

Transcript of the Shoah Interview with Jean Pictet

Translation by Lotti Eichorn - Volunteer – Visitor Services – May thru October 2011

PICTET I

La: Mr. Jean Pictet, you are currently vice-president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is an important job and I would like to ask you well which were the posts that you had during the war for the ICRC.

Pi: Well, I entered the services of the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1937 and, during the war, I was twenty-five years old. When it started, I was legal secretary and close collaborator of the president, rather quickly, rather quickly, close collaborator of the president of the time, Max Huber. I was appointed director later on, in 1946.

La: And then, during the war.... as close collaborator with President Huber, you were, I think, a member of the secretariat.

Pi: Yes...

La: And the executive organ of the ICRC.

Pi: I was a member of the secretariat. I myself did not deal with the questions related to the persecution of the.... victims of the IIIrd Reich, but it was inevitable that I was very well informed about what was happening.

La: You were at the center of things...

Pi: Yes.... I followed it closely, I followed closely all this.

La: There is one question I would like to ask you, and it is that.... but it is almost a question in the realm of the spiritual. What means

Treblinka..... in 1942? Is it possible....

Pi: Oh, but.... nothing was known.... in 42, nothing was known.

La: I meant to say: regarding the reality of the extermination. From when on did you know what was happening and then, in addition, From when on were you, you personally, and was one convinced here in Geneva?

Pi: Well.... the ICRC knew neither more nor less than the others, than the governments.... than the other organizations. This started.... this started with rumors, right. There were some.... there were some notes, right, of escapees which were... which were thrown through the windows of cars, there was some testimony of escapees in 43 and 44. But, first rumors, then suspicions, and then one knew more and more. And it is ... it is in October, that is October 42, that one knew deep down that terrible things were happening in certain camps, in the camps of the deported and of resisters. At this point it was that the ICRC envisaged to make a solemn public appeal, a type of protest, in October 1942, and I myself composed the project. And this project was accepted

by the president at the time, but.... the ICRC, after giving it much thought, after much deliberation, decided not to send it off.

La: According to you, this was an appeal that was supposed to be public, to be....

Pi: Yes, yes, public.

La: To be published.

Pi: Public, public. Because.... Why was it not sent? Because... it was weighed, right, what the ICRC could do, what it did and... what, and exactly the problem of.... the problem of the political prisoners. What did it do? Well, on the base of the Geneva Conventions, it verified the application of these conventions, it visited the camps, it visited the camps of the German prisoners of war, in a quite normal manner.....

La: This was its essential task....

Pi: Essential task and normal. It also dealt with their provisions, right, and that went on in an almost normal manner. Oh, it was known that the Germans were extremely susceptible where the civilians were concerned, who were not beneficiaries of any convention.

La: Yes, if I understand right, Mr. Vice-President, it was, at any rate, starting September/October 1942 that you had no longer any doubts about the reality of the extermination, that you understood that something without precedent was happening.

Pi: That's right. We did not yet think of extermination. It was simply known that there were camps which were very bad, right and.... and that there was no news about the detainees of those, the silence. But there was no talk yet of extermination. You understand now one is used to genocides, but at that time, this was new, and one thought not, one thought not that a civilized country, right, was able to coldly organize and execute the extermination of an entire ethnic group; it was unthinkable at that time, right?

La: But no.... but, I try, I try to..... my questions are absolutely not argumentative. I try to imagine how, how the rumors spread in Geneva.

Pi: Well, there were.....

La: As you were here at the ICRC, at the secretariat which.....

Pi: Rumors, “it is said”, right. Our delegates, our delegates who.... traveled through Germany, who did not have the right to enter civilian camps, right, there were no legal passes for that and the authorities, naturally, kept silent about that, and closed these camps hermetically. Our delegates who could not visit these camps nevertheless collected here and there some fears, some “one says”, right, some rumors. That is how, little by little, this has spread, be it by the press, be it by governments, be it by everybody. We were not informed any better than others, than other people.

La: As much, as much.

Pi: Yes, yes, that’s it.

La: As much..... According to.....

Pi: So, here it is. Now you understand; one believed more or less, depending if one was optimistic or pessimistic.

La: And you, yourself, did you believe it? Did you give credence to what you were told or did you say: “that’s exaggerated?”

Pi: Oh, I... no, well, I have immediately thought that something was happening, that there were camps, very bad camps, but I never thought of an

extermination, of an extermination..... globally, no, absolutely not.

La: You thought that there was no difference between.....

Pi: Well, it was the first time for centuries that... that there was a genocide. You know, here, at the Red Cross we receive many complaints and.... they are not always justified, you understand it was not possible, at the beginning, to believe such a thing. Later, naturally, when the..... when the..... the rumors persisted, it became, I can tell you, suspicions, right, and, slowly, slowly, certainties.

La: And from.... from what moment on.... did this become a certitude to you? And, if a certainty, what kind of certainty?

Pi: Oh... You mean concerning the extermination?

La: Yes.

Pi: Oh, not before 43.... not before 43.

La: Nevertheless, as of September 42, at least.... in the United States, all was known. I myself have read it since then, the reports, that were published at that time, and all was known through Geneva. Was it Geneva that was the turntable.....

Pi:

At that moment.... at that moment, I remember that call very well, right, of which I wrote the project.

La: Oh, yes. It was a call on September 16, 1942.

Pi: Yes, that's it... And at that moment it was requested that news of these political detainees was given, that news would be given, that they that we could visit them, that one could send them help. This was the problem.....

La: What did you think.... when this call came, did you think exactly of the Jews?

Pi: No, ehh, no, no. Because, you know, the ICRC cares for, occupies itself with all the war victims, right, civil wars, civil wars and domestic problems, right, within the framework that it is permissible. It does not deal specifically with one category. Thus, it does not deal particularly with one ethnicity, right, it does not deal specifically with refugees, it does not deal specifically with children. It deals with war victims. And when it finds that these victims might be Jews, or children, or refugees, you understand. Thus, we dealt with all the political detainees of that moment, thus, we brought....this were mainly deportees, they were mainly called "deportees", right?

La: And..... that was....

Pi: And..... you understand, Claude, in view of the attitude taken by Germany, it was not possible, to simply deal with the Jewish problem separately, in particular, given the attitude taken by the German government which did not want to hear talking about the Jews.

La: Why are you saying that? Because..... the Germans dealt with the Jewish problem separately themselves, in their manner?

