:15:11,703 --> 00:15:13,120  
They were very  
rude, these people.

314

00:15:13,120 --> 00:15:14,110

Yes, now what--

315

00:15:14,110 --> 00:15:15,940

They were statesmen  
and politicians.

316

00:15:15,940 --> 00:15:19,270

Well, that is undoubtedly true.

317

00:15:19,270 --> 00:15:24,250

They had to decide where  
to put their effort in.

318

00:15:24,250 --> 00:15:25,120

The priority.

319

00:15:25,120 --> 00:15:26,110

Their priority.

320

00:15:26,110 --> 00:15:27,970

And they put their  
priority in what

321

00:15:27,970 --> 00:15:31,060

they saw that they could  
do at that moment, which

322

00:15:31,060 --> 00:15:33,760

was to struggle for  
the continued existence

323

00:15:33,760 --> 00:15:36,610

of the Jewish population  
here and to establish

324

00:15:36,610 --> 00:15:41,500

a Jewish political  
independence later on.

325

00:15:41,500 --> 00:15:47,440

But you see, when you come to

see what actually was done,

326

00:15:47,440 --> 00:15:51,920

the little that was done,  
you have to ask yourself,

327

00:15:51,920 --> 00:15:53,770

who wanted to do it?

328

00:15:53,770 --> 00:15:57,040

Did they get the support  
of the leadership?

329

00:15:57,040 --> 00:16:00,070

Well, they did get the  
support of the leadership.

330

00:16:00,070 --> 00:16:05,830

That same Gruenbaum, who  
is quoted now, very often,

331

00:16:05,830 --> 00:16:08,350

in the kind of  
quotations that I did.

332

00:16:08,350 --> 00:16:10,630

I did quote him.

333

00:16:10,630 --> 00:16:14,820

He says in one of his speeches  
to the Rescue Committee,

334

00:16:14,820 --> 00:16:18,990

of which he was the chairman,  
he said, anything we can do

335

00:16:18,990 --> 00:16:20,850

is useless.

336

00:16:20,850 --> 00:16:22,380

He said it.

337

00:16:22,380 --> 00:16:25,890

And then he added,  
but we must do it.

338

00:16:25,890 --> 00:16:27,250

We must do it.

339

00:16:27,250 --> 00:16:30,600

And so he runs around  
and he gets the money.

340

00:16:30,600 --> 00:16:34,680

And he does the  
little that he can do.

341

00:16:34,680 --> 00:16:36,750

When, after the  
war, he was accused

342

00:16:36,750 --> 00:16:41,040

of the things in the kind of  
quotations that I just quoted,

343

00:16:41,040 --> 00:16:44,910

he said, well, what  
else do you suggest

344

00:16:44,910 --> 00:16:46,050

that I should have done?

345

00:16:46,050 --> 00:16:50,280

346

00:16:50,280 --> 00:16:53,510

I don't accept his  
excuse because--

347

00:16:53,510 --> 00:16:56,400

There is another  
quotation which is--

348

00:16:56,400 --> 00:16:57,960

You mean the one with the--

349  
00:16:57,960 --> 00:17:00,630  
Yes, [INAUDIBLE].

350  
00:17:00,630 --> 00:17:01,920  
I don't sway.

351  
00:17:01,920 --> 00:17:05,310  
I don't-- [INAUDIBLE].

352  
00:17:05,310 --> 00:17:06,359  
Yes.

353  
00:17:06,359 --> 00:17:13,859  
Yes, anything he was asked  
by members of his own group,

354  
00:17:13,859 --> 00:17:19,230  
from people who came from  
Poland, "they always demanded

355  
00:17:19,230 --> 00:17:20,640  
of me alarms."

356  
00:17:20,640 --> 00:17:22,960  
This is a bad  
translation from Hebrew,

357  
00:17:22,960 --> 00:17:25,920  
which means that they  
demanded of him that he

358  
00:17:25,920 --> 00:17:30,220  
should publicize, in the  
country, what was happening.

359  
00:17:30,220 --> 00:17:34,800  
"And I would pour cold  
water in their faces

360  
00:17:34,800 --> 00:17:37,050  
and cool their enthusiasm.

