

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,230
OK.

2
00:00:02,230 --> 00:00:03,150
about your father.

3
00:00:03,150 --> 00:00:04,900
Let's talk a little
bit about your father.

4
00:00:04,900 --> 00:00:08,100
You said he was a very
cautious kind of personality--

5
00:00:08,100 --> 00:00:09,790
cautious person.

6
00:00:09,790 --> 00:00:16,440
So, well if my mother
came from a noble family,

7
00:00:16,440 --> 00:00:19,890
on her father's side and
also on her mother's side--

8
00:00:19,890 --> 00:00:24,060
I said that my grandmother
was born in Ukraine.

9
00:00:24,060 --> 00:00:24,630
That's right.

10
00:00:24,630 --> 00:00:27,720
She was of mixed Polish
Ukrainian in origin,

11
00:00:27,720 --> 00:00:29,970
but she was also
of a noble family.

12
00:00:29,970 --> 00:00:30,990

I see.

13

00:00:30,990 --> 00:00:34,170

So but my father was
of peasant family.

14

00:00:34,170 --> 00:00:37,800

And he had that very
typical peasant traits,

15

00:00:37,800 --> 00:00:42,450

which means cautiousness,
a feeling of responsibility

16

00:00:42,450 --> 00:00:45,840

toward his family and
towards his business.

17

00:00:45,840 --> 00:00:56,390

And so he wanted to
be always respectable.

18

00:00:56,390 --> 00:00:59,870

He liked comfort.

19

00:00:59,870 --> 00:01:02,540

His childhood was
sort of difficult,

20

00:01:02,540 --> 00:01:08,690

but later when he achieved some
degree of comfort he valued it.

21

00:01:08,690 --> 00:01:10,380

And so on and so on.

22

00:01:10,380 --> 00:01:12,710

So it wasn't a bohemian?

23

00:01:12,710 --> 00:01:14,990

In his youth he was a bohemian.

24

00:01:14,990 --> 00:01:16,430
Later not.

25
00:01:16,430 --> 00:01:17,150
Later not.

26
00:01:17,150 --> 00:01:20,360
Very many Lithuanian writers
were bohemian especially

27
00:01:20,360 --> 00:01:21,830
in the Soviet period.

28
00:01:21,830 --> 00:01:27,350
Well, that was not the Bohemian
behavior in a strict sense.

29
00:01:27,350 --> 00:01:29,210
But they just drank.

30
00:01:29,210 --> 00:01:31,600
They were very good drinkers.

31
00:01:31,600 --> 00:01:33,450
And my father was an exception.

32
00:01:33,450 --> 00:01:37,310
He would drink
rather good drinks

33
00:01:37,310 --> 00:01:41,450
like cognac or
brandy or something

34
00:01:41,450 --> 00:01:44,240
like that or good wine.

35
00:01:44,240 --> 00:01:49,190
He understood the difference
between good and bad drink.

36
00:01:49,190 --> 00:01:53,300

But he was an exception in the
Lithuanian writer's community

37
00:01:53,300 --> 00:01:56,090
because he never, never
was a heavy drinker.

38
00:01:56,090 --> 00:01:58,220
And you're talking now
during the Soviet days

39
00:01:58,220 --> 00:02:01,250
or before the war?

40
00:02:01,250 --> 00:02:04,770
Also before the war, but
especially in the Soviet times.

41
00:02:04,770 --> 00:02:05,270
OK.

42
00:02:05,270 --> 00:02:09,979
People drank because the
Soviet life was depressing.

43
00:02:09,979 --> 00:02:10,789
Yeah.

44
00:02:10,789 --> 00:02:13,940
Well for my father it was
probably less depressing,

45
00:02:13,940 --> 00:02:18,650
and he even made a
very conscious effort

46
00:02:18,650 --> 00:02:21,930
not to become a drinker.

47
00:02:21,930 --> 00:02:22,430
OK.

48

00:02:22,430 --> 00:02:23,870
Not to become an alcoholic.

49
00:02:23,870 --> 00:02:26,090
Not to become an alcoholic, yes.

50
00:02:26,090 --> 00:02:28,910
And so my grandfather,
for example,

51
00:02:28,910 --> 00:02:32,210
drank much more than my father.

52
00:02:32,210 --> 00:02:33,330
His father did.

53
00:02:33,330 --> 00:02:34,700
That is your father's father.

54
00:02:34,700 --> 00:02:35,210
No, no.

55
00:02:35,210 --> 00:02:36,085
Your mother's father.

56
00:02:36,085 --> 00:02:38,090
My mother's father
who was a professor

57
00:02:38,090 --> 00:02:40,430
of classical philology.

58
00:02:40,430 --> 00:02:41,660
Yeah, he was a drinker.

59
00:02:41,660 --> 00:02:43,610
Not an alcoholic but a drinker.

60
00:02:43,610 --> 00:02:44,630
I see.

61

00:02:44,630 --> 00:02:48,440

Also probably partly
because he was depressed

62

00:02:48,440 --> 00:02:50,810

by the conditions around him.

63

00:02:50,810 --> 00:02:51,680

After the war.

64

00:02:51,680 --> 00:02:52,640

After the war, yes.

65

00:02:52,640 --> 00:02:53,210

OK.

66

00:02:53,210 --> 00:02:54,840

So well.

67

00:02:54,840 --> 00:02:58,400

So let's talk a little
bit more now about 1940

68

00:02:58,400 --> 00:03:02,240

and your father accepts Ministry
of Education and Ministry

69

00:03:02,240 --> 00:03:03,510

of Culture positions.

70

00:03:03,510 --> 00:03:04,970

Yes.

71

00:03:04,970 --> 00:03:09,170

Do you have any other memories
after moving to Vilnius?

72

00:03:09,170 --> 00:03:10,660

Not much of them.

73

00:03:10,660 --> 00:03:18,160

My next memory is are

definitely related

74

00:03:18,160 --> 00:03:24,550
to the start of the war, which
started in Lithuania in 1941

75

00:03:24,550 --> 00:03:28,030
in the 22nd June, 1941.

76

00:03:28,030 --> 00:03:29,560
Hitler attacked
the Soviet Union.

77

00:03:29,560 --> 00:03:30,060
OK.

78

00:03:30,060 --> 00:03:32,320
So for Lithuania
the start of the war

79

00:03:32,320 --> 00:03:34,580
is when Hitler attacks
the Soviet Union.

80

00:03:34,580 --> 00:03:35,080
Yes.

81

00:03:35,080 --> 00:03:38,530
Which up until that
time had been its ally.

82

00:03:38,530 --> 00:03:39,190
Yes.

83

00:03:39,190 --> 00:03:39,890
OK.

84

00:03:39,890 --> 00:03:40,500
Yes.

85

00:03:40,500 --> 00:03:45,160
And so I think that was rather

unexpected for Stalin, which

86

00:03:45,160 --> 00:03:51,040
explains, to some part, the
panic flight of the Soviets

87

00:03:51,040 --> 00:03:52,960
from Lithuania at that time.

88

00:03:52,960 --> 00:03:55,720
Well, did your family flee,
because he was a Minister

89

00:03:55,720 --> 00:03:57,550
in the pro-Soviet government?

90

00:03:57,550 --> 00:04:02,050
Well, he lived in Vilnius
and worked in Vilnius.

91

00:04:02,050 --> 00:04:06,940
On the very first night of
the war, Vilnius was bombed.

92

00:04:06,940 --> 00:04:10,940
And a bomb damaged part
of the house we lived in.

93

00:04:10,940 --> 00:04:11,440
OK.

94

00:04:11,440 --> 00:04:14,540
I said that the house on
Kudirkos Street is still there.

95

00:04:14,540 --> 00:04:15,040
OK.

96

00:04:15,040 --> 00:04:16,450
But it was damaged.

97

00:04:16,450 --> 00:04:26,320

And one lady, who was the
wife of the my father's Vice

98
00:04:26,320 --> 00:04:32,230
Minister, was wounded.

99
00:04:32,230 --> 00:04:36,580
My mother went to her
place, tried to help them

100
00:04:36,580 --> 00:04:38,720
but did not succeed.

101
00:04:38,720 --> 00:04:43,420
But that gives you
some understanding

102
00:04:43,420 --> 00:04:44,740
of my mother's character.

103
00:04:44,740 --> 00:04:47,890
She did everything although
she was very young.

104
00:04:47,890 --> 00:04:52,120
And she did everything she
could, but did not succeed.

105
00:04:52,120 --> 00:04:56,200
And that lady died
on the same night.

106
00:04:56,200 --> 00:04:57,980
So she was heavily injured.

107
00:04:57,980 --> 00:05:00,010
She was very heavily injured.

108
00:05:00,010 --> 00:05:07,870
Her legs were virtually
cut out, both of her legs

109

00:05:07,870 --> 00:05:11,800
by a splinter of the
bone, of the German bone.

110
00:05:11,800 --> 00:05:18,130
Now after that night, my
father went to his Ministry

111
00:05:18,130 --> 00:05:25,360
in the old city of Vilnius
and tried to work as usual--

112
00:05:25,360 --> 00:05:29,650
to do the business
of Minister as usual.

113
00:05:29,650 --> 00:05:36,850
So in an hour or so, he got
a phone call from Kaunas,

114
00:05:36,850 --> 00:05:39,940
from the Soviet government.

115
00:05:39,940 --> 00:05:43,900
They told him, we
are evacuating.

116
00:05:43,900 --> 00:05:48,520
We are leaving Kaunas and
Vilnius, going to Minsk,

117
00:05:48,520 --> 00:05:59,800
to Belarussia You are also
requested to end your work

118
00:05:59,800 --> 00:06:02,540
and go to Minsk.

119
00:06:02,540 --> 00:06:03,040
OK.

120
00:06:03,040 --> 00:06:06,640
He got the car and

the driver, but he

121
00:06:06,640 --> 00:06:08,680
thought, as many
people at that time,

122
00:06:08,680 --> 00:06:11,240
that it is a very
temporary movement.

123
00:06:11,240 --> 00:06:11,740
OK.

124
00:06:11,740 --> 00:06:14,590
That he will come back
from Minsk very soon.

125
00:06:14,590 --> 00:06:18,220
Because all the
newspapers before the war

126
00:06:18,220 --> 00:06:22,420
said that the war
may happen, but we

127
00:06:22,420 --> 00:06:29,190
are so strong that nothing
bad expects the Soviet people.

128
00:06:29,190 --> 00:06:30,210
OK.

129
00:06:30,210 --> 00:06:34,830
We will fight on the
territory of our enemies,

130
00:06:34,830 --> 00:06:36,490
not from our own territory.

131
00:06:36,490 --> 00:06:39,030
So in other words,
this alliance it

132

00:06:39,030 --> 00:06:43,590
was anticipated that there will
be a fight and it most likely

133

00:06:43,590 --> 00:06:45,480
will be with these allies.

134

00:06:45,480 --> 00:06:46,200
Well, yes.

135

00:06:46,200 --> 00:06:53,760
At the very, very last
weeks of the Soviet Union,

136

00:06:53,760 --> 00:06:57,480
Lithuania and the war with
Germany was, to some degree,

137

00:06:57,480 --> 00:06:58,470
anticipated.

138

00:06:58,470 --> 00:06:58,980
OK.

139

00:06:58,980 --> 00:07:01,770
To some degree--
but I believe Stalin

140

00:07:01,770 --> 00:07:03,740
himself still did
not believe it.

141

00:07:03,740 --> 00:07:07,710
He still thought that
he could avoid the war.

142

00:07:07,710 --> 00:07:15,480
But just in case, he wrote, well
the war it's not impossible.

143

00:07:15,480 --> 00:07:17,400
But if it happens

of course we will

144

00:07:17,400 --> 00:07:20,550

fight on our enemy's
territory and nothing bad

145

00:07:20,550 --> 00:07:23,100

can happen to the Soviet people.

146

00:07:23,100 --> 00:07:31,800

So then my father took the
car, put my mother and myself

147

00:07:31,800 --> 00:07:38,100

to the car, and brought us
to the village of Jeruzal'Ä©

148

00:07:38,100 --> 00:07:40,050

or Jeruzalinka--

149

00:07:40,050 --> 00:07:42,300

that's just north of Vilnius--

150

00:07:42,300 --> 00:07:44,490

now it is a part of the city--

151

00:07:44,490 --> 00:07:50,520

to have friendly house of
another leftist-leaning person,

152

00:07:50,520 --> 00:07:54,420

who at that time was a Mayor
of Vilnius of Soviet Vilnius.

153

00:07:54,420 --> 00:07:56,290

What was his name?

154

00:07:56,290 --> 00:07:59,760

His name was--

155

00:07:59,760 --> 00:08:03,120

I remembered it but

I probably forgot.

156
00:08:03,120 --> 00:08:03,900
It's OK.

157
00:08:03,900 --> 00:08:05,110
It's OK.

158
00:08:05,110 --> 00:08:10,050
But he was still
living in the Vilnius

159
00:08:10,050 --> 00:08:13,850
after the German
occupation, during

160
00:08:13,850 --> 00:08:18,800
the Second Soviet occupation,
and nothing happened to him--

161
00:08:18,800 --> 00:08:19,680
to that person.

162
00:08:19,680 --> 00:08:22,850
And nothing happened to him
also during the Nazi occupation.

163
00:08:22,850 --> 00:08:23,360
OK.

164
00:08:23,360 --> 00:08:24,840
So we were brought--

165
00:08:24,840 --> 00:08:26,000
I was three years old.

166
00:08:26,000 --> 00:08:28,310
We were brought to that
house, [INAUDIBLE] house.

167
00:08:28,310 --> 00:08:30,110
Do you remember that trip?

168
00:08:30,110 --> 00:08:30,890
A bit.

169
00:08:30,890 --> 00:08:32,030
Just a bit.

170
00:08:32,030 --> 00:08:38,760
And that was far
from the center.

171
00:08:38,760 --> 00:08:42,289
That means that
my father expected

172
00:08:42,289 --> 00:08:44,830
that it will be never bombed.

173
00:08:44,830 --> 00:08:45,710
OK.

174
00:08:45,710 --> 00:08:47,090
He was correct.

175
00:08:47,090 --> 00:08:49,130
It wasn't about bombed.

176
00:08:49,130 --> 00:08:51,820
And father left us
there and said, well, I

177
00:08:51,820 --> 00:08:54,740
will be back in a day or two.

178
00:08:54,740 --> 00:08:56,480
But now I must go to Minsk.

179
00:08:56,480 --> 00:08:59,360
And he returned to Minsk.

180
00:08:59,360 --> 00:09:03,560

Then Minsk was-- then Vilnius
was almost immediately taken

181
00:09:03,560 --> 00:09:05,660
by the Germans.

182
00:09:05,660 --> 00:09:08,150
Then Minsk was taken
by the Germans.

183
00:09:08,150 --> 00:09:12,230
And finally, my father
found himself in Moscow

184
00:09:12,230 --> 00:09:16,100
in the same Lithuanian car
with a Lithuanian driver

185
00:09:16,100 --> 00:09:17,990
he went to Moscow.

186
00:09:17,990 --> 00:09:25,400
And so well, he stayed in
Moscow and the vicinity

187
00:09:25,400 --> 00:09:30,200
for the entire war period,
for the entire Nazi occupation

188
00:09:30,200 --> 00:09:31,010
period.

189
00:09:31,010 --> 00:09:33,390
You had no-- during
these times--

190
00:09:33,390 --> 00:09:38,540
so that would have been from
1941 to, let's say, 1944--

191
00:09:38,540 --> 00:09:41,540
did you have any communication
with him or from him?

192
00:09:41,540 --> 00:09:43,600
Virtually no.

193
00:09:43,600 --> 00:09:46,460

194
00:09:46,460 --> 00:09:50,510
That was an interesting story
but it relates to him and not

195
00:09:50,510 --> 00:09:51,500
to our family.

196
00:09:51,500 --> 00:09:53,390
OK.

197
00:09:53,390 --> 00:10:02,990
There was a person of Lithuanian
origin taken as prisoner of war

198
00:10:02,990 --> 00:10:04,020
with the Soviets.

199
00:10:04,020 --> 00:10:04,520
OK.

200
00:10:04,520 --> 00:10:06,540
And my father talked with him.

201
00:10:06,540 --> 00:10:08,270
He was from Kaunas.

202
00:10:08,270 --> 00:10:12,050
My father ask him, do you know
such and such region of Kaunas?

203
00:10:12,050 --> 00:10:14,300
Yes, I know.

204
00:10:14,300 --> 00:10:16,610

Do you remember such
and such house that

205
00:10:16,610 --> 00:10:19,460
was my grandfather's house
but we lived with my mother

206
00:10:19,460 --> 00:10:20,840
during the war.

207
00:10:20,840 --> 00:10:23,450
Yes, I remember the house.

208
00:10:23,450 --> 00:10:24,830
What happened to that house?

209
00:10:24,830 --> 00:10:27,580
Was it destroyed?

210
00:10:27,580 --> 00:10:31,210
Were the inhabitants imprisoned
or something like that?

211
00:10:31,210 --> 00:10:34,640
Then he said no, they
still live there.

212
00:10:34,640 --> 00:10:37,030
The former inhabitants
still lived there.

213
00:10:37,030 --> 00:10:40,330
And as far as I know
nothing happened to them.

214
00:10:40,330 --> 00:10:45,430
That was the only information
my father had from Lithuania.

215
00:10:45,430 --> 00:10:55,660
And we got information because
he took part in the radio

216

00:10:55,660 --> 00:10:59,740
propaganda in Moscow.

217

00:10:59,740 --> 00:11:05,800
Some people in Kaunas
listened to Soviet news.

218

00:11:05,800 --> 00:11:06,880
It was possible.

219

00:11:06,880 --> 00:11:09,910
It was a bit risky
but still possible.

220

00:11:09,910 --> 00:11:15,670
And my father even wrote
some poetry at that time

221

00:11:15,670 --> 00:11:21,580
and read some poetry to Moscow
radio addressing also his wife

222

00:11:21,580 --> 00:11:24,660
and his child, who
were left in Lithuania.

223

00:11:24,660 --> 00:11:28,090
So we knew that he knows--

224

00:11:28,090 --> 00:11:32,280
well, that he still is
interested in our life.

225

00:11:32,280 --> 00:11:35,280
He does not know
anything about us.

226

00:11:35,280 --> 00:11:40,890
He writes nostalgic
words about his family,

227

00:11:40,890 --> 00:11:43,600

who presumably still
is in Lithuania

228
00:11:43,600 --> 00:11:45,430
under the Nazi occupation.

229
00:11:45,430 --> 00:11:46,300
Now did you ever--

230
00:11:46,300 --> 00:11:47,770
I'm sorry to interrupt though--

231
00:11:47,770 --> 00:11:50,590
was there ever a feeling
that you had been abandoned?

232
00:11:50,590 --> 00:11:51,190
Sorry.

233
00:11:51,190 --> 00:11:54,100
Was there ever a feeling, from
either your mother or yourself,

234
00:11:54,100 --> 00:11:55,330
that you had been abandoned?

235
00:11:55,330 --> 00:11:59,225
Well, the problem-- the
problem had been my father

236
00:11:59,225 --> 00:12:01,685
Yeah, the fact that he left
you and he went to Minsk.

237
00:12:01,685 --> 00:12:06,760
Well, the problem--
my mother understood

238
00:12:06,760 --> 00:12:08,260
that it was not his fault.

239
00:12:08,260 --> 00:12:09,100

OK.

240

00:12:09,100 --> 00:12:12,940

And she never discussed
that problem with me.

241

00:12:12,940 --> 00:12:17,200

I was too small for
understanding of the situation.

242

00:12:17,200 --> 00:12:21,130

But I think my mother
never had any bad feelings

243

00:12:21,130 --> 00:12:22,250

towards my father.

244

00:12:22,250 --> 00:12:24,250

OK.

245

00:12:24,250 --> 00:12:27,130

Did you remember missing
him during these years?

246

00:12:27,130 --> 00:12:27,880

Oh, yes.

247

00:12:27,880 --> 00:12:32,050

I asked often, where is dad?

248

00:12:32,050 --> 00:12:35,860

My mother answered,
he has to work,

249

00:12:35,860 --> 00:12:39,730

he has an employment
which prevents him

250

00:12:39,730 --> 00:12:41,530

from coming to see us.

251

00:12:41,530 --> 00:12:43,840

But that will pass.