Pi: Well, they treated it separately, but they did not want that it was talked about, you understand, they did not want it to be talked about. One move which would have dealt only with the Jews would have been – it is certain – would have pushed immediately against an end of non-reception; for that reason, the actions were taken overall.....

La: No, because what you have said, is a point of.....

Pi: The deportees in general, you understand, the political detainees.

It was always taken in general, at that time.

La: Yes..... You have told me.

Pi: I am talking about the actions.

La: Yes, but you talk about the concentration camps. Did you yourself, at that time, differentiate between concentration camps and extermination camps? This is not quite the same.

Pi: No, no, no, no. Not at that moment. It was know only much later, this.... it was known only much later.

La: But did you know that there were.....

Pi: It started with a total mystery, you understand.... It was known that there were camps.

La: But, for example, I think it is in July 1942..... Mr. Carl [illegible handwriting], who himself was an important member of the ICRC – he became president later on – but...

Pi: Yes.

La: was informed quite precisely of what happened by the Germans themselves, and I would like to say, the reality of a plan, of a precise plan of extermination..... of the Jews...

Pi: Yes, that happened progressively, that happened progressively, I cannot tell you the exact date.....

La: The date does not matter.

Pi: Concerning this... concerning this...., right, this is something that came progressively. It is very difficult to know at what precise moment one is convinced.....

La: No, no, but... I would like that you would understand my.....

Pi: you understand.... I cannot remember exact dates.

La: I would like that you understand my.....

Pi: I don't remember... We were very concerned constantly, this was a constant preoccupation. We were extremely concerned already in 42, right, but to tell you at which moment one wondered if there were exterminations, that I cannot remember; I think to remember that it was in 43.... it was rather in 43 than in 42; that's it.

La: It is not only – I would like to say – extermination; it was... a plan for the systematic annihilation – of a people or rather of an ethnicity for to say in another way....

Pi: But of that I had no knowledge in 42, personally not.

La: In 43 you had no longer any doubts.

Pi: No.... that was at that... I believe that at that time, that one realized it.

La: No, but because.... what always strikes me – when I try to comprehend this era and thinking about it – i.e., until 39, Hitler made no secret about his anti-Semitism and his desire to chase away the Jews and to get rid of them. Finally, the persecution becomes public and in the open air, and suddenly the war erupts and a kind of iron curtain descends on the world. He invades Poland, he invades the U.S.S.R., etc. – I want to say, in a way totally surprising, he decides to exterminate at the same time; isn't it so?

Pi: Oh, it is evident that they tried to hide their betrayal as long as possible, right, I believe... this is obvious, and that they took great care to do so. The first proof is that they refused to give any news about the political prisoners and that was what started our suspicion.

La: Why are you saying “political detainees?” The Jews were not political detainees.

Pi: Well, I call “political detainees” all the people who..... all the people who were put into camps for reasons other than.... other than the fact that they belonged to an enemy army, right?

La: I see.

Pi: Civilians....

La: I see.

Pi: Civilians who were arrested for non-military reasons, but for political ones.

La: Well, the main duty of the ICRC in times of war is....

Pi: to visit....

La: the camps of prisoners of war.

Pi: Yes....to work towards the truest possible application of the Geneva Conventions, which are international treaties that give us the rights, and particularly the rights to visit the camps, to visit all the camps.

La: And.....

Pi: to assist them, and to exchange news between the prisoners of war and their families. And this, this went well in Germany. But.... where the plan in question was concerned, the ICRC considered the importance of the elements in play in a cold and deliberate manner.

La: This means, they said: on the one hand, there are prisoners of war, which is our main task...

Pi: Well, here..... we knew that, because we had been allowed to listen, right, that if we insisted too much regarding the civilian problem, the civilian detainees, we....

La: The civilians, you mean to say the Jews.

Pi: Yes, I.... I...., I call them “political detainees,” so, the civilians who were still internees. They were Jews or non-Jews, right; there were many from the French Resistance.

La: Yes, this the example, this.....

Pi: Later.

La: Yes, ok.

Pi: Well.... It is sure that the Germans – the threat had been made, a veiled threat – it is sure that the Germans would have expelled our delegates from Germany if we had insisted too strongly in this matter, and reduced to nothing and activity which consisted of visiting prisoners of war and to provide them assistance. So, we did not.... we thought that the play.... well, that we could not.... we could not risk this for totally hypothetical results in favor of the political detainees, because there was there no conventional basis, right. We had no right what-so-ever, because the ICRC has, on the one hand,

its activities based on the Conventions, and, on the side, it strives to extend this to other categories of victims which are not covered by a law....

La: This is a vicious circle....

Pi: And this, this is an activity which is tolerated either by the governments, depending on the goodwill that it encounters.

La: This is quite so, but you still had....

Pi: Well there..... well there, we based ourselves only on our humanitarian principles, you understand.

La: Yes

Pi: But one cannot.....

La: Yes, Mr. Pictet, I understand very well what you have told me and it is..... it is absolutely important that you had no legal base for intervention.

Pi: No legal base for the detainees..... for the political detainees....

La: But.... I do understand this very well, but, on the other hand.... you had no right to do this, as you had... as you have said right now...

Pi: Right.

La: But.... I am also thinking is it not your opinion to.... you had a moral duty and...

Pi: Yes, certainly.

La: ... that the ICRC has an utmost moral authority.

Pi: Yes, it is not..... it is not the general prosecutor of humanity, but it is true that it has a certain moral authority in the world. It's ideal prompts it to come to the aid of all people who suffer, right. But naturally....

La: Without distinction.

Pi: Without distinction. But it can do so within the means where it has.... where it has the right, according to the International Conventions, and for the rest, outside of the International Conventions, to the extent that it has been authorized; and there it is understood that it ran up against a wall, right, where the political detainees were concerned, they ran up against a wall; this citadel, which has been called sacrosanct, the state sovereignty, you understand, of of the state security, they ran up against a wall...

La: Well, in spite of this, I think you took the decision – it was you, this is totally to your credit – to write an appeals project.

Pi: Yes, I, I was for it, I was for it, but the majority was inclined to it.... in any case, or in any case, those who had the most influence in our group – I was only secretary at that meeting of October 14, 1942....

I took the minutes, I had no voice in the chapter, but.... but I was thinking, I, that it should be done.... only, the.... the ICRC guessed that it was not possible to jeopardize all the actual activities, in favor of the prisoners of war for an activity..... for an activity, for taking a position which would have given.... of which the results were totally hypothetical, right? To hit the Germans face on, this was..... this was almost certain to get us expelled from Germany. So, was this game worth the candle.....