361

00:17:37,050 --> 00:17:39,360

They said to me,  
you have to swear

362

00:17:39,360 --> 00:17:42,600

in the name of the  
Jewish Agency that there

363

00:17:42,600 --> 00:17:45,810

will be no peace and quiet  
and until we stop the massacre

364

00:17:45,810 --> 00:17:47,400

and save the remnants  
of our brothers

365

00:17:47,400 --> 00:17:49,470

in the occupied countries."

366

00:17:49,470 --> 00:17:51,900

And he says, "no,  
I will not sway.

367

00:17:51,900 --> 00:17:54,630

It is possible that  
this is a main issue,

368

00:17:54,630 --> 00:17:58,530

but it is not the only  
one one has to see to.

369

00:17:58,530 --> 00:18:00,660

And, again, I spoke  
of the pledge.

370

00:18:00,660 --> 00:18:03,390

We have and need to get  
out of the situation

371

00:18:03,390 --> 00:18:06,120

of the exceptional people  
and become a people



372  
00:18:06,120 --> 00:18:08,190  
like all the other peoples.

373  
00:18:08,190 --> 00:18:12,240  
Two thousands of years  
of diaspora are enough.

374  
00:18:12,240 --> 00:18:14,280  
We shall have equal  
rights in the family

375  
00:18:14,280 --> 00:18:15,630  
of nations in this world.

376  
00:18:15,630 --> 00:18:19,500  
This is a testament, and  
we have to execute it."

377  
00:18:19,500 --> 00:18:22,600  
We can't do anything  
for the diaspora,

378  
00:18:22,600 --> 00:18:26,250  
we have to execute the  
testament of the diaspora here

379  
00:18:26,250 --> 00:18:28,300  
to establish ourselves  
as an independent people.

380  
00:18:28,300 --> 00:18:28,800  
No, no.

381  
00:18:28,800 --> 00:18:30,945  
But there is this  
place and there

382  
00:18:30,945 --> 00:18:33,450  
was a one he says,  
very clearly, "if I

383

00:18:33,450 --> 00:18:36,870  
have to choose to  
give money for rescue

384  
00:18:36,870 --> 00:18:39,950  
or to give money for the--"

385  
00:18:39,950 --> 00:18:42,010  
For the KNK I remember  
the quotation.

386  
00:18:42,010 --> 00:18:42,510  
Yes.

387  
00:18:42,510 --> 00:18:43,620  
Jewish cause?

388  
00:18:43,620 --> 00:18:46,500  
Cause, then there will  
be the Jewish cause.

389  
00:18:46,500 --> 00:18:50,250  
In actual fact, he said it  
and he did the opposite.

390  
00:18:50,250 --> 00:18:54,240  
Because when the discussion came  
up, where should the money go?

391  
00:18:54,240 --> 00:18:57,420  
He demanded that the money  
should go to the rescue.

392  
00:18:57,420 --> 00:19:01,530  
I mean, one has to  
say that in his favor.

393  
00:19:01,530 --> 00:19:04,110  
I told you, there  
is a contradiction

394  
00:19:04,110 --> 00:19:06,390  
in their attitudes.

395

00:19:06,390 --> 00:19:09,930

And the interesting  
thing is the pressure

396

00:19:09,930 --> 00:19:17,250

that is exercised in Palestine  
by the people from the kibbutz

397

00:19:17,250 --> 00:19:18,900

movement, by the  
youth movements,

398

00:19:18,900 --> 00:19:22,260

by the working class  
movement in this country,

399

00:19:22,260 --> 00:19:25,830

and by other groups  
who demand more action.

400

00:19:25,830 --> 00:19:28,050

And the more action  
expresses itself

401

00:19:28,050 --> 00:19:31,380

in sending a  
delegation to Istanbul,

402

00:19:31,380 --> 00:19:34,410

which will be in touch  
with the diaspora

403

00:19:34,410 --> 00:19:36,810

and will try to send the money.

404

00:19:36,810 --> 00:19:39,510

That is, in effect, what they  
were asking for, that is,

405

00:19:39,510 --> 00:19:41,280

in effect, what they got.

406

00:19:41,280 --> 00:19:44,700

And then we come  
to 1943 and 1944.

407

00:19:44,700 --> 00:19:47,340

And for the first time,  
a real possibility

408

00:19:47,340 --> 00:19:50,580

opens up to do something real.

409

00:19:50,580 --> 00:19:53,280

And that is with the  
mission of Joel Brand,

410

00:19:53,280 --> 00:19:55,710

with a Hungarian business.