252

00:12:43,840 --> 00:12:47,770

I believe he will come back.

253

00:12:47,770 --> 00:12:48,610

OK.

254

00:12:48,610 --> 00:12:50,060

So that was to keep you calm.

255

00:12:50,060 --> 00:12:50,560

Yes.

256

00:12:50,560 --> 00:12:52,550

To make sure that
you're not frightened.

257

00:12:52,550 --> 00:12:53,050

Yes.

258

00:12:53,050 --> 00:12:53,550

Yes.

259

00:12:53,550 --> 00:12:54,160

Yes.

260

00:12:54,160 --> 00:12:58,960

But I was abandoned in a
sense also by my mother,

261

00:12:58,960 --> 00:13:00,190

because she was arrested.

262

00:13:00,190 --> 00:13:01,630

Well, tell me about that.

263

00:13:01,630 --> 00:13:02,500

What happened?

264

00:13:02,500 --> 00:13:03,830

That's a long story.

265

00:13:03,830 --> 00:13:04,960

It's an important story.

266

00:13:04,960 --> 00:13:07,180

That's a long and
important story.

267

00:13:07,180 --> 00:13:10,720

So my mother lived
in that village,

268

00:13:10,720 --> 00:13:13,930

in the north part of
Vilnius in that suburb--

269

00:13:13,930 --> 00:13:15,160

let us call it a suburb.

270

00:13:15,160 --> 00:13:19,270

But now it is definite suburb
in the American or English sense

271

00:13:19,270 --> 00:13:19,780

of the word.

272

00:13:19,780 --> 00:13:21,390

1941.

273

00:13:21,390 --> 00:13:25,210

And that time it was considered
a village close to Vilnius.

274

00:13:25,210 --> 00:13:27,790

1941-- June of 1941.

275

00:13:27,790 --> 00:13:28,990

She lived there.

276

00:13:28,990 --> 00:13:33,760

Some of the persons also lived

there, including, for example,

277

00:13:33,760 --> 00:13:38,230

Skema, a famous Lithuania
writer who became famous

278

00:13:38,230 --> 00:13:39,490

in the United States.

279

00:13:39,490 --> 00:13:40,870

He was an Ā©migrĀ© I believe.

280

00:13:40,870 --> 00:13:42,040

He was an Ā©migrĀ©.

281

00:13:42,040 --> 00:13:47,170

But at that time he was also
spending time in Vilnius suburb

282

00:13:47,170 --> 00:13:48,550

just in case.

283

00:13:48,550 --> 00:13:51,310

Partly because of
the bombardment

284

00:13:51,310 --> 00:13:54,910

and partly because he was
not absolutely sure what will

285

00:13:54,910 --> 00:13:57,130

happen when the Nazis come.

286

00:13:57,130 --> 00:13:59,230

Was he left-leaning as well?

287

00:13:59,230 --> 00:14:02,860

Skema was, I think, he was
rather left-leaning, yes--

288

00:14:02,860 --> 00:14:03,820

rather left-leaning.

289
00:14:03,820 --> 00:14:05,320
And he was a writer.

290
00:14:05,320 --> 00:14:07,400
No, at that time
he was an actor.

291
00:14:07,400 --> 00:14:07,900
OK.

292
00:14:07,900 --> 00:14:10,210
We was a theater actor.

293
00:14:10,210 --> 00:14:13,060
Later he became a
playwright, and then he

294
00:14:13,060 --> 00:14:17,020
wrote a novel, who is considered
a classical Lithuanian novel.

295
00:14:17,020 --> 00:14:22,330
But that was written in New
York when he worked in a hotel

296
00:14:22,330 --> 00:14:24,070
in an elevator.

297
00:14:24,070 --> 00:14:29,710
Very recently, probably
less than a year ago,

298
00:14:29,710 --> 00:14:32,170
together with my wife,
we went to New York

299
00:14:32,170 --> 00:14:33,610
looking for that hotel.

300
00:14:33,610 --> 00:14:34,360
We found it.

301
00:14:34,360 --> 00:14:34,930
Did you?

302
00:14:34,930 --> 00:14:40,090
Yes, it is quite close to
Grand Central in New York.

303
00:14:40,090 --> 00:14:43,640
And the elevator is still there.

304
00:14:43,640 --> 00:14:48,400
We even used it,
believe it or not.

305
00:14:48,400 --> 00:14:51,280
And what's the
name of the hotel?

306
00:14:51,280 --> 00:14:53,380
It's the Roosevelt
hotel, I believe.

307
00:14:53,380 --> 00:14:54,400
Roosevelt Hotel.

308
00:14:54,400 --> 00:14:55,060
I believe.

309
00:14:55,060 --> 00:14:57,160
And Skema wrote a
novel while there.

310
00:14:57,160 --> 00:14:57,700
Yes.

311
00:14:57,700 --> 00:14:59,403
Yes and he did.

312
00:14:59,403 --> 00:15:02,970
Well, some Lithuanian
scholars founded hotels.

313
00:15:02,970 --> 00:15:06,910
So you can find it's where
abouts on the internet.

314
00:15:06,910 --> 00:15:09,370
We looked on that
in the internet,

315
00:15:09,370 --> 00:15:12,490
and just went several
blocks from Grand Central

316
00:15:12,490 --> 00:15:14,560
and found that hotel.

317
00:15:14,560 --> 00:15:16,240
So my mother was--

318
00:15:16,240 --> 00:15:18,470
for something she wants
together with Skema.

319
00:15:18,470 --> 00:15:18,970
OK.

320
00:15:18,970 --> 00:15:22,360
In the same big house of the--

321
00:15:22,360 --> 00:15:22,900
Mayor.

322
00:15:22,900 --> 00:15:24,520
--former Vilnius mayor, yes.

323
00:15:24,520 --> 00:15:25,870
OK.

324
00:15:25,870 --> 00:15:29,590
Then she decided to--

325

00:15:29,590 --> 00:15:36,010
well, the Germans came
in two or three days.

326
00:15:36,010 --> 00:15:40,090
They took Kaunas in two
days and Vilnius probably

327
00:15:40,090 --> 00:15:42,160
on the third day.

328
00:15:42,160 --> 00:15:45,460
The Soviets fled.

329
00:15:45,460 --> 00:15:53,800
Then they eventually presented
no defense at that time.

330
00:15:53,800 --> 00:15:56,275
They presented some defense
in Latvia and Estonia

331
00:15:56,275 --> 00:15:59,290
but not in Lithuania.

332
00:15:59,290 --> 00:16:03,380
And the Germans very
easily come to Lithuania

333
00:16:03,380 --> 00:16:06,850
with not much problems.

334
00:16:06,850 --> 00:16:14,020
And Vilnius was in German hands,
but also in Lithuanian hands.

335
00:16:14,020 --> 00:16:19,180
Because at that time, there
was the so-called Lithuanian

336
00:16:19,180 --> 00:16:20,590
Temporary Government.

337

00:16:20,590 --> 00:16:21,760

The Provisional Government.

338

00:16:21,760 --> 00:16:23,560

A provisional government, yes.

339

00:16:23,560 --> 00:16:25,990

That name can be
translated as temporary

340

00:16:25,990 --> 00:16:29,060

but officially it's
translated as provisional.

341

00:16:29,060 --> 00:16:34,870

So there were people partly
who are active in Lithuanian

342

00:16:34,870 --> 00:16:37,270

underground and
under the Soviets,

343

00:16:37,270 --> 00:16:40,300

and partly they'd
been active in Berlin

344

00:16:40,300 --> 00:16:43,420

cooperating with the
German authorities,

345

00:16:43,420 --> 00:16:47,200

and expecting that in
the beginning of the war

346

00:16:47,200 --> 00:16:50,800

they will arrange a
Lithuanian uprising

347

00:16:50,800 --> 00:16:53,680

to take Lithuania
in their own hands.

348

00:16:53,680 --> 00:16:58,300
And then they will be accepted
by Nazis as their allies--

349
00:16:58,300 --> 00:17:04,180
like Slovakia, like Croatia,
or even better like Finland.

350
00:17:04,180 --> 00:17:08,210
Finland was an example.

351
00:17:08,210 --> 00:17:12,790
So that Provisional
Government worked in Berlin

352
00:17:12,790 --> 00:17:15,099
definitely under the
Nazi supervision.

353
00:17:15,099 --> 00:17:22,060
There was a supervision
by Abwehr, by German--

354
00:17:22,060 --> 00:17:24,938
well, [SPEAKING LITHUANIAN].

355
00:17:24,938 --> 00:17:25,480
Intelligence.

356
00:17:25,480 --> 00:17:26,140
Spies.

357
00:17:26,140 --> 00:17:27,670
I mean espionage, intelligence.

358
00:17:27,670 --> 00:17:31,840
Yes, by German intelligence
and also the Gestapo.

359
00:17:31,840 --> 00:17:34,180
They were given some
logistical help.

360

00:17:34,180 --> 00:17:38,530

They were given, I believe,
some financial help.

361

00:17:38,530 --> 00:17:42,940

Then in Berlin, the head of
that Provisional Government

362

00:17:42,940 --> 00:17:45,190

was a very ambitious
fellow whose name

363

00:17:45,190 --> 00:17:49,660

was Kazys Skirpa,
who was pretty sure

364

00:17:49,660 --> 00:17:54,760

that in this condition when
the Germans come he will become

365

00:17:54,760 --> 00:17:57,550

definitely the
head of Lithuania,

366

00:17:57,550 --> 00:18:01,570

the president maybe be
the Fuhrer of Lithuania.

367

00:18:01,570 --> 00:18:09,700

And but that did
not come as expected

368

00:18:09,700 --> 00:18:15,670

because the Germans played
the game with the Lithuanian

369

00:18:15,670 --> 00:18:17,530

immigration in Berlin.

370

00:18:17,530 --> 00:18:24,310

And they never had
any intent to recreate

371

00:18:24,310 --> 00:18:29,320

the independent Lithuania

as a German ally.

372

00:18:29,320 --> 00:18:34,780

Yes, Lithuania had to be just

a Nazi occupied territory

373

00:18:34,780 --> 00:18:40,990

as Poland, as Belorussia, as

Russia, as any other part--

374

00:18:40,990 --> 00:18:43,510

375

00:18:43,510 --> 00:18:44,770

well what comes.

376

00:18:44,770 --> 00:18:45,820

OK.

377

00:18:45,820 --> 00:18:49,870

So they never allowed this

Provisional Government

378

00:18:49,870 --> 00:18:52,030

to become a real

government, which

379

00:18:52,030 --> 00:18:56,170

was a very big disappointment

for the Lithuanian Nationalists

380

00:18:56,170 --> 00:19:03,130

who were pretty sure that

it will go some how it went

381

00:19:03,130 --> 00:19:06,040

during the World

War I. But there

382

00:19:06,040 --> 00:19:08,950

was a sort of a Lithuanian
Provisional Government

383
00:19:08,950 --> 00:19:10,990
under the German guidance.

384
00:19:10,990 --> 00:19:15,220
Then Germany lost the
war and that government

385
00:19:15,220 --> 00:19:17,470
became a real government.

386
00:19:17,470 --> 00:19:22,120
So there had been some
precedent to explain

387
00:19:22,120 --> 00:19:23,810
why they thought that way.

388
00:19:23,810 --> 00:19:26,440
Yes, there was some precedent.

389
00:19:26,440 --> 00:19:30,190
At that time,
during World War I,

390
00:19:30,190 --> 00:19:34,570
that there was no
Holocaust, no real crimes

391
00:19:34,570 --> 00:19:37,900
on the German or
Lithuanian side.

392
00:19:37,900 --> 00:19:41,470
It was a rather peaceful
transfer of power

393
00:19:41,470 --> 00:19:43,870
from Germans to Lithuanians.

394

00:19:43,870 --> 00:19:47,680
And somehow Lithuanians
were, of course,

395
00:19:47,680 --> 00:19:50,470
were opposed to the
German ruler as well,

396
00:19:50,470 --> 00:19:53,260
although they did
not emphasize it.

397
00:19:53,260 --> 00:19:57,130
But it was done peacefully.

398
00:19:57,130 --> 00:20:04,062
So this president was believed
to be the case also in 1945.

399
00:20:04,062 --> 00:20:05,020
Well, do you remember--

400
00:20:05,020 --> 00:20:07,900
That was a grave mistake.

401
00:20:07,900 --> 00:20:11,860
Do you remember German soldiers
coming to this little village

402
00:20:11,860 --> 00:20:16,730
of Jeruzal'Å©msk'Å© in
northern Vilnius?

403
00:20:16,730 --> 00:20:18,160
Did you ever see any them there?

404
00:20:18,160 --> 00:20:22,510
The probably never came to
Jeruzal'Å©msk'Å© or Jeruzal'Å©.

405
00:20:22,510 --> 00:20:24,730
They came only to
the central city

406
00:20:24,730 --> 00:20:26,900
and they were not
very much visible.

407
00:20:26,900 --> 00:20:27,400
OK.

408
00:20:27,400 --> 00:20:29,650
They went to the east.

409
00:20:29,650 --> 00:20:36,130
They went to Minsk, to Moscow,
and so on, leaving in place

410
00:20:36,130 --> 00:20:39,340
those Lithuanian
officers recreated

411
00:20:39,340 --> 00:20:41,330
by the so-called
Provisional Government.

412
00:20:41,330 --> 00:20:41,830
OK.

413
00:20:41,830 --> 00:20:45,850
But they never accepted
the Provisional Government

414
00:20:45,850 --> 00:20:51,400
as the real government, only
as helpers, so to speak,

415
00:20:51,400 --> 00:20:54,580
who could be dismissed
at any moment

416
00:20:54,580 --> 00:20:56,770
and should be
dismissed at any moment

417

00:20:56,770 --> 00:21:01,240
because they did not provide
any future for Lithuania.

418
00:21:01,240 --> 00:21:08,560
Then but my mother, on
the 10th or 11th day

419
00:21:08,560 --> 00:21:12,790
of our stint in
that village, she

420
00:21:12,790 --> 00:21:17,230
decided that she got an
apartment in Vilnius.

421
00:21:17,230 --> 00:21:18,990
What happened to that apartment?

422
00:21:18,990 --> 00:21:21,580
She had to come and to see.

423
00:21:21,580 --> 00:21:25,745
She found them, just
with made walking,

424
00:21:25,745 --> 00:21:29,200
there were no public
transport at the time,

425
00:21:29,200 --> 00:21:31,880
and went to that apartment.

426
00:21:31,880 --> 00:21:35,050
She had the keys.

427
00:21:35,050 --> 00:21:37,480
And then in the
apartment she was

428
00:21:37,480 --> 00:21:41,600
arrested by the Lithuanians--

429

00:21:41,600 --> 00:21:44,470

by people who served that
Provisional Government

430

00:21:44,470 --> 00:21:46,870

and put in, yes,
put into prison.

431

00:21:46,870 --> 00:21:48,310

She left you in the village?

432

00:21:48,310 --> 00:21:52,090

Yes, she left me thinking that
in two hours, she will be back.

433

00:21:52,090 --> 00:21:52,780

OK.

434

00:21:52,780 --> 00:21:53,960

Yes.

435

00:21:53,960 --> 00:21:59,350

And she was arrested and put
in to that LukiskÃ©s Prison,

436

00:21:59,350 --> 00:22:01,460

which is very close by now.

437

00:22:01,460 --> 00:22:01,960

Yeah.

438

00:22:01,960 --> 00:22:03,220

Which is still a prison.

439

00:22:03,220 --> 00:22:05,290

Well it's about three
blocks from where we

440

00:22:05,290 --> 00:22:07,570

are conducting this interview.

441

00:22:07,570 --> 00:22:09,130
Yes, three blocks.

442
00:22:09,130 --> 00:22:11,320
Yes it is still a
prison although now they

443
00:22:11,320 --> 00:22:16,510
think about creating a business
center instead of a prison

444
00:22:16,510 --> 00:22:17,710
there.

445
00:22:17,710 --> 00:22:21,580
So now well--

446
00:22:21,580 --> 00:22:23,200
She's arrested.

447
00:22:23,200 --> 00:22:27,670
--she was arrested and put
into the Lukiskis Prison.

448
00:22:27,670 --> 00:22:32,380
At that time there was
no Gestapo in Lithuania--

449
00:22:32,380 --> 00:22:33,685
no German--

450
00:22:33,685 --> 00:22:37,090

451
00:22:37,090 --> 00:22:38,950
no real German power.

452
00:22:38,950 --> 00:22:42,400
The administrative power was
in the hands of the Lithuanian

453
00:22:42,400 --> 00:22:44,620

Provisional Government.

454

00:22:44,620 --> 00:22:52,540

And the investigator who
conducted the investigation,

455

00:22:52,540 --> 00:22:54,770

he was also Lithuanian.

456

00:22:54,770 --> 00:23:00,290

And so he invited,
to put it mildly,

457

00:23:00,290 --> 00:23:06,430

to his office in the prison
and ask him, well, your name.

458

00:23:06,430 --> 00:23:10,540

Well, the day of
birth, so, so, so, so.

459

00:23:10,540 --> 00:23:14,560

So well, your father's
name is Melchias.

460

00:23:14,560 --> 00:23:17,090

This is a Jewish name.

461

00:23:17,090 --> 00:23:20,495

Then my mother answered,
no, it's a Catholic name.

462

00:23:20,495 --> 00:23:21,230

It is Melchioris.

463

00:23:21,230 --> 00:23:24,500

It is one of the three
Magi, which was true.

464

00:23:24,500 --> 00:23:26,480

She never lied.

465

00:23:26,480 --> 00:23:30,050
Then well, Melchioris.

466
00:23:30,050 --> 00:23:33,830
Yes, she said, there
was a famous bishop,

467
00:23:33,830 --> 00:23:38,300
Melchioris Giedratis, a
bishop, a Catholic bishop.

468
00:23:38,300 --> 00:23:40,190
You may have heard about him.

469
00:23:40,190 --> 00:23:42,560
The investigator may
have heard about him

470
00:23:42,560 --> 00:23:46,730
because he was a very
famous historical figure.

471
00:23:46,730 --> 00:23:50,030
Then he said, the
investigator said, well,

472
00:23:50,030 --> 00:23:54,440
but you are the wife of
former Soviet Minister.

473
00:23:54,440 --> 00:23:57,860
All the Soviets functionaries
married Jewish women,

474
00:23:57,860 --> 00:23:59,360
all of them.

475
00:23:59,360 --> 00:24:01,400
So you are Jewish.

476
00:24:01,400 --> 00:24:03,500
No, answered my mother.

477

00:24:03,500 --> 00:24:07,160

Not everybody married Jewish women and I am not Jewish.

478

00:24:07,160 --> 00:24:11,900

I am ethnically Lithuanian and a Catholic, which was correct.

479

00:24:11,900 --> 00:24:15,140

She did not understand at that time that being Jewish

480

00:24:15,140 --> 00:24:17,390

meant virtual death sentence.

481

00:24:17,390 --> 00:24:20,210

But she just wants to tell the truth.

482

00:24:20,210 --> 00:24:20,780

OK.

483

00:24:20,780 --> 00:24:25,430

Then he said, well, go to your cell we

484

00:24:25,430 --> 00:24:31,370

will investigate the situation.

485

00:24:31,370 --> 00:24:32,390

Just wait.

486

00:24:32,390 --> 00:24:32,990

OK.

487

00:24:32,990 --> 00:24:34,400

She went to the cell.

488

00:24:34,400 --> 00:24:41,120

She spent in that cell at least two months, I believe--

489

00:24:41,120 --> 00:24:44,780

the end of June,
July, and August.

490

00:24:44,780 --> 00:24:50,030

And at that time, the
Provisional Government

491

00:24:50,030 --> 00:24:52,490

was dispersed.

492

00:24:52,490 --> 00:24:55,490

The Provisional Government
was dispersed by the Germans.

493

00:24:55,490 --> 00:24:59,510

And the Germans took all
the power in their hands.

494

00:24:59,510 --> 00:25:06,890

Although the police, some parts
of the administrative power,

495

00:25:06,890 --> 00:25:10,520

they're still Lithuanian
just for the simple reason

496

00:25:10,520 --> 00:25:14,540

the Germans did not have
enough people for that.

497

00:25:14,540 --> 00:25:22,180

So and then the Nazis
came to the prison,

498

00:25:22,180 --> 00:25:26,230

and they came to the
cell of my mother.