La: The ICRC.....

Pi: The ICRC thought it was not and that a protest is not always the most courageous action, you know. In general..... the protest is mainly a means to free ones conscience, right, but often..... it is not necessarily the most courageous stand. At times it is the most courageous stand to work in silence, because you do understand that this was for us – this thing – a constant preoccupation. Our hearts were bleeding, right;

don't think that this left us indifferent.

La: I do understand.

Pi: Well then, at that moment, while we could not face up to the German government, the ICRC made a siege, you understand, by repeated inquiries in order to obtain something in this direction.

La: Yes, but that is....

Pi: In a practical manner.

La: I do understand, but... it is.... you have reread this appeal of October 1942?

Pi: I have reread it some years ago when [several words appear to be missing] write this book, right. I did reread it. But with the passage of time I found it rather unimportant. But it is true that it contained the version which it found, which is the one that was distributed at the meeting, called "4th project."

La: This means.....

Pi: As a consequence, it had been.... it had already been toned down in the..... I did not find my first project.... but, as I remember, it was much striking, right, it was an expression.

La: This means to me, what strikes me is the extreme caution.....

of diplomacy, you understand that I understand extremely well that appeal.....

Pi: Yes, yes, yes, you understand.

La: Is it... wait... is it this: “besides the justly called civil internees, certain categories of diverse nationalities are, for reasons depending on the state of the war, deprived of their liberty, deported or held hostage.....

Pi: Yes, that’s it.

La: For this reasons they can even be subjected to attacks on their lives for acts of which they often have not committed.

Pi: Yes, I.... I.... I know, this is.... yes....

La: This means that they are not.....

Pi: But this is a version.... this is a toned down version, this, right?

La: And this is against this version, against the publication of this toned down version.

Pi: And even this toned down version was not sent because we are – like – in a domain where we don’t have a legal base, we are forced, we are at... right.... no depend on the goodwill of of authorities that we are.... the ICRC, thinking that... there was not.... there was not good policy to make them indisposed, right, the German government, by a possibly spectacular declaration,

but which might amount to nothing, or, in any case, of which the results were totally hypothetical; thus.... he was thinking that it would be better to undertake – as of that moment – an activity, a more practical action, right, in other.... in other domains.

La: And... a practical action that did not have consequences.

Pi: Oh! Which had consequences, because was still an action of assistance...

La: Yes, but much later, in 44, that means that the dates are....

Pi: Yes, but we have requested, we have made steps, we have asked for news, right, and the news were refused, but at a certain time, they were accepted, I can talk to you about that now, if you would like.

La: Have they – we will come back to this shortly – no, but because... what is said today, is that they have massively exterminated during all of 1942, during all of 1943 and during the eight first months of 1944.

Pi: Yes.

La: And..... I..... But this is a question which will never be answered.....

Pi: You understand, there is also a fact

La: There will never be an answer.

Pi: There is also a fact that the ICRC generally does not protest, right, because..... almost never, it has almost never protested....

La: Yes, I agree, but this was an exceptional situation.

Pi: It has almost never protested, because..... because it is necessary to choose, right, between justice and charity. It has a task.... it has task to be helpful.....

La: What do you mean, choice between “justice and charity?”

Pi: Charity.... the ICRC has a practical task, to be helpful, right, it seeks to get news from people, it seeks to protect by visiting the detention places, etc., and it seeks also to provide assistance to them. That is what I call charity, it’s a word, it’s a label. And besides that, there is justice. Justice, this is precisely.... this is precisely to judge, right, to judge ones and the others, to say: this is good, this is bad in the world. So, it is not possible to be both at the same time, it is not possible.

La: You think so?

Pi: No. It is not possible to be a charitable entity and an entity... which includes a moral judgment....

La: In the....

Pi: there are organizations which judge, but they don't have practical activities in that place.

La: I understand very well.

Pi: So. They don't risk anything, you understand, while there, there was an enormous real risk because we have a practical activity which could not... and then it was expected at that time that the undertakings of the practical plan would succeed.

La: Yes, but you yourself have said that this was a situation.... that was very exceptional... but that.....

Pi: Yes, this is..... you are preaching to the choir. I was for making an exception and.... make an appeal, you understand; but I understood that the ICRC ... had taken the cautious road, had taken the cautious road. I accepted it, it was justified, in any case, this was not.... this was not a decision.... in the void, this was a thought-out decision.

La: When did you.... when did you... how did you know, really, that I did not ask you for an exact date, at which people were gassed?

Pi: No, I don't remember... I cannot give you an exact date because.....

my memory is not.....

La: Did you know.....

Pi: Yes..... yes.... it was known, but I cannot give you an exact date because my memory is not so exact in that regard.

La: But.... but you knew.... during the war in any case...

Pi: Oh, yes.

La: During the war....

Pi: Oh, yes...

La: that people were gassed. I would like to say, the existence of gas chambers and systems... of mass exterminations, this was something..... that was known.

Pi: This is a matter which..... yes I cannot.... but I cannot remember the date on which we knew... Well, there is also another reason, which is.... in the rare cases when the ICRC did something resembling a protest, it did so based on observations which the delegates have been able to make, i.e., things, certain facts. But it is not possible to send protests on reported facts, it is not possible to protest based on reports in a paper, you understand. It is necessary to have observed facts. For this reason, the rare protests that the ICRC has lodged were always base on observations,

on observations by their delegates.

La: And then, did you have.... what.... first of all, what were the relations of... of the delegates of the ICRC in Germany, known to the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the national German Red Cross, well, not with....

Pi: With the Red Cross and the authorities. They were.... they were normal, they were normal.

La: And the Germans perfectly respected the Geneva Conventions?

Pi: The Germans respected the Geneva Conventions, however, in the countries where they considered.... for the nationalities of which they considered that they were applicable, right, let's make that clear, the.... the.... towards the allied powers.

La: Yes.

Pi: But they.... they considered that the Conventions did not apply to the countries... which had disappeared, right, and.... not....

La: Disappeared as such.

Pi: Disappeared as such and not on the Eastern front. On the Eastern Front, nothing.... nothing appearing right and charitable

by the Red Cross was functioning.

La: But do you know that they slaughtered, for example, the.... the Russian prisoners of war?

Pi: The same as for the civilian camps, right, rumors, suspicions, then.... then certainty.

La: They slaughtered all the Soviet political commissars in the....

Pi: Well, our delegates visited the allied camps of allied prisoners of war, and they could not visit the Soviet war camps.