411

00:19:55,710 --> 00:19:58,950

And there, you can  
see at the moment

412

00:19:58,950 --> 00:20:02,100

when there is a  
possibility, what they do.

413

00:20:02,100 --> 00:20:05,610

And Gruenbaum is completely  
out of the action.

414

00:20:05,610 --> 00:20:09,050

He just is-- he  
doesn't exist there.

415

00:20:09,050 --> 00:20:13,500

The people who do it is  
Ben-Gurion and Sharett.

416

00:20:13,500 --> 00:20:16,500

And they try to influence  
the British and the American

417

00:20:16,500 --> 00:20:21,720  
government to carry on  
negotiations with the Nazis

418  
00:20:21,720 --> 00:20:24,720  
to save the Jewish  
people of Europe.

419  
00:20:24,720 --> 00:20:27,660  
The expression of Sharett  
is "dangle a carrot

420  
00:20:27,660 --> 00:20:31,260  
in front of their eyes."

421  
00:20:31,260 --> 00:20:34,380  
Don't actually give  
them anything, just

422  
00:20:34,380 --> 00:20:38,110  
negotiate, and by the very  
process of negotiation,

423  
00:20:38,110 --> 00:20:43,320  
you will save Jews because you  
will postpone their murder.

424  
00:20:43,320 --> 00:20:47,370  
So when you come to June  
1944, for the first time,

425  
00:20:47,370 --> 00:20:51,780  
the Jewish agency in Palestine  
does have a possibility

426  
00:20:51,780 --> 00:20:54,900  
to do something real.

427  
00:20:54,900 --> 00:20:56,290  
And this is what they do.

428  
00:20:56,290 --> 00:20:58,650  
They demand negotiations.

429  
00:20:58,650 --> 00:21:01,950  
Do you think that  
they did the utmost?

430  
00:21:01,950 --> 00:21:04,290  
Well, I don't quite  
know what the utmost is.

431  
00:21:04,290 --> 00:21:08,370  
This is a time of the  
invasion of Europe.

432  
00:21:08,370 --> 00:21:13,600  
The invasion of Europe  
was early June 1944.

433  
00:21:13,600 --> 00:21:17,050  
The Joel Brand  
business, Joel Brand

434  
00:21:17,050 --> 00:21:21,670  
came to Istanbul  
on the 19th of May.

435  
00:21:21,670 --> 00:21:28,060  
And Sharett flew to London  
on the 26th of June.

436  
00:21:28,060 --> 00:21:31,990  
Demonstrations in  
front of Churchill,

437  
00:21:31,990 --> 00:21:35,290  
can one really  
suggest, in retrospect,

438  
00:21:35,290 --> 00:21:37,930  
that British Jews  
should have demonstrated

439  
00:21:37,930 --> 00:21:40,420  
in front of the houses

of parliament three weeks

440

00:21:40,420 --> 00:21:43,268

after the invasion of Europe?

441

00:21:43,268 --> 00:21:45,310

Or do you suggest that

this should have been done

442

00:21:45,310 --> 00:21:47,470

in America at the same time?

443

00:21:47,470 --> 00:21:49,270

Hardly likely.

444

00:21:49,270 --> 00:21:50,830

So there was pressure.

445

00:21:50,830 --> 00:21:52,450

Yes, what is pressure?

446

00:21:52,450 --> 00:21:58,780

Meetings, memoranda,  
organizing non-Jewish diplomats

447

00:21:58,780 --> 00:22:02,585

and statesmen to intervene in  
behalf of whatever the Jewish

448

00:22:02,585 --> 00:22:03,460

agency wanted to be--

449

00:22:03,460 --> 00:22:05,440

No, but I agree

completely with you.

450

00:22:05,440 --> 00:22:09,130

But what is so

striking that when

451

00:22:09,130 --> 00:22:15,820

one compares the past and the

reason of the deportations,

452

00:22:15,820 --> 00:22:20,560

day by day in Hungaria,  
the fantastic speed

453

00:22:20,560 --> 00:22:24,190

and the slowness  
of this pressure.

454

00:22:24,190 --> 00:22:28,150

And I don't accuse anybody,  
but one has to stress this,

455

00:22:28,150 --> 00:22:29,922

you know.

456

00:22:29,922 --> 00:22:30,422