499

00:25:26,230 --> 00:25:32,860

And they asked, who is this
woman sitting in that cell?

500

00:25:32,860 --> 00:25:37,030

Then somebody said,
Commissar Frau,

501

00:25:37,030 --> 00:25:40,600

that means wife of
a Soviet minister,

502

00:25:40,600 --> 00:25:42,900

of a Soviet Commissar.

503

00:25:42,900 --> 00:25:46,090

Ah, Commissar Frau,
is she Jewish?

504

00:25:46,090 --> 00:25:47,980

No, she's Aryan.

505

00:25:47,980 --> 00:25:52,060

We established that she's Aryan.

506

00:25:52,060 --> 00:25:56,620

Well, dammit, it makes no
sense to keep her in prison.

507

00:25:56,620 --> 00:25:58,250

Let us release her.

508

00:25:58,250 --> 00:26:00,760

She will be under the
surveillance of the police,

509

00:26:00,760 --> 00:26:02,060

but that's all.

510

00:26:02,060 --> 00:26:04,810

And they released her.

511

00:26:04,810 --> 00:26:07,600

The German's released
her, not the Lithuanians.

512
00:26:07,600 --> 00:26:08,390
Interesting.

513
00:26:08,390 --> 00:26:09,430
Very interesting.

514
00:26:09,430 --> 00:26:11,350
Very typical by the way.

515
00:26:11,350 --> 00:26:17,530
And then she went to
our grandfather's house

516
00:26:17,530 --> 00:26:19,720
in the suburb of Kaunas.

517
00:26:19,720 --> 00:26:25,090
She found me because I
was kept by our friends,

518
00:26:25,090 --> 00:26:30,480
and I felt abandoned
by both parents--

519
00:26:30,480 --> 00:26:35,470
my father who disappeared and
my mother also disappeared.

520
00:26:35,470 --> 00:26:38,650
Well, I mean, for
a child, a child

521
00:26:38,650 --> 00:26:40,460
experiences things differently.

522
00:26:40,460 --> 00:26:44,450
This is not the best experience
for a three-year-old child.

523
00:26:44,450 --> 00:26:44,950
No.

524

00:26:44,950 --> 00:26:45,492

Not the best.

525

00:26:45,492 --> 00:26:47,620

Definitely not the
best experience.

526

00:26:47,620 --> 00:26:52,780

I am a bit traumatized
throughout my life probably.

527

00:26:52,780 --> 00:26:56,260

And I think mainly because
of that experience.

528

00:26:56,260 --> 00:26:58,030

But then my mother came back.

529

00:26:58,030 --> 00:27:00,100

But I want to go back
to that a little bit.

530

00:27:00,100 --> 00:27:01,240

Yes, may I drink coffee?

531

00:27:01,240 --> 00:27:05,440

Yes, absolutely.

532

00:27:05,440 --> 00:27:11,980

The question I have is,
how did you and the people

533

00:27:11,980 --> 00:27:14,410

who were taking
care of you learn

534

00:27:14,410 --> 00:27:17,890

of what happened to your mother
when she didn't come back

535

00:27:17,890 --> 00:27:19,360

after those two hours?

536
00:27:19,360 --> 00:27:21,410
Well, that I don't know.

537
00:27:21,410 --> 00:27:25,120
Some way they got
news about her.

538
00:27:25,120 --> 00:27:26,920
That she was arrested.

539
00:27:26,920 --> 00:27:28,300
But I don't know how.

540
00:27:28,300 --> 00:27:29,260
OK.

541
00:27:29,260 --> 00:27:31,960
Do you remember them telling
you that mama has just

542
00:27:31,960 --> 00:27:33,550
gone away for a little while?

543
00:27:33,550 --> 00:27:35,500
That I don't remember.

544
00:27:35,500 --> 00:27:40,610
Yeah, well generally they
probably told me that.

545
00:27:40,610 --> 00:27:43,910
But I definitely felt
very much abandoned.

546
00:27:43,910 --> 00:27:45,130
You remember this?

547
00:27:45,130 --> 00:27:46,240
You remember this.

548

00:27:46,240 --> 00:27:46,990
Yeah.

549
00:27:46,990 --> 00:27:50,230
Later they brought
me to Kaunas--

550
00:27:50,230 --> 00:27:53,110
that was Vilnius, so
they brought me to Kaunas

551
00:27:53,110 --> 00:27:56,680
where my mother's uncle lived--

552
00:27:56,680 --> 00:28:00,760
brother of my grandfather,
who was a classical professor.

553
00:28:00,760 --> 00:28:01,440
Also.

554
00:28:01,440 --> 00:28:05,290
Also-- no, my grandfather
was a classical professor

555
00:28:05,290 --> 00:28:12,410
and that granduncle, his
brother, was just a translator.

556
00:28:12,410 --> 00:28:15,520
Well, he spent much time
in the United States.

557
00:28:15,520 --> 00:28:16,900
He spoke with English.

558
00:28:16,900 --> 00:28:20,120
And he translated everything
starting with Longfellow

559
00:28:20,120 --> 00:28:21,820
and ending with Steinbeck.

560

00:28:21,820 --> 00:28:22,810

Oh, wow.

561

00:28:22,810 --> 00:28:26,590

Yes, Fennimore Cooper, and
many, many other things.

562

00:28:26,590 --> 00:28:30,640

He translated literally
dozens of English books

563

00:28:30,640 --> 00:28:32,590

and made his living with that.

564

00:28:32,590 --> 00:28:35,680

So he took me, took care of me.

565

00:28:35,680 --> 00:28:40,090

And I was in his flat
in the center of Kaunas,

566

00:28:40,090 --> 00:28:44,110

not in my grandfather's house
but in his brother's house--

567

00:28:44,110 --> 00:28:45,880

well, for some reason.

568

00:28:45,880 --> 00:28:49,610

It's a complicated story.

569

00:28:49,610 --> 00:28:50,110

OK.

570

00:28:50,110 --> 00:28:52,390

And finally, at
the end of August,

571

00:28:52,390 --> 00:28:54,520

my mother came to the house.

572

00:28:54,520 --> 00:28:57,460
And well, I was more than happy.

573
00:28:57,460 --> 00:28:59,930
But I followed my
mother everywhere,

574
00:28:59,930 --> 00:29:07,450
including to the WC, because I
was pretty much afraid that she

575
00:29:07,450 --> 00:29:09,100
will disappear once more.

576
00:29:09,100 --> 00:29:11,160
But she did not disappear.

577
00:29:11,160 --> 00:29:13,540
And so we lived in my
grandfather's house.

578
00:29:13,540 --> 00:29:15,710
She was under
police surveillance.

579
00:29:15,710 --> 00:29:18,340
That meant that she
was not expected

580
00:29:18,340 --> 00:29:22,360
to leave that house although
she did from time to time.

581
00:29:22,360 --> 00:29:23,290
Oh, so--

582
00:29:23,290 --> 00:29:27,820
By the way, this is also
a sort of difference--

583
00:29:27,820 --> 00:29:31,330
the Nazis weren't
absolutely terrible.

584
00:29:31,330 --> 00:29:35,140
Well, it does not
make much sense

585
00:29:35,140 --> 00:29:38,080
to insist on that because
everybody knows it.

586
00:29:38,080 --> 00:29:42,340
But the Soviets would
definitely deport my mother

587
00:29:42,340 --> 00:29:47,800
as a wife of a Independent
Lithuanian Minister.

588
00:29:47,800 --> 00:29:49,340
If it had been the
other way around?

589
00:29:49,340 --> 00:29:52,870
The other way around,
they would have deported.

590
00:29:52,870 --> 00:29:55,180
The Nazis did not do it.

591
00:29:55,180 --> 00:29:58,780
Probably if we lived long
enough under the Nazi rule

592
00:29:58,780 --> 00:30:00,550
my mother would suffer.

593
00:30:00,550 --> 00:30:03,910
But she did not really
suffer until the Soviets

594
00:30:03,910 --> 00:30:05,230
came for that time.

595

00:30:05,230 --> 00:30:05,950
OK.

596
00:30:05,950 --> 00:30:07,780
So we will come to that.

597
00:30:07,780 --> 00:30:12,580
But you mentioned something
that I think is interesting.

598
00:30:12,580 --> 00:30:17,350
This interrogator who insists
that all of the commissars

599
00:30:17,350 --> 00:30:18,340
had Jewish wives.

600
00:30:18,340 --> 00:30:18,880
Yes.

601
00:30:18,880 --> 00:30:23,530
And then I presume there
must have been more women who

602
00:30:23,530 --> 00:30:25,240
were arrested who
would have been

603
00:30:25,240 --> 00:30:29,250
the wives of some of the other
ministers if they hadn't fled.

604
00:30:29,250 --> 00:30:33,210
Well, I think that the
wives of the ministers fled.

605
00:30:33,210 --> 00:30:36,690
So you were one of the only
ones that were left behind.

606
00:30:36,690 --> 00:30:38,460
Probably.

607

00:30:38,460 --> 00:30:40,890

They came from Kaunas.

608

00:30:40,890 --> 00:30:45,120

That was organized-- the
flight was organized.

609

00:30:45,120 --> 00:30:45,900

There were buses.

610

00:30:45,900 --> 00:30:48,570

There were trucks.

611

00:30:48,570 --> 00:30:51,670

They could take their
things with them.

612

00:30:51,670 --> 00:30:58,920

And virtually the entire Soviet
government fled from Kaunas.

613

00:30:58,920 --> 00:31:00,270

Except you.

614

00:31:00,270 --> 00:31:01,930

Because we were in Vilnius.

615

00:31:01,930 --> 00:31:03,060

Because you were--

616

00:31:03,060 --> 00:31:05,430

I think only the
Minister of Education

617

00:31:05,430 --> 00:31:07,020

was at that time in Vilnius.

618

00:31:07,020 --> 00:31:09,610

OK.

619

00:31:09,610 --> 00:31:11,490

So that was the difference.

620
00:31:11,490 --> 00:31:12,270
OK.

621
00:31:12,270 --> 00:31:13,710
Lots of people fled.

622
00:31:13,710 --> 00:31:16,470
For example, there were
two famous writers,

623
00:31:16,470 --> 00:31:20,910
Salomėja Nėris who was a poetess
And Petras Cvirka who was

624
00:31:20,910 --> 00:31:22,820
a fiction writer.

625
00:31:22,820 --> 00:31:26,160
Who were pretty talented
persons but pro-Soviet advance.

626
00:31:26,160 --> 00:31:29,700
And greeted the Soviet
rule, both of them,

627
00:31:29,700 --> 00:31:32,460
especially Salomėja Nėris.

628
00:31:32,460 --> 00:31:40,170
So they luckily
escaped from the Nazis

629
00:31:40,170 --> 00:31:43,010
together with the entire
Soviet government.

630
00:31:43,010 --> 00:31:43,890
OK.

631
00:31:43,890 --> 00:31:51,780

My father found himself
in a different situation.

632
00:31:51,780 --> 00:31:54,900
Our family was in a
different situation.

633
00:31:54,900 --> 00:31:58,230
Petras Cvirka fled
with his wife.

634
00:31:58,230 --> 00:32:03,990
Salomėja Nėris fled with
her small child who spent

635
00:32:03,990 --> 00:32:07,590
the entire Nazi
occupation in Moscow.

636
00:32:07,590 --> 00:32:08,790
He died recently.

637
00:32:08,790 --> 00:32:10,590
He was more or less of my age.

638
00:32:10,590 --> 00:32:13,500

639
00:32:13,500 --> 00:32:16,110
But for example,
Salomėja Neris--

640
00:32:16,110 --> 00:32:20,490
the husband of Salomėja
Nėris was left in Lithuania.

641
00:32:20,490 --> 00:32:25,960
She was separated from her
husband by that front line.

642
00:32:25,960 --> 00:32:27,900
Later, she came back
with the Soviets

643

00:32:27,900 --> 00:32:31,570

and found her husband
in the their old place.

644

00:32:31,570 --> 00:32:39,480

For there were as many cases as
there were people I would say.

645

00:32:39,480 --> 00:32:42,780

So did you-- let's
turn now to what

646

00:32:42,780 --> 00:32:48,990

happens under the Nazis and
a little bit of prehistory

647

00:32:48,990 --> 00:32:55,110

as it relates to
Lithuania's Jews.

648

00:32:55,110 --> 00:32:59,070

First of all, did your parents
have in their social circle

649

00:32:59,070 --> 00:33:00,570

Jewish friends?

650

00:33:00,570 --> 00:33:01,920

Yes, they had.

651

00:33:01,920 --> 00:33:09,180

For some time not in Klaipėda
but in Kaunas my father taught

652

00:33:09,180 --> 00:33:11,280

at the Jewish high school.

653

00:33:11,280 --> 00:33:11,780

Which one?

654

00:33:11,780 --> 00:33:15,180

He taught Lithuanian language
in the Jewish high school.

655
00:33:15,180 --> 00:33:17,760
Was a Shalom Aleichem
I think it was?

656
00:33:17,760 --> 00:33:20,550
No, I don't know the name.

657
00:33:20,550 --> 00:33:22,170
That was it then.

658
00:33:22,170 --> 00:33:26,040
I think Shalom Aleichem
School does exist. now.

659
00:33:26,040 --> 00:33:28,860
But before the war in Kaunas--

660
00:33:28,860 --> 00:33:31,380
well, it was a different
school with a different name.

661
00:33:31,380 --> 00:33:32,200
OK.

662
00:33:32,200 --> 00:33:34,920
There were Jewish schools
independent to Lithuanian

663
00:33:34,920 --> 00:33:38,070
teaching in Hebrew,
teaching in Yiddish,

664
00:33:38,070 --> 00:33:40,650
and also teaching in Lithuanian.

665
00:33:40,650 --> 00:33:45,060
And my father taught Lithuanian
language in a Jewish school

666

00:33:45,060 --> 00:33:46,350
teaching in Lithuanian.

667
00:33:46,350 --> 00:33:50,100
Was this after he was
fired for writing the poem?

668
00:33:50,100 --> 00:33:51,300
No, that was before.

669
00:33:51,300 --> 00:33:53,385
Was he fired from this position.

670
00:33:53,385 --> 00:33:54,720
No, I don't think so.

671
00:33:54,720 --> 00:33:56,490
He was fired from
a different school.

672
00:33:56,490 --> 00:33:57,600
OK.

673
00:33:57,600 --> 00:34:00,030
I think that was before 1955.

674
00:34:00,030 --> 00:34:00,600
I see.

675
00:34:00,600 --> 00:34:03,660
I may be mistaken but
probably this late.

676
00:34:03,660 --> 00:34:04,160
OK.

677
00:34:04,160 --> 00:34:09,179
The director of the school was
Gershovich or Gershovichius

678
00:34:09,179 --> 00:34:12,690
who survived the Nazi

concentration camp

679

00:34:12,690 --> 00:34:14,489
and came back to Lithuania.

680

00:34:14,489 --> 00:34:18,449
And he was our family friend
from that early period

681

00:34:18,449 --> 00:34:20,370
and also during the Soviet rule.

682

00:34:20,370 --> 00:34:21,300
I see.

683

00:34:21,300 --> 00:34:25,520
Now then we got some
Jewish acquaintances,

684

00:34:25,520 --> 00:34:28,199
not necessarily
close friends, but we

685

00:34:28,199 --> 00:34:30,250
got some Jewish acquaintances.

686

00:34:30,250 --> 00:34:33,870
As a little boy when
did you first realize

687

00:34:33,870 --> 00:34:36,719
that there are these different
people who are called Jews?

688

00:34:36,719 --> 00:34:42,330
Well, mainly I learned
to read very early,

689

00:34:42,330 --> 00:34:44,370
I was three-years-old.

690

00:34:44,370 --> 00:34:49,679

So I read children's
magazines published

691
00:34:49,679 --> 00:34:52,530
during the Nazi period.

692
00:34:52,530 --> 00:34:58,950
And there was a certain
fanatical or essay

693
00:34:58,950 --> 00:35:02,070
written by a person
whose name I will not

694
00:35:02,070 --> 00:35:08,100
mention, he has died in
Los Angeles, I believe.

695
00:35:08,100 --> 00:35:12,780
And he was just a
children's writer.

696
00:35:12,780 --> 00:35:16,950
And the article said
something like that.

697
00:35:16,950 --> 00:35:20,280
I remember almost
some sentences of it.

698
00:35:20,280 --> 00:35:25,830
Lithuania, you are such
a suffering country.

699
00:35:25,830 --> 00:35:28,860
You were trampled
by the Soviets.

700
00:35:28,860 --> 00:35:32,130
The Soviets, that
means the Cheka people,

701
00:35:32,130 --> 00:35:36,210

that means the Soviet
secret police, and Jews.

702
00:35:36,210 --> 00:35:39,990
But now you are resurrected.

703
00:35:39,990 --> 00:35:46,590
You are free again and with
the help of our German friends.

704
00:35:46,590 --> 00:35:56,910
And those who made you suffered
will get their due punishment.

705
00:35:56,910 --> 00:35:59,340
That I read.

706
00:35:59,340 --> 00:36:03,090
I asked my mother, well,
who are the Soviets?

707
00:36:03,090 --> 00:36:07,170
Who is the Soviet secret
police and who are Jews?

708
00:36:07,170 --> 00:36:12,000
She said to me, well, as
virtually any country,

709
00:36:12,000 --> 00:36:18,420
the Soviet get secret
police, and as Jews--

710
00:36:18,420 --> 00:36:23,970
Jews there are some people who
speak a different language,

711
00:36:23,970 --> 00:36:26,460
got a different
religion, but they also

712
00:36:26,460 --> 00:36:28,830
very often speak Lithuanian.

713
00:36:28,830 --> 00:36:32,700
And I think she told me,
although I don't remember

714
00:36:32,700 --> 00:36:36,420
exactly, that the Jews
actually have nothing in common

715
00:36:36,420 --> 00:36:40,020
with the Soviet secret
police and, yes,

716
00:36:40,020 --> 00:36:42,900
that this author is wrong.

717
00:36:42,900 --> 00:36:45,630
I remember the
name of the author.

718
00:36:45,630 --> 00:36:48,740
And when I emigrated
in 1977 he was

719
00:36:48,740 --> 00:36:50,800
still alive and
still contributing

720
00:36:50,800 --> 00:36:52,040
to the emigre press.

721
00:36:52,040 --> 00:36:53,970
Do you-- did you ever meet him?

722
00:36:53,970 --> 00:36:55,760
No, I never met him.

723
00:36:55,760 --> 00:36:57,090
I never met him.

724
00:36:57,090 --> 00:37:00,950
Then he was probably a

schoolteacher or something,

725

00:37:00,950 --> 00:37:03,760

but also a children's writer.

726

00:37:03,760 --> 00:37:06,140

Well, that was

probably the first time

727

00:37:06,140 --> 00:37:09,650

when they read the word Jew.

728

00:37:09,650 --> 00:37:11,880

In that context in those years.

729

00:37:11,880 --> 00:37:13,490

Exactly, yes, in that context.

730

00:37:13,490 --> 00:37:18,440

The Jews are virtually the same
as the Soviet secret police.

731

00:37:18,440 --> 00:37:23,910

It was also very strange that
it comes into a children's book.

732

00:37:23,910 --> 00:37:26,450

These are adult themes.

733

00:37:26,450 --> 00:37:29,720

These are not the kinds of
things you write stories

734

00:37:29,720 --> 00:37:31,480

about for children.

735

00:37:31,480 --> 00:37:36,080

Well, there was some
propaganda also for children.

736

00:37:36,080 --> 00:37:39,500

This kind of propaganda.

737

00:37:39,500 --> 00:37:44,990

Once we went with my mother
on the street of Kaunas

738

00:37:44,990 --> 00:37:50,000

and met a person who
and another old man who

739

00:37:50,000 --> 00:37:54,740

got the Star of David,
a yellow star on his,

740

00:37:54,740 --> 00:37:59,280

I think, on his
breast, and who went

741

00:37:59,280 --> 00:38:02,430

not on the [SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]
but on the street.

742

00:38:02,430 --> 00:38:04,740

Oh, he was not on the
sidewalk, but on the street.

743

00:38:04,740 --> 00:38:07,910

Not on the sidewalk
but, yes, on the street.

744

00:38:07,910 --> 00:38:11,360

And he greeted my mother.

745

00:38:11,360 --> 00:38:13,310

And my mother greeted him.