La: The paradox is that you....

Pi: But there were also rumors to that effect, scraps of information which became more and more concrete.

PICTET 4

La: Yes, I find what you have just said to be very important, from your point of view.... if I may say so, the logical point of results of the horrors of the world, and.... one always has the tendency to exaggerate.

Pi: Yes.... you are right, we are... the experience has shown us

the need to be skeptical with regard to.... information one receives, because they were not controlled, because there was no way to confirm it. The victims of war, and in particular the political prisoners, have a tendency to exaggerate their problems. The prisoner of war himself admits his captivity, he finds it normal, the gun has been taken from his hand, his life has been spared... he considers it absolutely normal to be imprisoned. The political prisoner, naturally.....

La: The prisoner of war, in the end.... in the end....

Pi: protests, does not admit his captivity and continues the fight, the civilian, you understand, he continues the fight, he continues the resistance. Thus, there are many who tend to exaggerate their suffering. Please note that this was not at all the case here, certainly.

La: No, the Jews did not exaggerate their suffering.

Pi: Oh, no. But.... in general, right, speaking of certain slaughters, well, and also in general, one is aware that it is necessary to deduct a zero, right?

La: Yes.

Pi: This has the effect that our first reaction, when hearing stories of atrocities, our first reaction is one of uncertainty, right,

Pi: and in need.... and in need of verification, because, naturally, we cannot raise an official complaint or protest only on facts which turn out.....

La: Are you not caught in a kind of vicious circle, because.... if you want to verify the rumors, there is one type of verification that is to go there.

Pi: And when we are prevented go to there, that is the problem, it is..... it is....

La: At the same time you are prevented from going there, and, on the other hand, if you go there, you can only see what they want to show you.

Pi: Yes, absolutely. For this reason it is very rare that the ICRC lodges a protest. Though, in revenge, it receives many complaints about.... of..... a permanent state of affairs, from prisoners of war about insufficient nourishment, or located in an unhealthy area, or that the barracks are not heated, things like that, now that, naturally are subjects for protests...

La: but...

Pi: There we send delegates to visit, who go to see what is the case, who demand improvements.

Pi: However, there we were confronted with camps.... civilian camps, right, civilian detainees, political and.....

La: And.... you did not....

Pi: And which were hermetically closed to us.

La: You never had fundamental fears for the lives of the prisoners of war?

Pi: Of..... of prisoners of war of allied countries, no.

La: Yes.

Pi: No, no. There was none. The mortality was normal; the rate of mortality was normal for prisoners of war of the allies in Germany during the World War.

La: This means that in the end, well, they were prisoners, which was no fun, but.....

Pi: The mortality was normal.

La: But they did not risk very much beyond that....

Pi: No, no.

La: But..... how.....

Pi: But.... note, they did not risk much, but there was.... the ICRC assured.... assured their provisioning, right. Don't forget that the value of aid distributed by the ICRC

Pi: during the second World War just to the allied prisoners of war in Germany, amounted to a total of more than three billion gold francs of the time.

La: Swiss francs.

Pi: Gold francs, Swiss francs of the time. Three, more than three billion Swiss francs of the time, the aid that was transported across the oceans on immunized ships, lit up at night during the height of the blockade....

La: That is enormous.

Pi: Enormous. And it was that which they did not want to compromise.

La: But did you know that the Germans would in the end make fun of you in an abominable way, because....

Pi: Oh, well, yes....

La: In a manner.... it was a dark parody.

Pi: Well, yes, certainly.

La: That the containers of Cyclone B gas in Auschwitz were transported in trucks marked with the logo of the Red Cross, that in Treblinka, the famous Lazarett where people were killed with a shot in the neck, the old people and the children who were unable to march, who slowed down the process of the mass murder....

Pi: Yes, sure; certainly that....

La: had also a large red cross. I mean, they made fun of you.

Pi: Certainly, this is.... this is really true.... one was aware of it. Suddenly, there was in front of us a gulf of lies and duplicities, this is obvious.

La: But.... Geneva was a neutral city, well, Switzerland was neutral, there were Germans in Geneva.

Pi: No, no; no, no. Surrounded, but no, Switzerland was not invaded. Geneva.....

La: No, no, I mean to say... there were Germans in Geneva, civilian Germans, ... there was an embassy of Germany.

Pi: Oh, there was a diplomatic representation, certainly, with which we were in constant communications.

La: Yes.

Pi: Because it represented its government... the government, right, we had ongoing negotiations with the German authorities. But Switzerland itself was surrounded, especially in..... after the occupation of the Southern part of France. Geneva.... right, Geneva was essentially surrounded, the border was closed. And it is certain that, at that time, all the world was afraid that.... the....the... the threat presented by this

Pi: might, this great might, during this victorious period, during this victorious part of the war, obviously, a scary weight on Europe, right.....

La: Even Switzerland was afraid.

Pi: this.... the people who lived during this time know it and perhaps, forty years later, it may not be so obvious what the atmosphere was at that time.

La: Could you describe the atmosphere somewhat?

Pi: Well, I can tell you, it was a very depressing atmosphere and, even a country like Switzerland, felt a constant threat. That is obvious.

La: And... to say just a word about this visit.... at Theresienstadt. How do you explain that the report by the delegate who visited Theresienstadt was, in the end, a rather favorable report?

Pi: But, well, this is very easy. That is the only visit of a concentration camp which was made during the war, except during the last period where then certain camps were opened to us.

La: That is the only thing that you have obtained.

Pi: Yes, because this is the only visit which was ever made to a concentration camp. Well, it was..... the ICRC had asked to visit the camps

Pi: and the Germans made him visit Theresienstadt. Why? Because this was a very special case, this was a camp where the Germans put Israelites which they wanted to keep, for various reasons, and.... and also a transit camp. This, this was not an extermination camp. It was a transit camp.

La: Well, transit to where?

Pi: Oh, to camps which.... notably to extermination camps, but in any way, it was a transit camp.

La: Ok.

Pi: And also, it had a very large population, I believe there were up to 30,000 people, and... the conditions... and it was a camp... it was called a model ghetto, right. The Germans called it a model ghetto, and it had a certain kind of autonomy in the administration, it was a little of a decor like Potemkin, right.....

La: Exactly.

Pi: And.... and the Germans had already shown it to journalists, but you understand, that when they told us that they wanted to show us.... we demanded to see all.... we were told: you can see that, and the day when our delegate visited, this was with a delegate....

Pi: with a Danish journalist, well, this tells you.... right, what was the value of this visit.