746

00:38:13,310 --> 00:38:16,070

But they did not
exchange any words.

747

00:38:16,070 --> 00:38:17,900

And he went by.

748

00:38:17,900 --> 00:38:20,120

I asked him, well
who is this man?

749

00:38:20,120 --> 00:38:21,620

Who was this man?

750

00:38:21,620 --> 00:38:32,750

She said, well, my distant
acquaintance or something

751

00:38:32,750 --> 00:38:33,680

like that.

752

00:38:33,680 --> 00:38:35,790

Why he has such a stuff?

753

00:38:35,790 --> 00:38:42,290

Well, he's a Jew and the Jews
are ordered to get such stars.

754

00:38:42,290 --> 00:38:48,450

She did not tells us
anything more about it.

755

00:38:48,450 --> 00:38:51,440

So then what else.

756

00:38:51,440 --> 00:38:55,190

I was given by my grandmother--

757

00:38:55,190 --> 00:38:58,730

well, I was baptized
at that time.

758

00:38:58,730 --> 00:39:01,400

I was not baptized by
my father and mother

759

00:39:01,400 --> 00:39:03,440

because they were leftists.

760

00:39:03,440 --> 00:39:07,680

But during the German
or the Nazi occupation,

761

00:39:07,680 --> 00:39:10,980

my grandmother told my
mother, well, first of all,

762

00:39:10,980 --> 00:39:12,660

I am a Catholic.

763

00:39:12,660 --> 00:39:14,370

We are a Catholic family.

764

00:39:14,370 --> 00:39:16,940

I would like to see
my child baptized.

765

00:39:16,940 --> 00:39:21,500

But there is an even
more pressing problem

766

00:39:21,500 --> 00:39:27,020

because if he is not baptized,
somebody may denounce him

767

00:39:27,020 --> 00:39:28,790

as a Jewish boy.

768

00:39:28,790 --> 00:39:31,040

And you know what happens.

769

00:39:31,040 --> 00:39:35,210

That come much later after the
war that that was the reason.

770

00:39:35,210 --> 00:39:35,990

Really.

771

00:39:35,990 --> 00:39:38,420

One of the reasons
for baptizing.

772

00:39:38,420 --> 00:39:41,060
And I was brought to the church.

773

00:39:41,060 --> 00:39:43,680
I was five or six
years old at that time.

774

00:39:43,680 --> 00:39:46,550
I remember the
ceremony very well.

775

00:39:46,550 --> 00:39:49,610
And I was baptized.

776

00:39:49,610 --> 00:39:55,340
Then I was given short
books, short religious books

777

00:39:55,340 --> 00:39:58,910
about Jesus Christ,
about the Virgin Mary.

778

00:39:58,910 --> 00:40:03,200
And one of the book told
the Old Testament stories--

779

00:40:03,200 --> 00:40:10,050
started with Adam and Eve, there
was also Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

780

00:40:10,050 --> 00:40:11,090
and so on.

781

00:40:11,090 --> 00:40:13,550
Those stories were also told.

782

00:40:13,550 --> 00:40:15,740
They never used the
word Jews, but they

783

00:40:15,740 --> 00:40:19,000
used the word Israelite.

784
00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:19,760
Israelites.

785
00:40:19,760 --> 00:40:20,490
Israelis.

786
00:40:20,490 --> 00:40:20,990
Yeah.

787
00:40:20,990 --> 00:40:21,890
Israelis.

788
00:40:21,890 --> 00:40:22,820
Israelites.

789
00:40:22,820 --> 00:40:23,660
Israelites.

790
00:40:23,660 --> 00:40:24,620
Israelites.

791
00:40:24,620 --> 00:40:25,340
Yeah.

792
00:40:25,340 --> 00:40:30,110
So I asked also either my
mother or my grandfather,

793
00:40:30,110 --> 00:40:32,400
who are Israelites?

794
00:40:32,400 --> 00:40:35,570
She said, well, they are
Jews but not today's Jews.

795
00:40:35,570 --> 00:40:39,360
They are Jews of
very ancient times.

796
00:40:39,360 --> 00:40:40,610

Well, that was enough for me.

797

00:40:40,610 --> 00:40:44,870

But then I understood that
Jews are not necessarily

798

00:40:44,870 --> 00:40:45,920

the Bolsheviks.

799

00:40:45,920 --> 00:40:47,700

They're not necessarily
the secret police.

800

00:40:47,700 --> 00:40:52,490

Yes, not the members of
the Soviet secret police.

801

00:40:52,490 --> 00:40:57,140

That was enough for me that
Jews are something much more

802

00:40:57,140 --> 00:41:00,110

complicated, so to speak.

803

00:41:00,110 --> 00:41:04,370

But at that time, I was
already probably six years old.

804

00:41:04,370 --> 00:41:07,280

But I remember those books
as many interesting ones

805

00:41:07,280 --> 00:41:10,640

because the Old Testament
stories made a big impression

806

00:41:10,640 --> 00:41:12,140

on me.

807

00:41:12,140 --> 00:41:16,440

Did you ever see the ghetto
in Kaunas, the outside of it

808

00:41:16,440 --> 00:41:16,940
or anything?

809

00:41:16,940 --> 00:41:17,270
No.

810

00:41:17,270 --> 00:41:17,420
No.

811

00:41:17,420 --> 00:41:18,320
I never saw it.

812

00:41:18,320 --> 00:41:21,800
It was in Vilijampolė
in a Kaunas suburb.

813

00:41:21,800 --> 00:41:24,440
We never went to Vilijampolė.

814

00:41:24,440 --> 00:41:27,230
And as far as I
know, people are not

815

00:41:27,230 --> 00:41:29,420
expected to go
there, so to speak.

816

00:41:29,420 --> 00:41:30,320
Yeah, of course.

817

00:41:30,320 --> 00:41:30,920
It was--

818

00:41:30,920 --> 00:41:36,000
Two of my close friends
went in that ghetto--

819

00:41:36,000 --> 00:41:40,020
my very close friends
of later period.

820

00:41:40,020 --> 00:41:42,650
One of the most Kama Ginkas.

821
00:41:42,650 --> 00:41:47,540
Kama Ginkas now is a very
famous stage director in Moscow.

822
00:41:47,540 --> 00:41:50,510
He's a Lithuanian speaker.

823
00:41:50,510 --> 00:41:53,870
He speaks Lithuanian
as well as myself.

824
00:41:53,870 --> 00:41:56,090
But he works in the
National Theater.

825
00:41:56,090 --> 00:42:02,930
And he is a very, very, very
well-known stage director.

826
00:42:02,930 --> 00:42:07,670
We are on very, very friendly
terms for many years.

827
00:42:07,670 --> 00:42:10,770
So he was four-years-old
at that time.

828
00:42:10,770 --> 00:42:15,050
And he was brought out of the
Vilijampolė ghetto and brought

829
00:42:15,050 --> 00:42:18,830
up by a Lithuanian family
who risked very much.

830
00:42:18,830 --> 00:42:24,770
And when the Soviets
came, that was, of course,

831
00:42:24,770 --> 00:42:26,300

a liberation for him.

832

00:42:26,300 --> 00:42:27,500

OK.

833

00:42:27,500 --> 00:42:32,990

Now, the second was Aleksandras
Stromas, now deceased,

834

00:42:32,990 --> 00:42:39,380

who was probably already
14 to 15-years-old.

835

00:42:39,380 --> 00:42:42,140

But he was also brought
out of the ghetto

836

00:42:42,140 --> 00:42:44,570

and brought up with
a Lithuanian family--

837

00:42:44,570 --> 00:42:49,880

present, helped and saved
by a Lithuanian family.

838

00:42:49,880 --> 00:42:52,400

Later he became a
professor, an emigrate,

839

00:42:52,400 --> 00:42:58,030

and an anti-Soviet thinker, and
quite well-known known person

840

00:42:58,030 --> 00:42:59,660

in Lithuania.

841

00:42:59,660 --> 00:43:03,210

After the war, he also
became my close friend.

842

00:43:03,210 --> 00:43:08,820

So this is my only connection
with Vilijampolė ghetto.

843
00:43:08,820 --> 00:43:09,440
But I--

844
00:43:09,440 --> 00:43:10,620
I could mention one more.

845
00:43:10,620 --> 00:43:11,120
Yes.

846
00:43:11,120 --> 00:43:13,620
And that would be
Antanas Snieckus.

847
00:43:13,620 --> 00:43:16,820
Well, I never-- yes, but
I never met-- well, yes

848
00:43:16,820 --> 00:43:18,680
I met Kama Ginkas.

849
00:43:18,680 --> 00:43:22,520
I met Aleksandras
Stromas, who, by the way,

850
00:43:22,520 --> 00:43:25,380
is Antanas Snieckus relative--

851
00:43:25,380 --> 00:43:28,600
rather distant relative--
and Antanas Snieckus.

852
00:43:28,600 --> 00:43:30,640
But I met all of
them after the war.

853
00:43:30,640 --> 00:43:31,260
After the war.

854
00:43:31,260 --> 00:43:33,400
I did not know
them before the war

855

00:43:33,400 --> 00:43:35,650
or during the German occupation.

856

00:43:35,650 --> 00:43:37,180
OK.

857

00:43:37,180 --> 00:43:40,690
Do you have any other
memories of this German time?

858

00:43:40,690 --> 00:43:43,690
You were then between
four and eight years old.

859

00:43:43,690 --> 00:43:46,460
No, between three
and seven I was.

860

00:43:46,460 --> 00:43:48,130
Oh, three and seven, excuse me.

861

00:43:48,130 --> 00:43:51,640
Between three and seven because
the Soviets came in 1944.

862

00:43:51,640 --> 00:43:53,110
I was not yet seven.

863

00:43:53,110 --> 00:43:56,140
I was six and 10
months or something

864

00:43:56,140 --> 00:43:57,190
when the Soviets came.

865

00:43:57,190 --> 00:43:58,000
OK.

866

00:43:58,000 --> 00:44:00,460
Do you remember them returning?

867

00:44:00,460 --> 00:44:02,170

The Soviets, I think yes.

868

00:44:02,170 --> 00:44:03,100

OK.

869

00:44:03,100 --> 00:44:06,220

I remember also some Germans.

870

00:44:06,220 --> 00:44:12,820

When we went by Kaunas Street,
a German soldier standing

871

00:44:12,820 --> 00:44:17,600

on the street told
me, oh, "Sussigkeit.

872

00:44:17,600 --> 00:44:19,670

A nice boy.

873

00:44:19,670 --> 00:44:22,120

Would you like to
get some chocolate?"

874

00:44:22,120 --> 00:44:26,410

But my mother did not take
the chocolate and she went by.

875

00:44:26,410 --> 00:44:30,100

I was extremely unhappy
because I wanted chocolate.

876

00:44:30,100 --> 00:44:35,740

Then the second time, what I
saw on one of the buildings,

877

00:44:35,740 --> 00:44:38,170

I saw a black flag--

878

00:44:38,170 --> 00:44:41,710

black banner with
the letters "SS."

879
00:44:41,710 --> 00:44:43,960
And I asked mother, what is SS?

880
00:44:43,960 --> 00:44:46,990
She said it's a sort
of military office

881
00:44:46,990 --> 00:44:51,190
but the people are not
expected to talk much about it.

882
00:44:51,190 --> 00:44:52,540
That was all.

883
00:44:52,540 --> 00:44:54,760
That was all that she told me.

884
00:44:54,760 --> 00:44:57,400

885
00:44:57,400 --> 00:45:03,340
But that's my only
memories about the Germans

886
00:45:03,340 --> 00:45:05,720
because there were
not many Germans

887
00:45:05,720 --> 00:45:08,500
in Lithuania at that time.

888
00:45:08,500 --> 00:45:12,160
Most of them fought on the
Eastern Front, or some of them

889
00:45:12,160 --> 00:45:14,740
probably on the Western
Front and so on.

890
00:45:14,740 --> 00:45:17,640
And the real

administrative power

891
00:45:17,640 --> 00:45:20,470
was still, until
the end of the war,

892
00:45:20,470 --> 00:45:24,190
mainly in Lithuanian hands.

893
00:45:24,190 --> 00:45:25,540
And was your mother--

894
00:45:25,540 --> 00:45:31,270
did your mother ever
have any other incidents

895
00:45:31,270 --> 00:45:35,500
with the authorities after
she was released from prison?

896
00:45:35,500 --> 00:45:37,570
During this whole
German occupation was

897
00:45:37,570 --> 00:45:40,150
she ever called in
again to your knowledge?

898
00:45:40,150 --> 00:45:41,440
No.

899
00:45:41,440 --> 00:45:45,700
Not to my knowledge, and I
think she was not called again.

900
00:45:45,700 --> 00:45:51,940
But from time to time, there
was a Lithuanian policeman,

901
00:45:51,940 --> 00:45:55,840
and old man who
served in the police

902

00:45:55,840 --> 00:45:58,300

during the independent
Lithuanian period,

903

00:45:58,300 --> 00:46:01,150

during the Soviet
period, and I think also

904

00:46:01,150 --> 00:46:02,920

during the Nazi period.

905

00:46:02,920 --> 00:46:04,100

He was an old man.

906

00:46:04,100 --> 00:46:06,850

He was an acquaintance
of our family,

907

00:46:06,850 --> 00:46:08,830

of my grandfather's family.

908

00:46:08,830 --> 00:46:11,730

And he, from time
to time, he warned

909

00:46:11,730 --> 00:46:18,220

for my mother that
probably during this night

910

00:46:18,220 --> 00:46:25,320

that they will come to people
and bring them to the--

911

00:46:25,320 --> 00:46:29,530

well, part of the people were
brought to the camps and part

912

00:46:29,530 --> 00:46:32,910

of the people that brought
to the so-called Reicho darbo

913

00:46:32,910 --> 00:46:34,530

tarnyba.

914
00:46:34,530 --> 00:46:35,680
The labor--

915
00:46:35,680 --> 00:46:38,800
The labor service
for the German--

916
00:46:38,800 --> 00:46:40,150
yes, for the Germans.

917
00:46:40,150 --> 00:46:43,090
Especially young people
were taken to Germany

918
00:46:43,090 --> 00:46:46,810
and worked for the
German war effort.

919
00:46:46,810 --> 00:46:47,950
So forced labor.

920
00:46:47,950 --> 00:46:50,770
Forced labor but not
necessarily a camp.

921
00:46:50,770 --> 00:46:54,910
They were in definitely
better conditions

922
00:46:54,910 --> 00:46:57,730
than the people in the
concentration camps.

923
00:46:57,730 --> 00:47:02,950
So this policeman warned us that
you may be taken into the camp

924
00:47:02,950 --> 00:47:05,950
or maybe to that labor service.

925

00:47:05,950 --> 00:47:09,430
So don't sleep at your house.

926
00:47:09,430 --> 00:47:12,280
Then she went to the
center of Kaunas,

927
00:47:12,280 --> 00:47:18,340
to the apartment of this great
uncle I already mentioned,

928
00:47:18,340 --> 00:47:21,310
brother of my grandfather,
and spent a night

929
00:47:21,310 --> 00:47:24,070
or two in his flat.

930
00:47:24,070 --> 00:47:25,570
And then came back.

931
00:47:25,570 --> 00:47:29,830
So that was the only
trouble she encountered.

932
00:47:29,830 --> 00:47:31,450
And that was rare.

933
00:47:31,450 --> 00:47:36,490
That did not come frequently.

934
00:47:36,490 --> 00:47:40,180
Did you or she ever
hear your father's voice

935
00:47:40,180 --> 00:47:42,310
over those Soviet broadcasts?

936
00:47:42,310 --> 00:47:44,950
No, she never heard
my father's voice.

937

00:47:44,950 --> 00:47:49,960
But one of her acquaintances
living several houses

938
00:47:49,960 --> 00:47:54,670
or in a block away,
she came and told her,

939
00:47:54,670 --> 00:48:00,250
well, last night I heard
your husband's voice

940
00:48:00,250 --> 00:48:01,930
in the Moscow broadcast.

941
00:48:01,930 --> 00:48:06,130
And he was reading his
poetry also about you

942
00:48:06,130 --> 00:48:10,190
and also about Tomas,
about your child.

943
00:48:10,190 --> 00:48:12,820
So my mother was
extremely happy.

944
00:48:12,820 --> 00:48:20,290
But first of all, we
did not have a radio--

945
00:48:20,290 --> 00:48:21,430
how it's called--

946
00:48:21,430 --> 00:48:22,210
A radio.

947
00:48:22,210 --> 00:48:23,860
A radio.

948
00:48:23,860 --> 00:48:26,920
We did not have a radio
and that lady did have.

949
00:48:26,920 --> 00:48:33,190
By the way, after the war she
was arrested by the Soviets,

950
00:48:33,190 --> 00:48:36,280
deported and punished
in deportation.

951
00:48:36,280 --> 00:48:36,880
Really?

952
00:48:36,880 --> 00:48:39,130
Yes, notwithstanding the
fact that she listened

953
00:48:39,130 --> 00:48:42,280
to Moscow broadcasts,
and for that reason,

954
00:48:42,280 --> 00:48:45,490
might be considered
a Soviet sympathizer.

955
00:48:45,490 --> 00:48:46,510
Isn't that interesting.

956
00:48:46,510 --> 00:48:51,160
I mean, again, the ironies that
one finds in these stories,

957
00:48:51,160 --> 00:48:54,400
in these people's destinies.

958
00:48:54,400 --> 00:48:56,620
So would the next
memories that you have

959
00:48:56,620 --> 00:48:58,990
be of the returning Soviets?

960
00:48:58,990 --> 00:48:59,830

Yes.

961
00:48:59,830 --> 00:49:01,510
And what do you remember?

962
00:49:01,510 --> 00:49:04,900
Well, we were in a village,
we were in a village.

963
00:49:04,900 --> 00:49:07,490

964
00:49:07,490 --> 00:49:10,580
Late in the evening
there were still Germans

965
00:49:10,580 --> 00:49:14,450
on their horses, the
cavalry, making rounds

966
00:49:14,450 --> 00:49:15,830
around the village.

967
00:49:15,830 --> 00:49:21,290
And the next morning, the
Germans we no more around

968
00:49:21,290 --> 00:49:28,130
and the Soviet Pioneers
came looking for the mines,

969
00:49:28,130 --> 00:49:30,200
looking for the German mines.

970
00:49:30,200 --> 00:49:32,728
Well, in Russian
or in Lithuanian

971
00:49:32,728 --> 00:49:33,770
they are called Pioneers.

972
00:49:33,770 --> 00:49:35,960

I don't know.

973

00:49:35,960 --> 00:49:37,070

You mean pioneers?

974

00:49:37,070 --> 00:49:39,440

They would be like pioneering.

975

00:49:39,440 --> 00:49:41,060

No.

976

00:49:41,060 --> 00:49:42,370

Minesweepers.

977

00:49:42,370 --> 00:49:43,280

Minesweepers.

978

00:49:43,280 --> 00:49:44,400

Minesweepers.

979

00:49:44,400 --> 00:49:44,900

OK.

980

00:49:44,900 --> 00:49:49,220

There came probably
ten persons looking

981

00:49:49,220 --> 00:49:54,980

for those mines which might be
left by the retreating Germans.

982

00:49:54,980 --> 00:49:56,360

What village was this?

983

00:49:56,360 --> 00:49:57,300

Klangiai.

984

00:49:57,300 --> 00:49:57,800

Klangiai?

985

00:49:57,800 --> 00:49:58,430

Klangiai.

986
00:49:58,430 --> 00:50:00,080
Is it far from Kaunas?

987
00:50:00,080 --> 00:50:03,710
Around 50 kilometers.

988
00:50:03,710 --> 00:50:06,860
On the bank of Nemunas.

989
00:50:06,860 --> 00:50:11,570
We spent summers there,
notwithstanding that my mother

990
00:50:11,570 --> 00:50:13,610
was under police
surveillance, but we

991
00:50:13,610 --> 00:50:21,800
managed to go and live there
with our distant relatives.

992
00:50:21,800 --> 00:50:26,240
So the next morning
those minesweepers came

993
00:50:26,240 --> 00:50:28,730
and they entered our house.

994
00:50:28,730 --> 00:50:33,230
The house where we lived with
those peasant acquaintances.

995
00:50:33,230 --> 00:50:37,370
Everybody was rather
uneasy because there

996
00:50:37,370 --> 00:50:42,980
was a lot of propaganda that the
Soviets are killing everybody

997

00:50:42,980 --> 00:50:44,210
around.

998
00:50:44,210 --> 00:50:49,070
Not only killing, but
torturing, especially children.

999
00:50:49,070 --> 00:50:51,440
Well, my mother tried
just to calm me,

1000
00:50:51,440 --> 00:50:54,320
but I was very much
afraid of the Soviets.

1001
00:50:54,320 --> 00:50:59,930
She was less afraid, but still
a bit worried how will it look.

1002
00:50:59,930 --> 00:51:02,180
The minesweepers we very--

1003
00:51:02,180 --> 00:51:05,160
I would say-- rather
very polite and very--

1004
00:51:05,160 --> 00:51:07,730

1005
00:51:07,730 --> 00:51:09,020
sumiÄÄ™.

1006
00:51:09,020 --> 00:51:10,040
Oh, confused.

1007
00:51:10,040 --> 00:51:11,630
Very confused.

1008
00:51:11,630 --> 00:51:13,640
They spoke only Russian.

1009
00:51:13,640 --> 00:51:15,690

But my mother spoke Russian.

1010
00:51:15,690 --> 00:51:17,660
And even the peasants
in that village,

1011
00:51:17,660 --> 00:51:22,400
they understood some Russian
as many people in Lithuania do.

1012
00:51:22,400 --> 00:51:25,220
And then we started--

1013
00:51:25,220 --> 00:51:27,320
my grandmother was also there--

1014
00:51:27,320 --> 00:51:31,370
we started to speak with
those Soviet soldiers.

1015
00:51:31,370 --> 00:51:34,910
They were rather polite.

1016
00:51:34,910 --> 00:51:39,920
In any case, not
animalistic Not so terrible.

1017
00:51:39,920 --> 00:51:43,820
Well, German soldiers also
did not look animalistic.

1018
00:51:43,820 --> 00:51:48,950

1019
00:51:48,950 --> 00:51:54,500
Then one of them who
happened to be a Ukrainian.

1020
00:51:54,500 --> 00:51:57,260
Then my grandmother said,
"do you speak Ukrainian?"

1021

00:51:57,260 --> 00:51:58,400

"Yes, I speak."

1022

00:51:58,400 --> 00:51:59,960

My grandmother knew Ukrainian.

1023

00:51:59,960 --> 00:52:02,690

She started to speak Ukrainian.

1024

00:52:02,690 --> 00:52:04,790

"Oh, my goodness,"
said the soldier.

1025

00:52:04,790 --> 00:52:06,290

"You speak our language.

1026

00:52:06,290 --> 00:52:07,700

That's interesting.

1027

00:52:07,700 --> 00:52:09,680

Which place of Ukraine are you?"

1028

00:52:09,680 --> 00:52:11,840

She said, from Slavuta.

1029

00:52:11,840 --> 00:52:14,630

"My goodness, I am
also from Slavuta,

1030

00:52:14,630 --> 00:52:16,460

from the city of Slavuta.

1031

00:52:16,460 --> 00:52:18,330

Which village are you from?"

1032

00:52:18,330 --> 00:52:20,270

"We lived," my
grandmother said, "we

1033

00:52:20,270 --> 00:52:22,280

lived in the village of Krevin."

1034

00:52:22,280 --> 00:52:24,470

"Well, I am not from
Krevin, but, of course, I

1035

00:52:24,470 --> 00:52:25,280

know the village.

1036

00:52:25,280 --> 00:52:30,020

And such a strange coincidence."

1037

00:52:30,020 --> 00:52:31,370

Then they get some vodka.

1038

00:52:31,370 --> 00:52:35,230

Those peasants gave them some
vodka, some homemade vodka.

1039

00:52:35,230 --> 00:52:39,010

It was very common in
Lithuania that time

1040

00:52:39,010 --> 00:52:41,210

as if you see them
now I would say.

1041

00:52:41,210 --> 00:52:47,240

And the soldiers drank some
vodka, not too much, and left.

1042

00:52:47,240 --> 00:52:55,460

But on the same evening one
girl was raped in that village.

1043

00:52:55,460 --> 00:52:59,900

But the peasants took
that as well, such things

1044

00:52:59,900 --> 00:53:04,910

are inevitable in times of war.

1045

00:53:04,910 --> 00:53:07,190

That's all they told.

1046
00:53:07,190 --> 00:53:12,180
Well, I knew about it
in a very vague way.

1047
00:53:12,180 --> 00:53:13,790
But I knew something about it.

1048
00:53:13,790 --> 00:53:18,350
That something very unpleasant
happened between soldier

1049
00:53:18,350 --> 00:53:19,850
and the peasant girl.

1050
00:53:19,850 --> 00:53:22,730
And this is, of course, bad.

1051
00:53:22,730 --> 00:53:25,700
But such things
happen in war times.

1052
00:53:25,700 --> 00:53:28,700
Well, that was all
just old story.

1053
00:53:28,700 --> 00:53:31,910
Then we went from that
village to Kaunas.

1054
00:53:31,910 --> 00:53:34,940
Kaunas which was already
taken by Soviets.

1055
00:53:34,940 --> 00:53:36,485
Kaunas was virtually empty.

1056
00:53:36,485 --> 00:53:39,410

1057
00:53:39,410 --> 00:53:43,430
But we went to my grandfather's

house and in several days

1058
00:53:43,430 --> 00:53:46,640
we were joined by
our father, who

1059
00:53:46,640 --> 00:53:49,010
came with the Soviet troops.

1060
00:53:49,010 --> 00:53:51,422
And do you remember
that meeting?

1061
00:53:51,422 --> 00:53:52,130
Do you remember--

1062
00:53:52,130 --> 00:53:52,630
Oh, yes.

1063
00:53:52,630 --> 00:53:53,670
I remember that meeting.

1064
00:53:53,670 --> 00:53:54,230
Well tell me.

1065
00:53:54,230 --> 00:53:57,770
Well, just like Jewish
people in Vilijampolė,

1066
00:53:57,770 --> 00:54:01,700
some of them survived
the Nazi period,

1067
00:54:01,700 --> 00:54:05,070
although definitely
not many of them.

1068
00:54:05,070 --> 00:54:07,110
But of course, they
felt liberated.

1069
00:54:07,110 --> 00:54:10,050

And Kama Ginkas, and
Stomas and Antanas Sniekus,

1070
00:54:10,050 --> 00:54:11,310
all they felt liberated.

1071
00:54:11,310 --> 00:54:11,940
Of course.

1072
00:54:11,940 --> 00:54:14,440
We also felt
liberated because we

1073
00:54:14,440 --> 00:54:18,210
were from the pro-Soviet and
persecuted, to some degree,

1074
00:54:18,210 --> 00:54:18,730
family.

1075
00:54:18,730 --> 00:54:21,660
Although persecuted to
a much lesser degree

1076
00:54:21,660 --> 00:54:23,220
than the Jewish people.

1077
00:54:23,220 --> 00:54:25,050
But still we felt liberated.

1078
00:54:25,050 --> 00:54:28,320
But that was an exception.

1079
00:54:28,320 --> 00:54:32,190
90% of Lithuanians
felt not liberated,

1080
00:54:32,190 --> 00:54:36,780
but under the second
occupation, which

1081
00:54:36,780 --> 00:54:40,440

should be not necessarily
better than the Nazi occupation.

1082
00:54:40,440 --> 00:54:43,260
For many it looked worse.

1083
00:54:43,260 --> 00:54:44,730
For many it looked worse.

1084
00:54:44,730 --> 00:54:46,770
For a very simple reason.

1085
00:54:46,770 --> 00:54:52,230
There was also some extremely
immoral saying at that time.

1086
00:54:52,230 --> 00:54:58,650
Extremely terrible
saying which I hate.

1087
00:54:58,650 --> 00:54:59,490
What was it?

1088
00:54:59,490 --> 00:55:03,450
The Germans murdered only Jews.

1089
00:55:03,450 --> 00:55:08,490
They left Lithuanians
to live their lives.

1090
00:55:08,490 --> 00:55:11,340
But the Soviets will murder us.

1091
00:55:11,340 --> 00:55:13,980
And that is much worse.

1092
00:55:13,980 --> 00:55:20,910
Well, that was the general
mood of the population.

1093
00:55:20,910 --> 00:55:24,420
Do you remember hearing

that at the time or later

1094
00:55:24,420 --> 00:55:27,690
when you were grown and
you began to understand

1095
00:55:27,690 --> 00:55:28,860
what was going on?

1096
00:55:28,860 --> 00:55:33,120
Well, it's difficult to tell
because I was six-years-old

1097
00:55:33,120 --> 00:55:35,670
and 10-years-old
And I started to--

1098
00:55:35,670 --> 00:55:43,340

1099
00:55:43,340 --> 00:55:44,820
We can say it in Lithuanian.

1100
00:55:44,820 --> 00:55:49,140
I started to attend the high
school and so on and so on.

1101
00:55:49,140 --> 00:55:56,100
And this information seemed to
me in parts, to my country--

1102
00:55:56,100 --> 00:55:57,750
only in parts.

1103
00:55:57,750 --> 00:56:02,490
But, of course, when
I was 10-years-old,

1104
00:56:02,490 --> 00:56:06,090
I already understood,
for example,

1105

00:56:06,090 --> 00:56:10,230
such a common attitude
of the people.

1106
00:56:10,230 --> 00:56:13,830
What happened with your family
when your father returned?

1107
00:56:13,830 --> 00:56:17,100
Well, he was no more a Minister.

1108
00:56:17,100 --> 00:56:23,010
He ceased to be a minister
when they were in Moscow.

1109
00:56:23,010 --> 00:56:27,780
Formally, technically the
Lithuanian Soviet government--

1110
00:56:27,780 --> 00:56:30,300
well, it was not the
government but sort of--

1111
00:56:30,300 --> 00:56:32,370
well, Soviet administration.

1112
00:56:32,370 --> 00:56:33,750
It still existed.

1113
00:56:33,750 --> 00:56:35,670
It still existed
so that there were

1114
00:56:35,670 --> 00:56:38,310
some offices, some
salaries, I believe,

1115
00:56:38,310 --> 00:56:41,970
and so on, and even Ministers.

1116
00:56:41,970 --> 00:56:45,030
But my father ceased
to be a minister.

1117
00:56:45,030 --> 00:56:51,240
Another minister was appointed
to this place I think in 1943.

1118
00:56:51,240 --> 00:56:53,550
He became a war correspondent.

1119
00:56:53,550 --> 00:56:59,370
He came to the front
line and wrote articles

1120
00:56:59,370 --> 00:57:03,000
about the Lithuanians
fighting Germans

1121
00:57:03,000 --> 00:57:05,190
because there were some
Lithuanian soldiers

1122
00:57:05,190 --> 00:57:06,670
in the Soviet army--

1123
00:57:06,670 --> 00:57:09,648
even the entire
Lithuanian detachment--

1124
00:57:09,648 --> 00:57:10,190
That's right.

1125
00:57:10,190 --> 00:57:12,030
--that support
Lithuanian division.

1126
00:57:12,030 --> 00:57:15,030
He was quite closely
connected with some people

1127
00:57:15,030 --> 00:57:18,210
in that detachment.

1128
00:57:18,210 --> 00:57:22,950

He was a war correspondent
and the freelance writer.

1129

00:57:22,950 --> 00:57:26,850

Oh, so my next question was what
newspapers did he write for?

1130

00:57:26,850 --> 00:57:28,060

Would it have been Pravda?

1131

00:57:28,060 --> 00:57:29,160

Would it have been Tiesa?

1132

00:57:29,160 --> 00:57:30,630

Would it have been some others?

1133

00:57:30,630 --> 00:57:33,240

Well, mainly to Lithuanian
newspapers published

1134

00:57:33,240 --> 00:57:37,500

in Moscow and magazines-- there
was one Lithuanian magazine

1135

00:57:37,500 --> 00:57:38,970

published in Moscow.

1136

00:57:38,970 --> 00:57:41,610

From time to time,
probably, also to Pravda,

1137

00:57:41,610 --> 00:57:44,280

but not much, not much.

1138

00:57:44,280 --> 00:57:47,760

Then well, what else
that's interesting.

1139

00:57:47,760 --> 00:57:52,592

You know at Yale there was a
Professor Benjamin Harshav,

1140

00:57:52,592 --> 00:57:56,970
a well-known literary scholar
who lived to first in Israel,

1141
00:57:56,970 --> 00:58:00,210
then he moved to United
States and became my colleague

1142
00:58:00,210 --> 00:58:00,720
at Yale.

1143
00:58:00,720 --> 00:58:03,510
We were in the same
Slavic department.

1144
00:58:03,510 --> 00:58:06,780
He told me, you
know, your father,

1145
00:58:06,780 --> 00:58:11,020
as a Minister of Education,
probably saved my life.

1146
00:58:11,020 --> 00:58:13,090
How, I asked to him.

1147
00:58:13,090 --> 00:58:16,060
Well, during the
Nazi occupation we

1148
00:58:16,060 --> 00:58:19,450
managed to go to
the Soviet Union.

1149
00:58:19,450 --> 00:58:21,940
And we were in a--

1150
00:58:21,940 --> 00:58:24,880
since our family
comes from Lithuania,

1151
00:58:24,880 --> 00:58:31,620
we went in a Lithuanian

house for children.

1152
00:58:31,620 --> 00:58:34,680
There was one such
house for children

1153
00:58:34,680 --> 00:58:38,560
who had been evacuated
or fled from Lithuania.

1154
00:58:38,560 --> 00:58:40,090
In Moscow then.

1155
00:58:40,090 --> 00:58:43,030
Well, not in Moscow,
In the Ural Mountains.

1156
00:58:43,030 --> 00:58:43,530
OK.

1157
00:58:43,530 --> 00:58:46,980
In the village of
[? Gidosi. ?] There were some,

1158
00:58:46,980 --> 00:58:52,500
I think, Lithuanians
in that house,

1159
00:58:52,500 --> 00:58:55,270
but probably most were
of Jewish origin--

1160
00:58:55,270 --> 00:58:56,160
OK.

1161
00:58:56,160 --> 00:58:59,490
--of Jewish background,
including Benjamin Harshav.

1162
00:58:59,490 --> 00:59:05,400
And our children's house went
under your father's address,

1163

00:59:05,400 --> 00:59:07,500
so to speak.

1164

00:59:07,500 --> 00:59:14,230
And the winter was coming,
there was terrible winter

1165

00:59:14,230 --> 00:59:17,470
of the year 1941.

1166

00:59:17,470 --> 00:59:25,960
And your father managed to
get [SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]..

1167

00:59:25,960 --> 00:59:26,680
Blankets.

1168

00:59:26,680 --> 00:59:28,720
To get blankets for us.

1169

00:59:28,720 --> 00:59:32,830
Without those blankets
we will probably die.

1170

00:59:32,830 --> 00:59:36,490
But with blankets, yes,
we managed to survive.

1171

00:59:36,490 --> 00:59:41,890
And it was your father
who, as a Minister, who--

1172

00:59:41,890 --> 00:59:42,740
Was able to do this.

1173

00:59:42,740 --> 00:59:44,620
Yes, who was able to do this.

1174

00:59:44,620 --> 00:59:45,620
So that was--

1175

00:59:45,620 --> 00:59:47,920
What a surprise.

1176
00:59:47,920 --> 00:59:49,100
One more surprise.

1177
00:59:49,100 --> 00:59:49,600
Yeah.

1178
00:59:49,600 --> 00:59:54,250
But that was all what my father
did as a Minister of Education

1179
00:59:54,250 --> 00:59:57,070
during that period,
just providing

1180
00:59:57,070 --> 01:00:00,790
blankets for the
children who were

1181
01:00:00,790 --> 01:00:03,610
suffering cold Russian winter.

1182
01:00:03,610 --> 01:00:06,940
Now did he ever have a
government post again?

1183
01:00:06,940 --> 01:00:10,690
Well, later he
became, for example,

1184
01:00:10,690 --> 01:00:13,150
a member of the
Central Committee.

1185
01:00:13,150 --> 01:00:15,280
But he never was
a minister again.

1186
01:00:15,280 --> 01:00:15,790
OK.

1187

01:00:15,790 --> 01:00:18,130

He was a head--

1188

01:00:18,130 --> 01:00:21,670

for some time he was the head
of the writers union, which was

1189

01:00:21,670 --> 01:00:24,820

also sort of a government post.

1190

01:00:24,820 --> 01:00:27,760

But mainly he was
a freelance writer.

1191

01:00:27,760 --> 01:00:30,190

He was a very productive writer.

1192

01:00:30,190 --> 01:00:36,760

And since the Soviets paid
rather goods royalties

1193

01:00:36,760 --> 01:00:40,540

to every writer, and especially
to productive and loyal

1194

01:00:40,540 --> 01:00:45,730

writers, our family was
a very well-to-do family.

1195

01:00:45,730 --> 01:00:47,770

Now, you said when
the Soviets came back,

1196

01:00:47,770 --> 01:00:50,530

your mother had some
trepidation something

1197

01:00:50,530 --> 01:00:52,090

could have happened to her.

1198

01:00:52,090 --> 01:00:54,280

You know, you

mentioned it earlier

1199
01:00:54,280 --> 01:00:56,800
that while the
Germans were there

1200
01:00:56,800 --> 01:01:01,420
you described just the extent
of their surveillance of her,

1201
01:01:01,420 --> 01:01:08,590
but that there was some things
that happened to her when

1202
01:01:08,590 --> 01:01:10,040
the Soviets did come back.

1203
01:01:10,040 --> 01:01:10,870
Is that true?

1204
01:01:10,870 --> 01:01:16,105
No, we simply did not know
how the Soviets would behave.

1205
01:01:16,105 --> 01:01:16,750
I see.

1206
01:01:16,750 --> 01:01:19,290
We simply did not know.

1207
01:01:19,290 --> 01:01:24,040
The newspapers printed
during the Nazi times

1208
01:01:24,040 --> 01:01:28,180
wrote that the
Soviets are coming

1209
01:01:28,180 --> 01:01:33,310
full of revenge feelings,
which was partly true,

1210

01:01:33,310 --> 01:01:36,140
and they will
kill, more or less,

1211
01:01:36,140 --> 01:01:40,840
everybody on their way,
especially the children.

1212
01:01:40,840 --> 01:01:47,470
They printed stories
about tortured children.

1213
01:01:47,470 --> 01:01:51,970
There were especially many
information about Mongolians.

1214
01:01:51,970 --> 01:01:58,000
The Russians are
eventually taken out

1215
01:01:58,000 --> 01:02:03,850
by the victorious German troops.

1216
01:02:03,850 --> 01:02:08,530
And now there are only the
Mongolians in the Soviet army.

1217
01:02:08,530 --> 01:02:12,730
They are of drinking
some kind of people.

1218
01:02:12,730 --> 01:02:14,540
They will kill everybody.

1219
01:02:14,540 --> 01:02:18,190
So my mother believed
to some degree,

1220
01:02:18,190 --> 01:02:21,460
as everybody believed
that to some degree.

1221
01:02:21,460 --> 01:02:26,260

But in Lithuania not
much of that happened.

1222
01:02:26,260 --> 01:02:29,950
There were some examples--

1223
01:02:29,950 --> 01:02:33,460
now the Lithuanian press
writes much about it--

1224
01:02:33,460 --> 01:02:39,970
of vandalizing, of destroying
houses, even of killing people,

1225
01:02:39,970 --> 01:02:43,690
of stealing people's
possessions.

1226
01:02:43,690 --> 01:02:46,470
That was rather--

1227
01:02:46,470 --> 01:02:49,520
I think that was rather typical
about the Soviet troops.

1228
01:02:49,520 --> 01:02:51,040
Well, also rape.

1229
01:02:51,040 --> 01:02:52,210
Rape was also part of it.

1230
01:02:52,210 --> 01:02:58,610
Also rape, but not so
frequent in Lithuania.

1231
01:02:58,610 --> 01:03:03,590
It was much more frequent
on the German territory.

1232
01:03:03,590 --> 01:03:09,380
I think in Lithuania Stalin
understood that people are not

1233

01:03:09,380 --> 01:03:11,700

totally sympathetic,
to put it mildly,

1234

01:03:11,700 --> 01:03:13,070

towards the Soviet rule.

1235

01:03:13,070 --> 01:03:20,510

And he did not want to
exacerbate it, did not want to.