La: No, but I knew, no, but what I want to say....

Pi: So, our delegate, our delegate simply told in his report what he saw.

La: Absolutely.

Pi: He said that what he saw was not bad.

La: No, no, but.... that is the reason that I come back to what you said before, you said: the rumors, they have to be verified.

Pi: So.

La: And to verify them, we have to go there and see it.

Pi: So, yes, he was shown the camp, but he.... he was not duped, you understand, he was not duped, in his report, he.....

La: But you noted that....

Pi: he says what he saw, but that amounts to very little, because we have not made use of this report, this report, it was never sent to anyone, you understand. This is.... this is an incident, this history.....

La: But was he duped or not?

Pi: But no, he was not duped, this means that he was not duped, he said what he saw, his report is sincere, right. But he knew quite well that this did not agree with what one heard.

La: At any rate, in his report there is not even a shadow, not even a shadow of reserve.

Pi: No, no, no, he said what he saw.

La: He does not say, he does not say: I was duped, or I am duped.

Pi: No, no, no. Oh, he said what he saw, this was a camp which was not bad at that time, really, Theresien....., that was at that time....

La: But what is the purpose of saying what one sees, if that what one sees is false?

Pi: This was at that time, June 26, 44, that, as I am telling you, the ICRC made no use of it; this report had no impact and I... it was left in a drawer and I can tell you that at that time, at that time, it did not produce any substantial memory for me.

La: And now, today....

Pi: It was not taken very seriously.

La: And today; and this is only a theoretical and absurd question, I fully admit, because history does not repeat itself, now today...

La: knowing what you know, would you maintain the same position; I mean to say, the same policy to know, to not protest, publicly?

Pi: No, I...I... I am of the opinion that I would have wanted that this appeal would be made, and.... And the fact of the actual difficulties which we encountered afterwards, almost impossibilities to act, right, justify that idea for me.... I think that....

La: In the end, can one say in a certain way, without argument, that this policy failed....

Pi: This policy.....

La: Did you not prevent anything....

Pi: This policy of prudence, right, basically, in this particular case, did not pay off, but how could we have known at that time; this is impossible. This..... this is judgment after the fact, right, this is impossible. We found ourselves with considerable risks, the ICRC did not want to take risks, and I understand that, I absolutely understand that.

La: But I, I badly understand what were the risks, I just can't quite see that.

Pi: But.... well, the risk was that we would be expelled from Germany, that we could no longer take care of....

La: What would have happened....

Pi: to no longer be able to take care of the prisoners of war, right.

La: Oh, they would not have let the prisoners of war die of hunger, they had....

Pi: Listen, nothing is known. The rumor was circulating that the Germans.... if one insisted too much... the rumor was circulating that.... I said so just afterwards, the rumor was circulating that the Germans were about to repudiate the Geneva conventions.

PICTET 5

Pi: So, as I have said, the ICRC did not think that it could take this risk, right, the risk to compromise the visit of the camps of prisoners, their provisioning, etc. for a guest that was possibly spectacular, but hypothetical, which might yield nothing, and ineffective, but which risked, obviously, the very strong indisposition of the German government, to the point that the threat had even been formulated by Hitler to repudiate the Geneva conventions. At any rate....

La: antagonize...

Pi: At any rate, our.... our delegation in Germany – which was quite numerous, after all – at that moment, counting several dozen persons, [risked] expulsion.

La: But one could say.... one could respond to this that the extermination of Jews was something very spectacular.

Pi: Certainly.

La: And....

Pi: Certainly. But at that time nobody could imagine that a civilized European country might consider a genocide of the type for which one had to go back in history to the Middle Ages.

La: Yes.. but the whole question is..... is the reality of knowing, and....

Pi: It is necessary to distinguish between knowing and believing, exactly, right. From which moment on did one believe to know, that's all of it.

La: If one does not believe, one does not know.

Pi: Yes, one first has to believe, before knowing, right, but then it is necessary to verify, that's where the problem is. It is necessary..... one cannot rely on..... on.... "one says", right, that is the problem.

La: Yes, but.... it is still clear that as of.... you

La: know that.... as of December 1942 the.... the.... allied governments issued a declaration on this.

Pi: That was as of December? Yes.... I don't remember the exact date of December.

La: The Americans, the British issued a declaration on exactly the extermination, on knowing the reality of the extermination to be not in doubt by anybody.

Pi: Yes.....

La: Neither its reality, nor his plans....

Pi: It is possible that..... it is possible that this was..... that this was already the end, the end of 42. I would say 43,.....

La: Oh, yes, yes...

Pi: But that must have been the end of 42; I don't remember....

La: Because even your protest, you have written it in September 42.

Pi: Yes, this I remember very clearly, this I remember very clearly.

La: You wrote it in September 42, your protest.

Pi: Yes, yes, yes. Absolutely.

La: Did you achieve it that your delegates could visit other camps? I seem to have heard that... one of your delegates visited Auschwitz.

Pi: No, no, well, no. that was only , only at the end of the war, well....

La: No, no, no.

Pi: No, no, no. To my knowledge there were no other visits during the war. Oh, there were

some visits before the war, but that is something else.

La: Auschwitz did not exist before the war.

Pi: No, no. There was Dachau; I don't know if you want me to say a few words about that?

La: yes, yes.

Pi: Well, before, before the war, the ICRC did not take any action concerning political detainees. There were none at that time. In Spain there were absolutely none.... no bases and thus the ICRC , when faced with the requests regarding the German camps, asked to visit them.

La: Yes, certainly, visits to Dachau were organized.

Pi: Thus, a visit was organized, which was executed by Mr. (blank, no name) and a doctor in..... it was in 1935. He visited Dachau, there were about 8000 detainees, and also, he visited (blank) where there were 1600 detainees, where the conditions were particularly bad and where he spoke with 24 detainees without witnesses and (blank) also. He then asked for improvements and.... the ICRC was invited to return to see the improvements, he returned to Dachau in 1938.

La: Could he determine them?

Pi: by Colonel Fabre and a doctor, he could determine certain improvements and at that time, the ICRC made the request to....., he renewed his request to visit all the camps. And..... this was denied to him; then he refused to make this kind of visits, visits which were just limited, right.

La: A moment ago you spoke of three billion francs, or....

Pi: Yes.....

La: which.... I want to say, but.... where did this money come from?

Pi: Yes, this money came from the allied powers.

La: Oh, the allied powers, right.

Pi: yes, yes.