1236

01:03:20,510 --> 01:03:24,140

Well, that was, I know
for sure, that were

1237

01:03:24,140 --> 01:03:27,380

some orders for the troops--

1238

01:03:27,380 --> 01:03:32,580

be as polite with the
Lithuanian people as possible.

1239

01:03:32,580 --> 01:03:34,700

When you come to
Germany, yes, you

1240

01:03:34,700 --> 01:03:37,850

are free to do
virtually everything.

1241

01:03:37,850 --> 01:03:40,850

And they definitely
did very bad things

1242

01:03:40,850 --> 01:03:44,210

and on the German
territory, but not

1243

01:03:44,210 --> 01:03:46,580

necessarily on the
Lithuanian territory.

1244

01:03:46,580 --> 01:03:49,490

It happened, but
not too frequently.

1245

01:03:49,490 --> 01:03:55,610

And our experience
was very peaceful

1246

01:03:55,610 --> 01:03:57,560

with the coming
Soviet soldiers--

1247

01:03:57,560 --> 01:04:00,530

not only our family,
but also peasants

1248

01:04:00,530 --> 01:04:01,940

who were moving around.

1249

01:04:01,940 --> 01:04:04,730

Now, your uncle
who was deported,

1250

01:04:04,730 --> 01:04:10,040

Juozas, did that deportation
ever worry your father?

1251

01:04:10,040 --> 01:04:14,210

My father wrote a letter
to the Soviet authorities

1252

01:04:14,210 --> 01:04:17,600

explaining that his
brother was a good man,

1253

01:04:17,600 --> 01:04:20,270

then he helped our
family, that means

1254

01:04:20,270 --> 01:04:22,790

his family, during
the Nazi occupation,

1255

01:04:22,790 --> 01:04:26,360
and so on and so, that he
does not deserve deportation,

1256
01:04:26,360 --> 01:04:29,480
does not and should be released.

1257
01:04:29,480 --> 01:04:34,085
He wrote that letter but that
got absolutely no results.

1258
01:04:34,085 --> 01:04:37,910

1259
01:04:37,910 --> 01:04:41,780
Because he was a village
elder under the Nazi rule,

1260
01:04:41,780 --> 01:04:44,900
that was enough.

1261
01:04:44,900 --> 01:04:45,980
That was enough, yeah.

1262
01:04:45,980 --> 01:04:51,515
Although I think he was never
involved in any Nazi crimes.

1263
01:04:51,515 --> 01:04:54,380

1264
01:04:54,380 --> 01:04:58,910
To my knowledge he was not
involved in any Nazi crimes.

1265
01:04:58,910 --> 01:05:02,070
Some of those village
elders were involved.

1266
01:05:02,070 --> 01:05:03,410
This is the fact.

1267

01:05:03,410 --> 01:05:06,260
Now what else?

1268
01:05:06,260 --> 01:05:08,520
But there was
another great story.

1269
01:05:08,520 --> 01:05:09,350
OK.

1270
01:05:09,350 --> 01:05:13,310
My father's sister,
her name was Isabella--

1271
01:05:13,310 --> 01:05:15,920
I mentioned her
in the beginning--

1272
01:05:15,920 --> 01:05:20,270
she married another
peasant and those Soviets

1273
01:05:20,270 --> 01:05:25,550
came and arrested him and
she managed to escape.

1274
01:05:25,550 --> 01:05:30,290
She managed to escape
and she went to Vilnius

1275
01:05:30,290 --> 01:05:32,600
to her brother, that
means my father, who

1276
01:05:32,600 --> 01:05:34,430
was a public figure.

1277
01:05:34,430 --> 01:05:37,850
And said well, Antanas,
try to help me.

1278
01:05:37,850 --> 01:05:43,160
My husband has been arrested

and deported with the Soviets.

1279

01:05:43,160 --> 01:05:45,560

Then my father
also wrote a letter

1280

01:05:45,560 --> 01:05:48,780

to the Soviet authorities
that he knows the person.

1281

01:05:48,780 --> 01:05:49,980

He is a good man.

1282

01:05:49,980 --> 01:05:51,290

He never did anything bad.

1283

01:05:51,290 --> 01:05:54,230

He does not deserve deportation.

1284

01:05:54,230 --> 01:05:58,100

And well, he asks for
him to be released.

1285

01:05:58,100 --> 01:06:02,370

That man was never a village
elder or something else.

1286

01:06:02,370 --> 01:06:08,570

So there were no formal
grounds for deporting him.

1287

01:06:08,570 --> 01:06:15,230

And in two weeks, he
was still on the train,

1288

01:06:15,230 --> 01:06:18,830

on the way to the place
he had to be deported.

1289

01:06:18,830 --> 01:06:22,400

He was pulled out of
the car, train car,

1290

01:06:22,400 --> 01:06:24,890

and said, well,
you are released.

1291

01:06:24,890 --> 01:06:26,520

You can go back.

1292

01:06:26,520 --> 01:06:31,130

He did not speak Russian and
that was in the deep Russia, so

1293

01:06:31,130 --> 01:06:32,030

to speak.

1294

01:06:32,030 --> 01:06:34,730

He did not have
money, but he somehow

1295

01:06:34,730 --> 01:06:38,670

managed to come to
Lithuania and to join

1296

01:06:38,670 --> 01:06:41,240

his wife, that means my aunt.

1297

01:06:41,240 --> 01:06:48,290

And he lived rather peacefully
in Lithuania ever after.

1298

01:06:48,290 --> 01:06:49,800

That was another story.

1299

01:06:49,800 --> 01:06:54,620

So my father managed to help
one man, one of his relatives,

1300

01:06:54,620 --> 01:06:55,940

but not both of them.

1301

01:06:55,940 --> 01:06:56,720

Not his brother.

1302

01:06:56,720 --> 01:06:58,790

Not his brother, yes.

1303

01:06:58,790 --> 01:07:03,810

Did you know other people who were deported after the war?

1304

01:07:03,810 --> 01:07:05,480

Of course, lots of them.

1305

01:07:05,480 --> 01:07:06,780

Of course, lots of them.

1306

01:07:06,780 --> 01:07:10,220

Some of them came back.

1307

01:07:10,220 --> 01:07:13,460

They were within your family, friends, and circles.

1308

01:07:13,460 --> 01:07:16,910

Well there was a painter, BaginskienÃ©,

1309

01:07:16,910 --> 01:07:22,700

her name was BaginskienÃ© who was deported and who fled.

1310

01:07:22,700 --> 01:07:26,310

It was possible, especially if you knew Russian and could

1311

01:07:26,310 --> 01:07:28,800

have some help.

1312

01:07:28,800 --> 01:07:34,020

And there is a movie about that, EkskursantÃ© Did you see it?

1313

01:07:34,020 --> 01:07:34,890

I've heard of it.

1314

01:07:34,890 --> 01:07:35,540

I've heard it.

1315

01:07:35,540 --> 01:07:36,430

You should see it.

1316

01:07:36,430 --> 01:07:37,680

People tell me it's very good.

1317

01:07:37,680 --> 01:07:38,840

It's a very good movie.

1318

01:07:38,840 --> 01:07:41,720

I think a very good movie
by Pranas Morkus, who wrote

1319

01:07:41,720 --> 01:07:45,620

the script and my good friend.

1320

01:07:45,620 --> 01:07:51,140

And a movie about a girl, a
girl of 10-year-old, who escapes

1321

01:07:51,140 --> 01:07:53,150

the place of deportation.

1322

01:07:53,150 --> 01:07:56,330

And with some help,
she knows some Russian

1323

01:07:56,330 --> 01:07:58,700

and with some help of
the Russian people,

1324

01:07:58,700 --> 01:08:02,900

she finally reaches Lithuania.

1325

01:08:02,900 --> 01:08:07,590

But then she is arrested
once more and sent back.

1326

01:08:07,590 --> 01:08:10,470
So that was just an ekskursija.

1327
01:08:10,470 --> 01:08:11,870
That means--

1328
01:08:11,870 --> 01:08:12,500
It was just--

1329
01:08:12,500 --> 01:08:13,125
--tourist trip.

1330
01:08:13,125 --> 01:08:15,070
Yeah, a tourist
trip to come back.

1331
01:08:15,070 --> 01:08:23,270
Yes, the title of the film
is a tourist, a tourist.

1332
01:08:23,270 --> 01:08:29,040
So this Baginskienė
fled, like that girl,

1333
01:08:29,040 --> 01:08:34,069
well she was an adult. But
she fled and came to Vilnius.

1334
01:08:34,069 --> 01:08:37,370
And came to my
mother who she knew.

1335
01:08:37,370 --> 01:08:40,040
And said, well, I am
in such a situation.

1336
01:08:40,040 --> 01:08:42,050
They will most likely
arrest me and you

1337
01:08:42,050 --> 01:08:46,760
because there was such things
as a [SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]..

1338
01:08:46,760 --> 01:08:48,050
Meldung.

1339
01:08:48,050 --> 01:08:49,405
You have to register.

1340
01:08:49,405 --> 01:08:52,455
Yeah, you have to
register with the police.

1341
01:08:52,455 --> 01:08:53,330
You have to register.

1342
01:08:53,330 --> 01:08:57,560
If you were not
registered you were bound

1343
01:08:57,560 --> 01:09:01,340
to the protection and you.

1344
01:09:01,340 --> 01:09:06,229
So could you help me to
get the registration.

1345
01:09:06,229 --> 01:09:09,050
As far as I know,
to my knowledge,

1346
01:09:09,050 --> 01:09:12,920
my mother went to
Paleckis, who was--

1347
01:09:12,920 --> 01:09:15,020
Nominally President.

1348
01:09:15,020 --> 01:09:18,920
--a figure head president of
Lithuania, told him the story,

1349
01:09:18,920 --> 01:09:22,670
and Paleckis said I will

do everything I can.

1350

01:09:22,670 --> 01:09:24,340

And he managed to get--

1351

01:09:24,340 --> 01:09:26,810

they managed to get the
registration for BaginskienÃ©

1352

01:09:26,810 --> 01:09:29,569

and she was allowed
to stay in Vilnius.

1353

01:09:29,569 --> 01:09:32,040

So she commanded the protection.

1354

01:09:32,040 --> 01:09:34,250

So such things happened.

1355

01:09:34,250 --> 01:09:35,930

Rarely, but happened.

1356

01:09:35,930 --> 01:09:40,850

And some Soviet
nomenklatura people

1357

01:09:40,850 --> 01:09:42,200

tried to help those people.

1358

01:09:42,200 --> 01:09:47,090

Not everybody, but some tried,
including Paleckis, including

1359

01:09:47,090 --> 01:09:48,830

my father and my mother.

1360

01:09:48,830 --> 01:09:51,350

Then what else?

1361

01:09:51,350 --> 01:09:55,550

Well, let's talk about
post-war and how--

1362
01:09:55,550 --> 01:09:56,690
two things.

1363
01:09:56,690 --> 01:10:00,230
Did your father ever talk
to you about his choices,

1364
01:10:00,230 --> 01:10:06,020
about starting with
somebody who has just left--

1365
01:10:06,020 --> 01:10:09,050
first of all not even
political, but a free thinker,

1366
01:10:09,050 --> 01:10:14,090
and then more leftist and
more leftist, and then

1367
01:10:14,090 --> 01:10:17,900
taken into the Soviet
government or joining

1368
01:10:17,900 --> 01:10:19,970
the first Soviet
government, and so on.

1369
01:10:19,970 --> 01:10:23,300
That progression-- did you ever
have conversations with him

1370
01:10:23,300 --> 01:10:23,880
about that?

1371
01:10:23,880 --> 01:10:26,150
Well, not much of it.

1372
01:10:26,150 --> 01:10:27,020
Not much of it.

1373
01:10:27,020 --> 01:10:30,560

It was understandable by itself.

1374

01:10:30,560 --> 01:10:32,990

Well, my father came
back with the Soviet.

1375

01:10:32,990 --> 01:10:35,750

He's a Soviet figure.

1376

01:10:35,750 --> 01:10:38,060

And this is-- yes--

1377

01:10:38,060 --> 01:10:38,870

This is what it is.

1378

01:10:38,870 --> 01:10:40,070

Yes, this is what it is.

1379

01:10:40,070 --> 01:10:41,630

This made the things stand.

1380

01:10:41,630 --> 01:10:42,320

OK.

1381

01:10:42,320 --> 01:10:46,130

In my early childhood,
in my high school years,

1382

01:10:46,130 --> 01:10:53,540

that was my feeling.

1383

01:10:53,540 --> 01:10:56,270

Later, mainly in
the University, I

1384

01:10:56,270 --> 01:11:00,290

started to talk with him
about the deportations,

1385

01:11:00,290 --> 01:11:08,000

about the Soviet rule, and in
general, and also about Stalin.

1386
01:11:08,000 --> 01:11:11,390
Because after the
Khrushchev talk, I ask--

1387
01:11:11,390 --> 01:11:15,920
well, I never ask him, but I
knew for sure that my father

1388
01:11:15,920 --> 01:11:19,790
wrote for General Stalin,
praising him just like SalomÃ©ja

1389
01:11:19,790 --> 01:11:22,550
NÃ©ris did it, and many others.

1390
01:11:22,550 --> 01:11:23,900
We did not talk about it.

1391
01:11:23,900 --> 01:11:32,240
But my father definitely did
not support deportations.

1392
01:11:32,240 --> 01:11:37,100
And was very depressed
because of the fact

1393
01:11:37,100 --> 01:11:40,970
that those things took place.

1394
01:11:40,970 --> 01:11:45,920
He used to tell me
that were mistakes.

1395
01:11:45,920 --> 01:11:49,370
Of course, there was a fight.

1396
01:11:49,370 --> 01:11:52,210
In the fight there are excesses.

1397
01:11:52,210 --> 01:11:57,890
That was excessive

behavior of the Soviets.

1398
01:11:57,890 --> 01:12:02,570
But now it has been corrected,
and there is nothing

1399
01:12:02,570 --> 01:12:04,720
to speak more about that.

1400
01:12:04,720 --> 01:12:06,320
Yes, it has been corrected.

1401
01:12:06,320 --> 01:12:12,350
And true after Stalin's death
people started to come back.

1402
01:12:12,350 --> 01:12:14,340
People started to come back.

1403
01:12:14,340 --> 01:12:18,590
People came back from prisons,
including many writers,

1404
01:12:18,590 --> 01:12:23,060
like Antanas Skema,
like Kazys Boruta like--

1405
01:12:23,060 --> 01:12:25,710
So his good friend had
been deported himself?

1406
01:12:25,710 --> 01:12:28,525
Yes, yes, yes.

1407
01:12:28,525 --> 01:12:30,650
Well, he was not deported
because his [? warrant ?]

1408
01:12:30,650 --> 01:12:32,990
was in prison but in Vilnius.

1409
01:12:32,990 --> 01:12:35,310

And only for three years.

1410
01:12:35,310 --> 01:12:41,540
My father was asked to
be a witness during his--

1411
01:12:41,540 --> 01:12:42,230
Trial?

1412
01:12:42,230 --> 01:12:43,820
--during his trial.

1413
01:12:43,820 --> 01:12:48,440
And he did his best
to defend Boruta.

1414
01:12:48,440 --> 01:12:52,040
And Boruta got only
three years of prison,

1415
01:12:52,040 --> 01:12:58,050
although ten years was the
very least at that time.

1416
01:12:58,050 --> 01:13:02,450
So I would say that my
father helped Boruta.

1417
01:13:02,450 --> 01:13:04,320
And after he came
back from prison,

1418
01:13:04,320 --> 01:13:07,320
they were on very
friendly terms again.

1419
01:13:07,320 --> 01:13:07,820
OK.

1420
01:13:07,820 --> 01:13:11,570
So such they were-- after
Stalin went those people started

1421

01:13:11,570 --> 01:13:12,620
to come back.

1422

01:13:12,620 --> 01:13:15,200
And they met many of them.

1423

01:13:15,200 --> 01:13:17,870

1424

01:13:17,870 --> 01:13:21,650
Well, I was a bit shy to
ask them how was it there.

1425

01:13:21,650 --> 01:13:25,430
I considered it even a bit
impolite to ask about that.

1426

01:13:25,430 --> 01:13:28,760
I understood that was a
very difficult experience.

1427

01:13:28,760 --> 01:13:33,140
And if people don't speak
about that themselves,

1428

01:13:33,140 --> 01:13:36,260
I am not the person to
ask them about that.

1429

01:13:36,260 --> 01:13:40,330
But I knew many people who
were deported or arrested or to

1430

01:13:40,330 --> 01:13:44,010
spent some time in
prison, even tortured.

1431

01:13:44,010 --> 01:13:47,190
But never to speak
much about that.

1432

01:13:47,190 --> 01:13:49,460

For example, Petras [INAUDIBLE].

1433

01:13:49,460 --> 01:13:52,670

Petras [INAUDIBLE]

was a leftist.

1434

01:13:52,670 --> 01:13:56,670

When my father was a

minister of education,

1435

01:13:56,670 --> 01:13:58,670

he was a vice minister.

1436

01:13:58,670 --> 01:14:03,300

Later he was arrested by

the Nazis and tortured,

1437

01:14:03,300 --> 01:14:04,880

but released.

1438

01:14:04,880 --> 01:14:07,640

Later he was arrested

by the Soviets.

1439

01:14:07,640 --> 01:14:11,240

Not tortured, but

sent to Siberia,

1440

01:14:11,240 --> 01:14:15,380

spent probably 10 years in

Siberia, then came back.

1441

01:14:15,380 --> 01:14:19,820

And he used to visit my father,

and my father helped him.

1442

01:14:19,820 --> 01:14:22,130

They were still

on friendly terms.

1443

01:14:22,130 --> 01:14:26,390

But [INAUDIBLE] was

definitely anti-Soviet.

1444
01:14:26,390 --> 01:14:30,110
When Joseph Brodsky, for
example, came to Lithuania,

1445
01:14:30,110 --> 01:14:33,290
he made very close friends
with Petras [INAUDIBLE]..

1446
01:14:33,290 --> 01:14:38,840
Although Petras [INAUDIBLE] was
60 to 70-years-old and Joseph

1447
01:14:38,840 --> 01:14:42,860
Brodsky was 25 or something.

1448
01:14:42,860 --> 01:14:46,080
But they made good friends.

1449
01:14:46,080 --> 01:14:49,970
So the other question
I have is this how--

1450
01:14:49,970 --> 01:14:51,950
and this is the post-war years--

1451
01:14:51,950 --> 01:14:57,020
how was the Holocaust, as
you remember it, explained?

1452
01:14:57,020 --> 01:15:01,490
How did you learn of the
scope of the atrocities?

1453
01:15:01,490 --> 01:15:06,800
How did it play out in the
society as you were growing up?

1454
01:15:06,800 --> 01:15:10,430
You know this is different
from it developed in the West.

1455

01:15:10,430 --> 01:15:11,270
Yes.

1456
01:15:11,270 --> 01:15:12,590
So tell us about that.

1457
01:15:12,590 --> 01:15:17,040
Well, during the Soviet period--

1458
01:15:17,040 --> 01:15:18,040
well first of all--

1459
01:15:18,040 --> 01:15:20,780
Again, relating to your own
life, as you learn things.

1460
01:15:20,780 --> 01:15:27,050
During the Soviet period,
I went to school--

1461
01:15:27,050 --> 01:15:29,780
just would walk, there
was no public transport.

1462
01:15:29,780 --> 01:15:32,450
That was around 2 kilometers.

1463
01:15:32,450 --> 01:15:33,320
Here in Vilnius.

1464
01:15:33,320 --> 01:15:34,160
In Vilnius.

1465
01:15:34,160 --> 01:15:39,470
Most of the way was
through the former ghetto.

1466
01:15:39,470 --> 01:15:41,050
Through the old town, then.

1467
01:15:41,050 --> 01:15:43,380
Through the old town,

through the former ghetto,

1468

01:15:43,380 --> 01:15:46,160
which was absolutely destroyed.

1469

01:15:46,160 --> 01:15:50,000
The old synagogue, the ancient
and famous Vilnius synagogue,

1470

01:15:50,000 --> 01:15:52,130
the walls were still standing--

1471

01:15:52,130 --> 01:15:53,390
only the walls.

1472

01:15:53,390 --> 01:15:58,580
But it could be reconstructed.

1473

01:15:58,580 --> 01:16:01,370
The Soviets destroyed it.

1474

01:16:01,370 --> 01:16:03,590
But I remembered those walls.