La: Because..... the ICRC had no funds at their disposal, or did it have funds?

Pi: No, no. This are contributions by governments, by Red Cross Societies and.... also at times by individuals but in the end, it is mainly the governments, and during the World War, half of our resources had been furnished by the Swiss government.

La: By the Swiss government.

Pi: Yes, right? So, for the..... for the prisoners of war, the allies opened the blockade and accorded us (blank space), right. So, the aid came from the United States... mostly, in ships that were painted white.

La: Parcels?

Pi: They were parcels, group parcels; there were also family parcels which came from French families, for example, and we had there those which pass through the blockade. But for the civilians, for the political detainees, the Allies never gave certificates of (blank space). They refused to open the blockade. Why? Because in the camps of prisoners of war our delegates were able to get in, they visited them, they could determine that the aid was consumed; while nothing of the sort was possible in the camps for political detainees.

La: Yes. One could think that this was.....

Pi: Consequently, the Allies, it also need to be said, the Allies did not give us..... Consequently, the 1,600,000 packages which we were still able to send to the camps of deportees and political detainees in Germany, it was necessary to procure them in a Europe that was already more or less bloodless, right. In a Europe

Pi: which was ... I don't want to say starving, but still, which was already very stressed for supplies. This has to be known too, right.

La: Yes, but I understand that very well, this is.... very much known.

Pi: So, this aid for the political detainees, particularly the Jews, were furnished to a large extent by the Joint Distribution Committee....

La: This was a Jewish organization.

Pi: This was an American Jewish organization, American-Jewish and which was represented here in Geneva by Mr. Sally Mayer, a man for whom I have a lot of respect, a very remarkable personality... and this aid was also supplied in part by the War Refugee Board.

La: Mr. McClellan.

Pi: These are the two main sources for the for the parcels, but it was not always easy, and at the end of the war, when the train network in Germany was totally destroyed, it was necessary to transport the resupplies by truck.

La: Yes.

Pi: So, the supplies went to prisoners of war and to

Pi: civilians along the route without distinctions, right.

La: Why do you never use the word “Jewish” in the protest actions?

Pi: Oh, at that time the word “Israelite” was used.

La: Yes, but even not the word “Israelite.”

Pi: Oh, I wanted to say, because the Germans did not accept that one talked to them nominally of Jews, right, and on the other hand.....

La: Well, but.... and what..... yes, but in the end one was not obligated to cede to the Germans, one could.... it was them....

Pi: Oh, but if you wanted to have any chance that this would be successful, it was, nevertheless, necessary to keep good relations with them; what to do want, one does not... right, one does not take the.....

La: Your delegates in Germany.....

Pi: you don't kill flies with vinegar.

La: Your delegates in Germany had good relations with them?

Pi: They had courteous relations, right, they were necessary. We did not.... we were not about to do diplomacy, right, the ICRC did not do diplomacy. But there is still a minimal of it necessary, let's say..... courteousness in the

Pi: international relations, which is absolutely indispensable. What do you want; if you treat someone like an assassin, you cannot later ask him to do you a favor, or finally demand of him to give in on some point, you understand?

La: Yes, I agree, this is very difficult, this is....

Pi: Once you condemn someone, you cannot deal with him anymore.

La: Yes.

Pi: This is the problem. But it is not, it was not, you know, to sacrifice to mere diplomatic means. We in general, and I in particular despise this. This is.... it was simply what one had to do to maintain normal relationships with people with whom one had to negotiate.

La: Yes, rather.... Do you consider these people were assassins?

Pi: Oh, it is absolutely sure that those responsible for all this were assassins.

La: Yes.

Pi: I think that there is no other word for it.

La: No, I don't think so; no. But the people of the (blank space), with whom your delegates had to deal if they wanted to obtain something, were.... this were all the people of Himmler?

Pi: Certainly,

La: Yes.

Pi: Certainly. But you could not tell them that.

La: But you just said that one form of courage was in the end to remain silent. I would like you to elaborate on this.

Pi: Yes. This means that one thinks that it is very courageous to shout, to raise one's voice, the make spectacular gestures, right, but this is not always..... this is not always the case. In any case this is a means to liberate one's conscience, that's what one thinks in general. But, the real courage is sometimes to act. This is action, this is taking constant steps and to repeat them and to never, never appear beaten, to continue to work without stopping. I think that this is courageous and sometimes, it is courageous, after making a decision, to say so. It is courageous to sometimes know how to say no.

La: And to know how to keep quiet.

Pi: Know how to say no, know how to keep quiet. And risk to be criticized. And only God knows how we were criticized for this matter, right. To the point that we were sometimes reproached to not have prevented the concentration camps in Germany.

La:

Pi: This means that we have been reproached for not having prevented the concentration camps and the extermination camps in Germany; this is really curious.... giving us a power that we never had. Even the greatest powers of the world were not able to do so. Now it is known what should have been done to prevent the concentration camps. It required a war to arrive at that, costing the ruination of a continent, right, but one..... this is not a failure of the Red Cross, this is a failure of civilization, this a is a failure....

La: Absolutely.

Pi: of the world.

La: Absolutely. The only thing – but this is by now an old debate – very important, to which the Jews even responded at the time to the Allies: “Yes, you won the war, Hitler was conquered, but the Jewish people was annihilated.”

Pi: Yes.

La: They asked for special measures.

Pi: yes... yes....

La: Because in reality, the war was won, but.....

Pi: Oh, yes, At what price.

La: (blank space) European has been....

Pi: at what price, yes absolutely....

La: Well, could you now speak of the second period, i.e., of the moment when.....

Pi: Yes....

La: when it is known that Germany was to be conquered, when Germany was no longer so strong and.....

Pi: Well... so.... really, you have to go back to March 45.

La: yes.

Pi: In March 45, the ICRC received a concession to its demands, laughable, monstrous. "You ask about news, you want to send parcels, right, you want..... you want to send parcels; you can send parcels to the detainees of whom you know the address". The address, that's what we had asked for. But we were not given those, right. But so, we based ourselves on addresses obtained in such a manner as notes that had been thrown, family letters, some witnessing by escapees. It was possible to get a number of names. And we sent, at least thought to have sent, a special service that had been created already at the end of 42 to deal with....

Pi: this problem: The Division of Special Assistance.

La: This is the D.A.S.