1475

01:16:03,590 --> 01:16:08,570
For the first three or four
years of my school period

1476

01:16:08,570 --> 01:16:09,583
they was there--

1477

01:16:09,583 --> 01:16:10,250
they were there.

1478

01:16:10,250 --> 01:16:13,940
I even went to that
synagogue, not understanding

1479

01:16:13,940 --> 01:16:15,590
exactly what it was.

1480

01:16:15,590 --> 01:16:17,600
That it was the synagogue.

1481
01:16:17,600 --> 01:16:23,630
Then at school we were told
that the Nazis were terrible.

1482
01:16:23,630 --> 01:16:26,930
They murdered people.

1483
01:16:26,930 --> 01:16:30,490
They murdered the
innocent Soviet people.

1484
01:16:30,490 --> 01:16:35,800
The name Jews were virtually
never mentioned, very rarely,

1485
01:16:35,800 --> 01:16:36,560
very rarely.

1486
01:16:36,560 --> 01:16:44,170
Sometimes it leaked through--

1487
01:16:44,170 --> 01:16:48,280
that the Jew such and
such was murdered.

1488
01:16:48,280 --> 01:16:52,440
One of our teachers
at school was Jewish.

1489
01:16:52,440 --> 01:17:03,540
And one of my classmates
who was an ethnic Lithuanian

1490
01:17:03,540 --> 01:17:13,620
boy who had some conflict with
that person, he wrote, I think,

1491
01:17:13,620 --> 01:17:16,570
on the blackboard.

1492

01:17:16,570 --> 01:17:19,860

Well, he wrote the name,
the Jewish family name,

1493

01:17:19,860 --> 01:17:21,300

of that teacher.

1494

01:17:21,300 --> 01:17:24,722

I will not mention the name.

1495

01:17:24,722 --> 01:17:27,180

He wrote the Jewish family name
of the teacher and he said,

1496

01:17:27,180 --> 01:17:32,680

he was not killed by the
Germans, but I will kill him.

1497

01:17:32,680 --> 01:17:36,980

But he was not thrown out
of the school or punished.

1498

01:17:36,980 --> 01:17:42,710

He was, of course, he was he was
told that such things are never

1499

01:17:42,710 --> 01:17:43,210

done.

1500

01:17:43,210 --> 01:17:46,550

And that the next time he
will be severely punished.

1501

01:17:46,550 --> 01:17:48,190

But that was all.

1502

01:17:48,190 --> 01:17:49,450

That was all.

1503

01:17:49,450 --> 01:17:52,990

Well, he was probably
12-year-old or something

1504
01:17:52,990 --> 01:17:53,970
like that.

1505
01:17:53,970 --> 01:17:55,782
But still that was
a terrible story.

1506
01:17:55,782 --> 01:17:56,740
Of course, it's brutal.

1507
01:17:56,740 --> 01:17:57,698
It's absolutely brutal.

1508
01:17:57,698 --> 01:17:58,210
Brutal.

1509
01:17:58,210 --> 01:18:00,040
That story I
remembered very well.

1510
01:18:00,040 --> 01:18:01,540
That story I remember very well.

1511
01:18:01,540 --> 01:18:03,640
It made an impression on me.

1512
01:18:03,640 --> 01:18:06,550
So well, that was
probably the first time

1513
01:18:06,550 --> 01:18:09,520
I understood that the
Nazis were killing mainly,

1514
01:18:09,520 --> 01:18:12,370
if not exclusively, Jews.

1515
01:18:12,370 --> 01:18:15,930
But the Soviets
very much insisted

1516

01:18:15,930 --> 01:18:17,680
that there were not only Jews.

1517

01:18:17,680 --> 01:18:21,070
They very much insisted that
there were Soviet prisoners

1518

01:18:21,070 --> 01:18:23,440
of war that were killed.

1519

01:18:23,440 --> 01:18:25,000
Yes, they were.

1520

01:18:25,000 --> 01:18:26,770
They were even more.

1521

01:18:26,770 --> 01:18:29,860
Well, one more story about
the Nazi period in Lithuania.

1522

01:18:29,860 --> 01:18:31,960
Sure, please.

1523

01:18:31,960 --> 01:18:34,150
When we lived in my
grandfather's house

1524

01:18:34,150 --> 01:18:38,335
with my mother, there was
a prisoner of war camp--

1525

01:18:38,335 --> 01:18:41,650

1526

01:18:41,650 --> 01:18:42,460
Not far?

1527

01:18:42,460 --> 01:18:44,410
--not far from our house.

1528

01:18:44,410 --> 01:18:46,720

What is the address
of that house?

1529
01:18:46,720 --> 01:18:49,370
Address of the houses
[SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]..

1530
01:18:49,370 --> 01:18:50,710
[SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]?

1531
01:18:50,710 --> 01:18:53,620
Now it is Gybowski Prospekt 3.

1532
01:18:53,620 --> 01:18:56,630
Grybowski Prospekt
3 is what it is now?

1533
01:18:56,630 --> 01:18:57,160
Yes.

1534
01:18:57,160 --> 01:18:57,827
And then it is--

1535
01:18:57,827 --> 01:19:01,120
Yes, my grandfather's house--
former house of my grandfather.

1536
01:19:01,120 --> 01:19:03,670
Later we sold it to
a different family.

1537
01:19:03,670 --> 01:19:05,410
Now it is in bad shape.

1538
01:19:05,410 --> 01:19:08,210
But the house is still there.

1539
01:19:08,210 --> 01:19:08,770
OK.

1540
01:19:08,770 --> 01:19:12,280
So and the Soviet

prisoners of war,

1541

01:19:12,280 --> 01:19:18,190
they were guarded by the Nazis--
by Germans, not Lithuanians.

1542

01:19:18,190 --> 01:19:23,968
Such tasks were given
only to Germans.

1543

01:19:23,968 --> 01:19:24,760
That's interesting.

1544

01:19:24,760 --> 01:19:26,380
There was this
differentiation then.

1545

01:19:26,380 --> 01:19:28,210
Yes, that was a differentiation.

1546

01:19:28,210 --> 01:19:31,450
Ghetto can be guarded
by the Lithuanians.

1547

01:19:31,450 --> 01:19:34,640
but the prisoner of war camp,
only by the Germans, as well I

1548

01:19:34,640 --> 01:19:35,440
say remember.

1549

01:19:35,440 --> 01:19:36,100
OK.

1550

01:19:36,100 --> 01:19:38,240
And one of our friends--

1551

01:19:38,240 --> 01:19:40,060
and I think Lithuanian--

1552

01:19:40,060 --> 01:19:46,030
went by this

prisoner camp and he

1553

01:19:46,030 --> 01:19:50,290

saw that those Russian
soldiers taken by the Germans

1554

01:19:50,290 --> 01:19:52,040

were extremely hungry.

1555

01:19:52,040 --> 01:19:52,900

Yeah.

1556

01:19:52,900 --> 01:19:58,810

He had a cabbage
head, and he threw it.

1557

01:19:58,810 --> 01:20:01,350

He was immediately killed
by the German guard.

1558

01:20:01,350 --> 01:20:04,530

1559

01:20:04,530 --> 01:20:06,600

That young Lithuanian

1560

01:20:06,600 --> 01:20:08,040

That young Lithuanian.

1561

01:20:08,040 --> 01:20:10,780

For helping the Russian
prisoner of war.

1562

01:20:10,780 --> 01:20:12,970

Well, the German could
probably say, well,

1563

01:20:12,970 --> 01:20:16,000

maybe he through a bomb--

1564

01:20:16,000 --> 01:20:16,500

Yeah.

1565
01:20:16,500 --> 01:20:19,530
--or something
else-- one of those.

1566
01:20:19,530 --> 01:20:24,230
Well, I have my orders, and
I had to kill such persons--

1567
01:20:24,230 --> 01:20:26,760
betrayed it, maybe.

1568
01:20:26,760 --> 01:20:28,860
But of course,
nobody even, I think,

1569
01:20:28,860 --> 01:20:32,660
no body even interrogated
the German soldier.

1570
01:20:32,660 --> 01:20:34,740
It must have been
such a shock to hear.

1571
01:20:34,740 --> 01:20:41,505
That was a big shock to
the entire suburb of Kaunas

1572
01:20:41,505 --> 01:20:42,900
that we lived in.

1573
01:20:42,900 --> 01:20:46,530
Because that was a boy
from a good family--

1574
01:20:46,530 --> 01:20:49,110
from a rather
well-to-do family--

1575
01:20:49,110 --> 01:20:51,060
I think from a
professor's family--

1576

01:20:51,060 --> 01:20:52,680
and he was killed.

1577

01:20:52,680 --> 01:20:53,550
Right like that.

1578

01:20:53,550 --> 01:20:54,450
Right, yes.

1579

01:20:54,450 --> 01:20:58,530
Just for giving
a head of cabbage

1580

01:20:58,530 --> 01:21:01,410
to a Russian prisoner of war.

1581

01:21:01,410 --> 01:21:05,040
Now, well, what else?

1582

01:21:05,040 --> 01:21:09,210
Well, it was basically I
wanted to get a sense of when

1583

01:21:09,210 --> 01:21:10,748
did it dawn on you--

1584

01:21:10,748 --> 01:21:11,790
and you've explained it--

1585

01:21:11,790 --> 01:21:13,380
I understand and I tried to.

1586

01:21:13,380 --> 01:21:17,490
So the Soviets insisted there
were Russian prisoners of war,

1587

01:21:17,490 --> 01:21:19,530
there were also Lithuanians.

1588

01:21:19,530 --> 01:21:24,120
Very much was said in

school about the poet

1589

01:21:24,120 --> 01:21:26,170
who was called Montvila.

1590

01:21:26,170 --> 01:21:31,500
Montvila was a friend
of my father, of Boruta.

1591

01:21:31,500 --> 01:21:36,210
He wrote a lot of poetry during
the first Soviet occupation

1592

01:21:36,210 --> 01:21:38,850
praising Lenin,
Stalin, Soviet army,

1593

01:21:38,850 --> 01:21:40,800
and so on-- lots of poetry.

1594

01:21:40,800 --> 01:21:44,100
And he did not flee
to the Soviet Union.

1595

01:21:44,100 --> 01:21:46,260
He stayed in Kaunas.

1596

01:21:46,260 --> 01:21:50,880
They say that he tried to flee
but he did not manage to do it.

1597

01:21:50,880 --> 01:21:54,300
He was arrested and
he was shot together

1598

01:21:54,300 --> 01:21:56,100
with the Jewish people.

1599

01:21:56,100 --> 01:22:00,780
And but very much
was told about him.

1600

01:22:00,780 --> 01:22:04,200
So he became like a heroic,
like a tragic figure.

1601
01:22:04,200 --> 01:22:08,070
Yes, a heroic and tragic figure.

1602
01:22:08,070 --> 01:22:14,460
But of course, not Abraham
Sutzkever or not anybody else

1603
01:22:14,460 --> 01:22:15,780
who was not Lithuanian.

1604
01:22:15,780 --> 01:22:21,810
No, he was our
strictly Lithuanian guy

1605
01:22:21,810 --> 01:22:26,070
who was this fighter for the
Soviet truth, for that he

1606
01:22:26,070 --> 01:22:28,590
was killed by the fascists.

1607
01:22:28,590 --> 01:22:29,190
OK.

1608
01:22:29,190 --> 01:22:32,820
They not necessarily so by
the Lithuanian fascists.

1609
01:22:32,820 --> 01:22:36,240
By the Nazis-- he was
killed by the Nazis.

1610
01:22:36,240 --> 01:22:39,660
He was compared to
Federico Garcia Lorca.

1611
01:22:39,660 --> 01:22:42,420
He was compared
to, I don't know,

1612
01:22:42,420 --> 01:22:44,960
Vaptsarov or such
a Bulgarian poet

1613
01:22:44,960 --> 01:22:46,430
killed by Nazis, and so on.

1614
01:22:46,430 --> 01:22:50,415
So we also have
our hero, Montvila.

1615
01:22:50,415 --> 01:22:54,360

1616
01:22:54,360 --> 01:22:58,830
Montvila, well at least he took
some part in the political--

1617
01:22:58,830 --> 01:23:02,620

1618
01:23:02,620 --> 01:23:04,050
He took some action.

1619
01:23:04,050 --> 01:23:05,610
He had been active in some way.

1620
01:23:05,610 --> 01:23:06,450
Yes.

1621
01:23:06,450 --> 01:23:11,130
Of course, God forbid, one
should not be killed for that.

1622
01:23:11,130 --> 01:23:13,470
One should not be
imprisoned for that.

1623
01:23:13,470 --> 01:23:18,480
Because, well, poetry is poetry.

1624

01:23:18,480 --> 01:23:23,190

Even bad poetry is poetry
and not a punishable offense.

1625

01:23:23,190 --> 01:23:31,170

But now thousands
of Jewish people

1626

01:23:31,170 --> 01:23:33,450

were killed together
with Montvila,

1627

01:23:33,450 --> 01:23:36,820

including children,
including old people,

1628

01:23:36,820 --> 01:23:40,590

including women who
did not take any part

1629

01:23:40,590 --> 01:23:42,360

in political activities.

1630

01:23:42,360 --> 01:23:46,980

And they never said
a word about that.

1631

01:23:46,980 --> 01:23:52,950

But partly by reading,
by talking with people,

1632

01:23:52,950 --> 01:23:56,130

by getting some
non-Soviet literature,

1633

01:23:56,130 --> 01:24:00,900

I understood the nature of
the Holocaust, the real nature

1634

01:24:00,900 --> 01:24:02,190

of the Holocaust.

1635

01:24:02,190 --> 01:24:05,760

But I probably
understood it only

1636

01:24:05,760 --> 01:24:10,680

when I already graduated
from the University.

1637

01:24:10,680 --> 01:24:11,880

It that while.

1638

01:24:11,880 --> 01:24:13,900

It took to just a while.

1639

01:24:13,900 --> 01:24:16,500

It took a long, long time.

1640

01:24:16,500 --> 01:24:20,255

And I was very

[SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]

1641

01:24:20,255 --> 01:24:20,880

how do you say?

1642

01:24:20,880 --> 01:24:22,230

I was very curious.

1643

01:24:22,230 --> 01:24:24,390

I was a very curious boy.

1644

01:24:24,390 --> 01:24:29,880

I think a lot of my
schoolmates or University mates

1645

01:24:29,880 --> 01:24:31,560

were much less curious.

1646

01:24:31,560 --> 01:24:36,000

And they not necessarily
understood the situation

1647

01:24:36,000 --> 01:24:37,260

as well as I did.

1648
01:24:37,260 --> 01:24:40,110
So would you be reading
underground literature?

1649
01:24:40,110 --> 01:24:42,480
I was reading about literature.

1650
01:24:42,480 --> 01:24:45,750
Then I'd go up to
the Jewish friends,

1651
01:24:45,750 --> 01:24:50,730
like [INAUDIBLE] like
Stromas, like Ginkas.

1652
01:24:50,730 --> 01:24:53,280
During the Soviet period,
before my emigration,

1653
01:24:53,280 --> 01:24:55,810
I did not know whether they
might take it very well.

1654
01:24:55,810 --> 01:24:56,310
I see.

1655
01:24:56,310 --> 01:24:59,970
But I knew Stromas and Ginkas
very well, and, of course,

1656
01:24:59,970 --> 01:25:01,260
they told me much.

1657
01:25:01,260 --> 01:25:03,050
They told you about
their families.

1658
01:25:03,050 --> 01:25:05,550
Of course, of course,
they told me very much.

1659

01:25:05,550 --> 01:25:08,730
So I knew something about that.

1660

01:25:08,730 --> 01:25:13,260
But it took at
least 10 to 15 years

1661

01:25:13,260 --> 01:25:18,600
to understood the entire
problem of the Holocaust.

1662

01:25:18,600 --> 01:25:23,910
Well, I'm going to jump a
little bit because we could

1663

01:25:23,910 --> 01:25:27,180
talk about your post-war
years ad infinitum,

1664

01:25:27,180 --> 01:25:28,680
and I won't do that.

1665

01:25:28,680 --> 01:25:30,270
But you did write--

1666

01:25:30,270 --> 01:25:33,030
when you did become
a famous dissident,

1667

01:25:33,030 --> 01:25:36,930
you openly became a Soviet
dissident against the system,

1668

01:25:36,930 --> 01:25:43,740
I remember that one of the most
pivotal essays that you wrote

1669

01:25:43,740 --> 01:25:46,080
was about Jews and Lithuanians.

1670

01:25:46,080 --> 01:25:48,810
And that was in the

'70s and the '80s.

1671

01:25:48,810 --> 01:25:50,910

Tell us about that
and what prompted

1672

01:25:50,910 --> 01:25:56,550

that essay and what kind
of effect did it have?

1673

01:25:56,550 --> 01:25:58,650

So tell us first
about the background

1674

01:25:58,650 --> 01:26:00,100

and then the essay itself.

1675

01:26:00,100 --> 01:26:00,600

OK.

1676

01:26:00,600 --> 01:26:05,100

I will try, but let
us do some break.

1677

01:26:05,100 --> 01:26:05,830

Sure.

1678

01:26:05,830 --> 01:26:09,210

So this was something
about one of them.

1679

01:26:09,210 --> 01:26:11,010

Yes, I'd like to hear--

1680

01:26:11,010 --> 01:26:12,810

I forgot to ask you before--

1681

01:26:12,810 --> 01:26:16,950

I mean, he was he
was a poet, yes?

1682

01:26:16,950 --> 01:26:21,090

He was a poet and then a
fiction writer and a good man.

1683
01:26:21,090 --> 01:26:24,420
And he was imprisoned
by both Smetona--

1684
01:26:24,420 --> 01:26:24,990
Yes.

1685
01:26:24,990 --> 01:26:26,220
--and by the Soviets.

1686
01:26:26,220 --> 01:26:29,430
So what was he accused
of under the one

1687
01:26:29,430 --> 01:26:32,700
and what was he accused
of under the other?

1688
01:26:32,700 --> 01:26:38,610
Well he belonged
to the party of SR,

1689
01:26:38,610 --> 01:26:40,680
that means socialist
revolutionaries.

1690
01:26:40,680 --> 01:26:41,220
OK.

1691
01:26:41,220 --> 01:26:44,370
Who were very definitely
against Smetona.

1692
01:26:44,370 --> 01:26:44,940
OK.

1693
01:26:44,940 --> 01:26:49,660
And yes, they even made
some terrorist actions.

1694

01:26:49,660 --> 01:26:52,530

Boruta, himself, was never
involved in terrorism

1695

01:26:52,530 --> 01:26:55,140

but he was part of that group.

1696

01:26:55,140 --> 01:26:56,960

OK.

1697

01:26:56,960 --> 01:27:01,100

Like [INAUDIBLE] You know
is that the group that

1698

01:27:01,100 --> 01:27:04,140

tried, I think, a coup or an
assassination or something

1699

01:27:04,140 --> 01:27:04,640

like that?

1700

01:27:04,640 --> 01:27:09,920

They tried to assassinate the
Prime Minister Voldemaras,

1701

01:27:09,920 --> 01:27:12,920

but he survived.

1702

01:27:12,920 --> 01:27:17,930

Well, then Boruta had to flee.

1703

01:27:17,930 --> 01:27:23,530

First, he fled to Latvia,
which was a bit more Democratic

1704

01:27:23,530 --> 01:27:26,920

at that time then Lithuania.

1705

01:27:26,920 --> 01:27:31,880

But from Latvia, he fled
to Vienna, to Austria.

1706

01:27:31,880 --> 01:27:36,550

And spent, I think, at least
seven whole years in Austria,

1707

01:27:36,550 --> 01:27:40,930

then came back in
Lithuania in '34.

1708

01:27:40,930 --> 01:27:43,150

In '34, then he was arrested.

1709

01:27:43,150 --> 01:27:44,440

Because of these activities?

1710

01:27:44,440 --> 01:27:47,110

Because of the
activities of his group.

1711

01:27:47,110 --> 01:27:48,760

He belonged to the
group which was

1712

01:27:48,760 --> 01:27:51,640

active in anti-Smetona work.

1713

01:27:51,640 --> 01:27:54,070

Ut wrote what he
wrote mainly poetry

1714

01:27:54,070 --> 01:27:56,870

but that was definitely
anti-Smetona poetry,

1715

01:27:56,870 --> 01:27:57,550

I would say.