Pi: Yes, the D.A.S., in December 42 it was possible to send a first contingent of parcels, and we received acknowledgments of receipt, right, just like that. Here is the acknowledgment of receipt from the Royal Family of Belgium, here is the acknowledgment of receipt from Ms. Geneviève De Gaulle; and then, very curiously, arrived suddenly of these cartons of acknowledgment of receipt which carried not only the name of the beneficiary, but other names of detainees. And here.... and here one example that stayed with us, that we have preserved, you see, there are about 10 names. So, that snowballed, this means sending parcels to those, etc. And in this manner it was possible to get still news of 100,000; 100,000 detainees, and to send something like 1,600,000 parcels.

La: Yes, this is considerable.

Pi: Nevertheless, this saved some people, it is very little in reality, considering the immensity of the disaster. One should have done 1000 times more, but this is enormous compared to what others have done, this means, not great.... this means nothing.

La: Nothing.

Pi: Except if you..... if you... if you except all the same, an action by Count Bernadotte in the North, right, who managed to liberate a certain number of Scandinavians and to make arrive a certain number of parcels, and then a private initiative by a former president of the Swiss Confederation, Mr.

La: Oh, yes.

Pi: Who bought....

La:

Pi: who bought 1200, 1200 Jews.

La: Yes, yes....

Pi: Whom he let enter Switzerland.

La: Yes, this, I know this story well.

Pi: But if you leave.... yes, yes, this is it; but apart from.... apart from actions of this kind, right, no power, no power was able to take any action whatsoever.

La: But all this was at the end of the war.

Pi: But this still represents something, and this still saved thousands of lives, at least, some detainees came to tell us that, right,

Pi: this has still saved lives. Well.... there was also an action in favor of Jews from other countries, right, from countries which were less.... of which the attitude was much less.... severe than that of Germany, right, such as Czechoslovakia and Hungary, in 1943 and 1944, our delegates performed an important activity of assistance and protection. At a given moment, right, when a large number of Jews had received letters of protection, and their houses had been marked with the sign of the Red Cross, there was a whole action of protection which has been described in books.

La: Yes, yes.

Pi: And.... and also, it was given money also by some way.... I have to say it, which was not entirely legitimate, right...

La: Which was?

Pi: Well, the ICRC received in Switzerland money and.... paid the equivalent in local currency in those countries to the Jews. This was a this was.... the ICRC in general did not serve to do irregular procedures, but in this particular case – what do you want – considering the need, right....

La: Why is this irregular?

Pi: Oh, well, because it goes against the law, right, it is..... it is..... it is..... forbidden, naturally, and also against the laws of exchange. But.... it was done in the form of certificates, right, by which we received the money here from the JOINT....

La: This was staying here in blocked accounts.

Pi: It stayed..... right, and it was then distributed.... at the location to beneficiaries, let's say, in a somewhat discrete manner, let's say in a somewhat discrete manner.

La: Yes, yes.... but this aid was... was very needed. And then there were the agreements.... there were the agreements...

Pi: And then there were the agreements.... there were the agreements. (Blank spaces)
on March 12, 1945 in (blank space)
at that moment, it was hoped that.... there was the specter of the defeat of the Germans which appeared on the horizon, right, and it was said: perhaps, perhaps they may let go... at least it is..... there is need for an attempt.... for avoiding extreme measures, this means liquidation and

Pi: the total destruction of the camps and of all their inmates, to continue, to end the massacre and, also, to erase the traces, right, of these crimes. They said to themselves: there is the president of the ICRC, who said: there is really an attempt.... an attempt can be made and then..... he did it and... there were important concessions and, particularly, the authorization given to the delegates of the ICRC to penetrate into all these camps, under the condition that they would stay there until the end of the war, and we found immediately volunteers, no problem about that. But the orders did not always go through, and they were accepted in certain camps, in others they were kicked out, but in several camps they managed to take over things, to give the camps to the troops, to the allied troops as they advanced. Here I have made notes..... I researched the camps, but at (blank space) the camps were evacuated in spite of the wishes of the delegates, but at (blank space) our delegate was able to re-provision 30,000 detainees during four days and night along the route while they were evacuated and he protested against the fact that runaways were beaten, no, that slowpokes were beaten. (Blank space), the delegate caused the order to be annulled.

Pi: At (blank space) the delegate caused the annulment of the order to destroy the camp and had the camp given over to the Americans. At Dachau a giving over to the Americans was also negotiated. At Türkheim, the delegate caused the camp to be opened and the detainees were able to leave the camp, to go.... to find refuge in the forest and at Theresienstadt the delegate assumed the management of the camp and then passed it on to the Czech authorities.

La:

Pi: And there.... there, certainly the intervention was obviously great; though it was necessary to get supplies to provide helter-skelter for prisoners of war and political detainees, it was necessary to get trucks, and..... the ICRC was able to obtain 420.... 460, 14 with 136 trailers which came not only from Switzerland, but also from the United States, Canada, France. Some were supplied by the YMCA, the drivers were Swiss, and also, there were not enough, prisoners of war which the Germans liberated for this purpose, Canadian prisoners of war. And..... this action was obviously of.... this was a last minute action, but

Pi: I think it was the most important one. And also, our trucks were able to bring back... bring back to Switzerland, a number of

La: survivors.

Pi: survivors, even before the.... the.... the.... surrender of the camp, it was possible to pull out a certain number of detainees. Particularly, on April 9, 45, 300 women from Ravensbrück were brought to Switzerland and there were other afterwards. And then, after the camps were liberated the ICRC continued an action of aid, a medical action, a research action, exchange of news, and even now, its work is not finished, because it still manages the International Research Service.

La: International

Pi: at.... at (blank space) and it served as intermediary for restitution to victims of pseudo-medical experiments in countries with which Germany did not have diplomatic relations at that time. These are Central European countries.

Pi: Yes, I was unable to respond to you with precision about the dates at which one started to

Pi: realize that there was extermination...

La: You said to me....

Pi: an extermination of Jews; I..... I have.... I said to you that it was 43, you told me that this was..... that this was at the end of 42, this is possible, you know, the memory, I have not noted down the date and I have not done research in the archives. And also, if I were arrested and told by the police commissioner: "What did you do on April 19, 1975 at 9:12," I would have no idea how to answer!

La: I could not either! This is private life.

Pi: Absolutely.

La: One does not have to retain the memory of one's private life.

La: But too, what you have shown here to me....

Pi: This here are some of those acknowledgment for receipt of parcels in concentration camps which we have kept because, naturally, the great majority have not been kept, these are some of those which we have kept, here, these are known persons, this is after all the royal family of Belgium...

La: Oh, I see: His Majesty Leopold III, King of Belgium....

Pi: Here, this is the niece of General De Gaulle, but.....

La: But these were still people with privileges, this were

La: not Jews....Polish Jews...

Pi: But yes, but yes; but no, sure.

La: Prince Baudoin....

Pi: They were kept because they are illustrious names, unique, right.

La: Yes, yes, certainly.

Pi: But here.... but this, this is.... this here, this is a very interesting acknowledgment of receipt from the camp of Dachau, because on the back of it there is not only the name of the beneficiary, but also about ten names of detainees which used this way to draw our attention to their names and who, subsequently, were able to receive parcels.

La: This was, however, before the war.

Pi: And.... the name.... you said to me: "These parcels were perhaps.... were perhaps diverted, stolen;" there were some thefts, but the ratio is minimal.

La: The Germans did not steal them?

Pi: They stole some, but.... much less than one could fear.

La: Yes..

Pi: The.... information which we were able to get shows that.... the largest part of the parcels were.... actually.... distributed, given to their beneficiaries.

La: Yes.

Pi: Leopold III, Princess of....., Princess Josephine

La: Prince Baudoin, this is.... this is the king?

Pi: This is.... this is the king. By the way, we showed it to him last week, he came.... no, no, not last week, when was it that he came? It is a few years ago. No, that is the king of Spain who came last week.

La: Oh, yes. And.... was he moved, the king of Belgium with this.....?

Pi: Yes, yes, yes, certainly, certainly, yes.

La: to find this again like that.... but what is the most difficult to understand of this story is, actually, well.... because you said: "we have to observe on location," and it seems that you said at the same time that.... you only see what they want to show you, thus.... you have no possibility to really investigate.

Pi: Really.... in this particular case, for lack of judicial base, right, we were.... in a state of perpetual contradictions, as you can see, this is a perpetual contradiction, right. We are told, right, we.... we.... to establish..... facts, there has to be certainty, to have certainty, it is necessary to go there, but we were not allowed to visit the camps.

La: Oh, yes, but.... did you not believe the receipts by witnesses....

Pi: we.... we have been asked....

La: even if you have to remove a zero, as you have said....

Pi: Oh, yes, at that time...

La: are more sure that....

Pi: Yes, but at that time it was necessary to form a type of commission of inquiry, right, and this is not our role. A whole judicial course is needed for that.

La:

Pi: This is what I call justice, right, exactly. Other organizations do it, but we, this is not our role, right, we are a.... a.... we are an aid organization. We try to protect people from abuse of power, right, and..... and.... from..... from death, we try to obtain for them news to give to their families and, reciprocally, there is an agency for this, right, of which the headquarters is there on the side. If you want to you could take a picture of it, if that interest you, and also of the distributions of..... of the aid distribution, right. These are the three areas of our activity.

La: If you have to give a one-word judgment of..... this activity during the war, concerning... the extermination of the Jews, how would you characterize this?

Pi: The action.... our action... the action of the Red Cross, and

Pi: well... weak, considering the immensity of the suffering. The goal should have been... one should have.... that it would have been one thousand times.... greater and more efficient. But I permit myself... to qualify it as enormous, compared to what was done, what was done in general, throughout the world, and by others.

La: You think so?

Pi: Oh, yes. Because nothing else was done, I dare say... But little action by us..., few things were so close to our hearts, right.

La: You suffered a lot?

Pi: Oh, yes, much.

La: Yes.

Pi: Much. And when we were told that, our hearts were really bleeding, this was... a constant preoccupation, a constant worry and when certain people believed to be able to deduce from the fact that we omitted to start an appeal, right, certain people spoke of indifference, right, but this is absolutely wrong. Problems of this kind prevent us from living happily, prevent us from sleeping, right, you can well imagine that.

La: How is the daily life in Geneva when these types of things happen?

Pi: Oh, well, you know, during the war one did not ask questions;

Pi: here you don't ask question regarding what you are doing, during peace time, when getting into an organization like this one, possibly; I got in as a jurist because I believed in the law, I already believe..... at the age of 20 or 22 years, that, above the sovereignty of the states, there was the sovereignty of the law, right. But when the war started, oh my God, this was like a ship caught in a storm, at that time, everybody is at the helm or on the ropes, and everybody appears the most pressed, no more questions are asked, right, one tries to confront it, to face the storm, that's all. Really no fundamental questions are asked, one does not even have time to think, right, almost none.

La: One acts from day to day.

Pi: Yes, yes.

La: Absolutely. Well, I want to thank you very much, Mr. Pictet.

Pi: Oh, that's ok; I hope that this is of use to you.
Well, I would like very much..... you can always reach me, however, I will be, I have.... I have remained a member of the ICRC, a member of this organization, but I am now ending my professional activities. But you will always be able to reach me here, right,

Pi: or I can give you.....

La:

Pi: Rarely. But now that I will be free, that may be a little different. I can dispose of my time, but I give you my home address. But also, I would like to know, I would like before the use, before the film is finished, I would like to know – be it by audition, be it by lecture – what you have gotten from this, just so.

La: Absolutely.

Pi: Because, I don't know who said it: "With excerpts, you can hang anyone."

La: This is not my intention.

Pi: No, no, certainly! I am saying that as a joke; you understand, but I don't remember who said that with excerpts you can do what you want to anybody, right! Oh, but that has not happened. I presided at a conference on weapons some years ago at Lugano and... I gave an interview to the press on the issue, half an hour, right. I began as follows: the question I was asked was: "Are you happy or are you disappointed?" and I began as follows: "Getting away from the agenda of this conference, well I can say that I am disappointed, but I spoke for half an hour. What did they put on the air: just the first few words. Then the president of the conference

Pi: stated: "Getting away from the agenda, I am disappointed." Full stop. They cut it there!!

La: Yes, but that, these are non-serious journalists, really.

Pi: Certainly, certainly.

La: Neither reliable, nor honest.

Pi: Certainly!! No, no, I don't think that you would do that, but I simply say this for the.... let's say for my.... for my personal peace of mind, and if I ask this of you, this is only because my colleague had trouble, right, just because of that, and because it was done here in this house, right, you understand, and he was terribly criticized, but, who knows, I may be criticized too.

La: Hopefully not.
Some time is needed for the transcription....

Pi: Oh, the time does not matter, this does not matter at all. I am just saying: before the film is definitively completed, I would like to know what you have used of this, that is all, that is all I am asking for.

La: You did not say anything that could be criticized or questionable.

Pi: No, no, no, no, certainly. Well, I will give you my private address.