1716

01:27:57,550 --> 01:27:58,630

OK.

1717

01:27:58,630 --> 01:28:08,730

Then he spent some time
under the Nazi occupation,

1718
01:28:08,730 --> 01:28:11,430
and he tried to
help Jewish people.

1719
01:28:11,430 --> 01:28:15,150
He was part of that
network of helpers.

1720
01:28:15,150 --> 01:28:18,480
A small part, he
himself probably never

1721
01:28:18,480 --> 01:28:21,150
saved anybody personally.

1722
01:28:21,150 --> 01:28:26,850
But for example, he
employed some Jewish people

1723
01:28:26,850 --> 01:28:37,120
because they had to make
a catalog of Jewish books

1724
01:28:37,120 --> 01:28:40,230
in the libraries, in
Lithuanian libraries.

1725
01:28:40,230 --> 01:28:43,300
And Boruta was there the head.

1726
01:28:43,300 --> 01:28:46,030
So he employed some
Jewish people, including,

1727
01:28:46,030 --> 01:28:48,160
I think, Abraham Sutzkever.

1728
01:28:48,160 --> 01:28:49,690
They were friends.

1729
01:28:49,690 --> 01:28:53,200

And by giving them
employment, he

1730
01:28:53,200 --> 01:28:57,370
was a sort of a mini
Lithuanian Schindler.

1731
01:28:57,370 --> 01:28:58,070
OK.

1732
01:28:58,070 --> 01:28:59,020
Boruta.

1733
01:28:59,020 --> 01:29:03,550
But under the Nazi rule
he was not imprisoned.

1734
01:29:03,550 --> 01:29:04,690
OK.

1735
01:29:04,690 --> 01:29:11,352
Under the Soviet rule, in '46
or '47, he had a female friend--

1736
01:29:11,352 --> 01:29:14,620
well, a lover, to be precise--

1737
01:29:14,620 --> 01:29:17,380
whose name was Ona Lukauskaitė.

1738
01:29:17,380 --> 01:29:20,740
Who was also a part
of that SR group,

1739
01:29:20,740 --> 01:29:25,570
socialist revolutions group,
who fought against Smetona.

1740
01:29:25,570 --> 01:29:30,010
But then she decided that she
will fight also against Stalin.

1741

01:29:30,010 --> 01:29:33,020

Because is even much
worse than Smetona.

1742

01:29:33,020 --> 01:29:33,880

OK.

1743

01:29:33,880 --> 01:29:39,030

She wrote a letter, I
think to Winston Churchill

1744

01:29:39,030 --> 01:29:43,750

of all people,
explaining the situation

1745

01:29:43,750 --> 01:29:46,360

in the occupied Lithuania--

1746

01:29:46,360 --> 01:29:49,600

that the situation is difficult,
people are persecuted,

1747

01:29:49,600 --> 01:29:51,310

people are deported.

1748

01:29:51,310 --> 01:29:55,030

The country has no its
own administration.

1749

01:29:55,030 --> 01:29:58,180

The country has no
independence although it had it

1750

01:29:58,180 --> 01:29:59,500

before the war.

1751

01:29:59,500 --> 01:30:04,660

So dear Winston, please help us.

1752

01:30:04,660 --> 01:30:10,100

And she started to
collect the signatures.

1753

01:30:10,100 --> 01:30:14,390

She came to talk Boruta
and asked him to sign.

1754

01:30:14,390 --> 01:30:18,410

Boruta said, well, I
think it's senseless.

1755

01:30:18,410 --> 01:30:20,660

I will not sign it.

1756

01:30:20,660 --> 01:30:25,020

But he never denounced it.

1757

01:30:25,020 --> 01:30:32,230

She was arrested very soon and
got 10 years in Vorkuta camps.

1758

01:30:32,230 --> 01:30:34,190

Hard labor camps.

1759

01:30:34,190 --> 01:30:35,105

Hard labor camps.

1760

01:30:35,105 --> 01:30:37,810

1761

01:30:37,810 --> 01:30:40,850

Then she was released,
and later she

1762

01:30:40,850 --> 01:30:43,970

became a member of the
Lithuania-Helsinki group.

1763

01:30:43,970 --> 01:30:46,310

We were colleagues in the
Lithuania-Helsinki group.

1764

01:30:46,310 --> 01:30:48,860

One more example
of how everything

1765
01:30:48,860 --> 01:30:51,530
is interconnected in Lithuania.

1766
01:30:51,530 --> 01:30:54,080
But Boruta never denounced her.

1767
01:30:54,080 --> 01:30:59,570
So for the fact that
he knew about her deeds

1768
01:30:59,570 --> 01:31:05,180
and never denounced
it, he was also tried.

1769
01:31:05,180 --> 01:31:09,190
But thanks, perhaps,
partly to my father,

1770
01:31:09,190 --> 01:31:12,890
he got a short sentence
and was not even

1771
01:31:12,890 --> 01:31:14,960
brought out of Lithuania.

1772
01:31:14,960 --> 01:31:18,080
He served his
sentence in Vilnius.

1773
01:31:18,080 --> 01:31:22,990
Lukauskietis told me when we were
together in the Helsinki group,

1774
01:31:22,990 --> 01:31:27,680
your father was also
a witness at my trial.

1775
01:31:27,680 --> 01:31:30,830
I have nothing to reproach him.

1776
01:31:30,830 --> 01:31:31,820

Oh.

1777

01:31:31,820 --> 01:31:34,490

I was very proud of that.

1778

01:31:34,490 --> 01:31:36,020

I was very proud of that.

1779

01:31:36,020 --> 01:31:40,096

So that's about my
father and about Boruta.

1780

01:31:40,096 --> 01:31:40,830

Boruta.

1781

01:31:40,830 --> 01:31:41,330

OK.

1782

01:31:41,330 --> 01:31:43,570

And now let's come to the essay.

1783

01:31:43,570 --> 01:31:46,250

And what was it--

1784

01:31:46,250 --> 01:31:48,560

how did it start that
you even wrote it,

1785

01:31:48,560 --> 01:31:51,090

and then we go from there.

1786

01:31:51,090 --> 01:31:57,940

I wrote an open letter
to the Central Committee

1787

01:31:57,940 --> 01:32:01,060

of the Lithuanian
Communist Party, which

1788

01:32:01,060 --> 01:32:05,530

was the letter of breaking
the relations between me

1789
01:32:05,530 --> 01:32:09,070
and the Lithuanian authorities.

1790
01:32:09,070 --> 01:32:14,500
I wrote in that letter that
I was all my conscious life,

1791
01:32:14,500 --> 01:32:19,390
I was not on their side.

1792
01:32:19,390 --> 01:32:22,540
Although my father
was on their side.

1793
01:32:22,540 --> 01:32:27,960
But for of my father and
for everybody in Lithuania,

1794
01:32:27,960 --> 01:32:30,670
it was never a secret.

1795
01:32:30,670 --> 01:32:32,860
It was never a secret.

1796
01:32:32,860 --> 01:32:38,610
But because of that, now
I cannot any more work

1797
01:32:38,610 --> 01:32:40,290
in the cultural field.

1798
01:32:40,290 --> 01:32:41,460
OK.

1799
01:32:41,460 --> 01:32:43,950
My work is never printed.

1800
01:32:43,950 --> 01:32:46,710
Even my translations
are not printed.

1801

01:32:46,710 --> 01:32:50,010

I cannot teach and
so on and so on.

1802

01:32:50,010 --> 01:32:51,750

And you were how
old at this time?

1803

01:32:51,750 --> 01:32:52,500

When you did this.

1804

01:32:52,500 --> 01:32:56,490

I was around 40, 38 or 39.

1805

01:32:56,490 --> 01:32:57,240

OK.

1806

01:32:57,240 --> 01:33:07,200

And for that reason, my life
starts to become senseless

1807

01:33:07,200 --> 01:33:08,940

in the Soviet Union.

1808

01:33:08,940 --> 01:33:11,940

I don't agree with the
communist ideology.

1809

01:33:11,940 --> 01:33:16,980

I considered it wrong
to a very large degree.

1810

01:33:16,980 --> 01:33:20,520

I did not tell that I
considered it completely wrong.

1811

01:33:20,520 --> 01:33:23,790

Even today I don't consider
it completely wrong.

1812

01:33:23,790 --> 01:33:26,580

But I considered it wrong

to a very large degree.

1813

01:33:26,580 --> 01:33:33,480

And their absolute monopoly of
that ideology in our country

1814

01:33:33,480 --> 01:33:40,140

is harmful for culture and
harmful even for the state.

1815

01:33:40,140 --> 01:33:43,060

I cannot do anything.

1816

01:33:43,060 --> 01:33:47,100

But at least I can express
my opinion about it--

1817

01:33:47,100 --> 01:33:49,380

probably I even should do it.

1818

01:33:49,380 --> 01:33:51,840

That is always something.

1819

01:33:51,840 --> 01:33:53,260

So I wrote such a letter.

1820

01:33:53,260 --> 01:33:58,680

And then end of was,
since it is as it

1821

01:33:58,680 --> 01:34:04,590

is, I think that I should
leave the Soviet Union

1822

01:34:04,590 --> 01:34:08,340

and ask for the emigration--

1823

01:34:08,340 --> 01:34:12,570

basing myself on the
Universal Declaration

1824

01:34:12,570 --> 01:34:16,320

of Human Rights which says that
the person is free to choose

1825
01:34:16,320 --> 01:34:19,380
their country where he
or she wants to live

1826
01:34:19,380 --> 01:34:25,290
and also basing myself
on the existing law.

1827
01:34:25,290 --> 01:34:28,980
Because the Soviets
sometimes let people out,

1828
01:34:28,980 --> 01:34:31,350
including Jewish people.

1829
01:34:31,350 --> 01:34:34,050
And you wrote this
letter in what year?

1830
01:34:34,050 --> 01:34:36,570
That was in '77--

1831
01:34:36,570 --> 01:34:38,550
no, '75.

1832
01:34:38,550 --> 01:34:39,120
OK.

1833
01:34:39,120 --> 01:34:41,800
In 1975.

1834
01:34:41,800 --> 01:34:42,750
I wrote this letter.

1835
01:34:42,750 --> 01:34:44,790
It was opened, that
means they sent it

1836
01:34:44,790 --> 01:34:46,620

to the Central Committee.

1837
01:34:46,620 --> 01:34:47,910
But they also send it--

1838
01:34:47,910 --> 01:34:51,960
I also gave it to some friends.

1839
01:34:51,960 --> 01:34:57,810
about whom I might be sure that
they will leak it to the West.

1840
01:34:57,810 --> 01:35:01,530
They will be instrumental
in leaking it to the West.

1841
01:35:01,530 --> 01:35:03,720
And the letter
leaked to the West.

1842
01:35:03,720 --> 01:35:08,250
It was printed in
the Western press,

1843
01:35:08,250 --> 01:35:10,290
in many Western newspapers.

1844
01:35:10,290 --> 01:35:13,170
And I became a sort
of well-known figure

1845
01:35:13,170 --> 01:35:16,170
in the West, which
helped of course.

1846
01:35:16,170 --> 01:35:21,690
Because otherwise I would
be either imprisoned or put

1847
01:35:21,690 --> 01:35:24,000
in the psychiatric hospital.

1848

01:35:24,000 --> 01:35:28,260

But because my case was already
well known and the West,

1849

01:35:28,260 --> 01:35:32,160

that gave some protection--

1850

01:35:32,160 --> 01:35:36,810

not 100% protection,
but some protection.

1851

01:35:36,810 --> 01:35:40,590

And was it at this time, after
you wrote this letter, that you

1852

01:35:40,590 --> 01:35:42,052

wrote that famous essay?

1853

01:35:42,052 --> 01:35:43,200

Yes.

1854

01:35:43,200 --> 01:35:44,170

Tell me about that.

1855

01:35:44,170 --> 01:35:51,430

Well, the Central Committee
invited me and said well,

1856

01:35:51,430 --> 01:35:53,610

we are ready to
forget that letter.

1857

01:35:53,610 --> 01:35:58,380

It was written in a
moment of depression.

1858

01:35:58,380 --> 01:36:03,720

Just please work as before
and we will forget it.

1859

01:36:03,720 --> 01:36:08,900

I then answered, well
I prepared myself

1860
01:36:08,900 --> 01:36:12,230
for writing such a letter
throughout my entire conscious

1861
01:36:12,230 --> 01:36:13,040
life.

1862
01:36:13,040 --> 01:36:20,300
If I wrote it I will not deny
everything that is told in it.

1863
01:36:20,300 --> 01:36:24,710
They said, in this case, you
wrote it to the wrong address.

1864
01:36:24,710 --> 01:36:27,440
The problems of
immigration are decided

1865
01:36:27,440 --> 01:36:30,650
not with the Central
Committee, but at the Minister

1866
01:36:30,650 --> 01:36:33,620
of the Internal Affairs.

1867
01:36:33,620 --> 01:36:37,280
Go to that Minister,
they are giving visas.

1868
01:36:37,280 --> 01:36:42,600
If you have grounds for leaving,
they may maybe give you a visa.

1869
01:36:42,600 --> 01:36:47,570
This is their problem,
not our problem.

1870
01:36:47,570 --> 01:36:51,470
Well, I went to the Ministry
of the Internal Affairs.

1871

01:36:51,470 --> 01:36:53,930

That means police but
not the secret police,

1872

01:36:53,930 --> 01:36:56,840

but the usual police.

1873

01:36:56,840 --> 01:37:00,290

And they said, well you
have no grounds to go out.

1874

01:37:00,290 --> 01:37:04,610

So don't come to us anymore.

1875

01:37:04,610 --> 01:37:06,890

It makes no sense.

1876

01:37:06,890 --> 01:37:10,057

And then I became the
so-called otkaznik.

1877

01:37:10,057 --> 01:37:10,890

What does that mean?

1878

01:37:10,890 --> 01:37:12,620

That means refusenik.

1879

01:37:12,620 --> 01:37:19,370

A person who wants to emigrate
and who is refused this right.

1880

01:37:19,370 --> 01:37:24,350

95% or more of
refuseniks were Jewish.

1881

01:37:24,350 --> 01:37:25,830

I was not Jewish--

1882

01:37:25,830 --> 01:37:29,150

neither on my father's side,
nor on my mother's side.

1883

01:37:29,150 --> 01:37:33,020

So it was a very strange
sort of refusenik.

1884

01:37:33,020 --> 01:37:37,115

But of course, I made contacts
with many other refuseniks,

1885

01:37:37,115 --> 01:37:40,270

which was numerous in
Vilnius at that time.

1886

01:37:40,270 --> 01:37:43,120

One of them was Felix Dektor.

1887

01:37:43,120 --> 01:37:46,600

Felix Dektor, who
later left for Israel.

1888

01:37:46,600 --> 01:37:50,440

And now he lives partly in
Israel, partly in Moscow.

1889

01:37:50,440 --> 01:37:53,110

He is still alive and active.

1890

01:37:53,110 --> 01:37:55,030

He's still my good friend.

1891

01:37:55,030 --> 01:37:57,610

And that time he still
lived in the Soviet Union

1892

01:37:57,610 --> 01:37:59,440

as a refusenik.

1893

01:37:59,440 --> 01:38:05,430

He told me, dear
Tomas, I am organizing

1894

01:38:05,430 --> 01:38:10,130

a Jewish underground

newspaper, Tarbut.

1895

01:38:10,130 --> 01:38:14,000

Tarbut, which means, I think,
enlightenment or something

1896

01:38:14,000 --> 01:38:15,110

like that.

1897

01:38:15,110 --> 01:38:21,950

Than would publish
memoirs of a Jew who

1898

01:38:21,950 --> 01:38:26,030

was persecuted by
the Lithuanians

1899

01:38:26,030 --> 01:38:28,130

during the Nazi occupation.

1900

01:38:28,130 --> 01:38:33,560

And who writes just terrible
things about Lithuanians.

1901

01:38:33,560 --> 01:38:36,440

You are a Lithuanian, but
not a Soviet Lithuanian.

1902

01:38:36,440 --> 01:38:39,380

You are anti-Soviet
Lithuanian because

1903

01:38:39,380 --> 01:38:43,820

of the letter you wrote which
is known now to everybody.

1904

01:38:43,820 --> 01:38:45,350

Could you write an answer?

1905

01:38:45,350 --> 01:38:49,970

How do you evaluate the
behavior of the Lithuanian

1906

01:38:49,970 --> 01:38:55,400

and generally the entire
question of the Holocaust

1907

01:38:55,400 --> 01:38:56,300

in Lithuania?

1908

01:38:56,300 --> 01:38:58,650

I said, well, of
course, I will write it.

1909

01:38:58,650 --> 01:38:59,900

And this was what year?

1910

01:38:59,900 --> 01:39:03,410

It was '75th or 6th.

1911

01:39:03,410 --> 01:39:05,630

OK, so '75, now '76.

1912

01:39:05,630 --> 01:39:07,250

I was still in the Soviet Union.

1913

01:39:07,250 --> 01:39:10,010

I wrote it for the Jewish
underground newspaper

1914

01:39:10,010 --> 01:39:12,080

in the Russian language.

1915

01:39:12,080 --> 01:39:17,100

And my essay was written
in Russian language.

1916

01:39:17,100 --> 01:39:21,530

I did not know
everything at that time.

1917

01:39:21,530 --> 01:39:27,590

I wrote it, how to say,
[SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]..

1918

01:39:27,590 --> 01:39:30,410

I wrote it in a cloak--

1919

01:39:30,410 --> 01:39:32,113

sort of like in a

summarized form.

1920

01:39:32,113 --> 01:39:33,030

Is that what you know?

1921

01:39:33,030 --> 01:39:35,590

No, [SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]

does not mean it.

1922

01:39:35,590 --> 01:39:36,500

I wrote--

1923

01:39:36,500 --> 01:39:37,290

Modestly?

1924

01:39:37,290 --> 01:39:41,075

Yes, I wrote it

without rhetoric,

1925

01:39:41,075 --> 01:39:43,180

I would say, without rhetoric.

1926

01:39:43,180 --> 01:39:44,030

No polemic.

1927

01:39:44,030 --> 01:39:45,470

No polemic.

1928

01:39:45,470 --> 01:39:51,290

I wrote it as I understood

this problem at that time.

1929

01:39:51,290 --> 01:39:53,460

Now I understand it better.

1930

01:39:53,460 --> 01:40:00,890

I several times I wrote more
about that problem and--

1931
01:40:00,890 --> 01:40:06,770
well, to tell the truth,
this article or this essay

1932
01:40:06,770 --> 01:40:08,570
could be better.

1933
01:40:08,570 --> 01:40:10,100
But tell us what was in it.

1934
01:40:10,100 --> 01:40:11,360
Tell us what was in it.

1935
01:40:11,360 --> 01:40:15,290
Well, I thought that the crime--

1936
01:40:15,290 --> 01:40:19,460
crime has no
[SPEAKING LITHUANIAN]..

1937
01:40:19,460 --> 01:40:20,480
Justification.

1938
01:40:20,480 --> 01:40:24,230
Crime has no justification.

1939
01:40:24,230 --> 01:40:26,300
Holocaust is Holocaust.

1940
01:40:26,300 --> 01:40:30,020
And as long as we
Lithuanians would

1941
01:40:30,020 --> 01:40:33,680
try to justify it, we
would share the guilt.

1942
01:40:33,680 --> 01:40:39,780
When we cease to justify it,

we will expatriate our guilt.

1943

01:40:39,780 --> 01:40:43,550

And this is my
position also now.

1944

01:40:43,550 --> 01:40:46,350

And that was my
position at that time.

1945

01:40:46,350 --> 01:40:48,980

So it was written,
it was published

1946

01:40:48,980 --> 01:40:51,470

in that Jewish
underground press.

1947

01:40:51,470 --> 01:40:54,600

It was read by
many of my friends,

1948

01:40:54,600 --> 01:40:58,230

including Jewish friends,
but also ethnic Lithuanians.

1949

01:40:58,230 --> 01:41:01,520

And my friends agreed
with that, including

1950

01:41:01,520 --> 01:41:04,370

my Jewish friends, refuseniks.

1951

01:41:04,370 --> 01:41:11,960

Then it leaked to the West,
also before I emigrated.

1952

01:41:11,960 --> 01:41:16,160

And it was translated from
Russian into Lithuanian

1953

01:41:16,160 --> 01:41:18,950

and printed two times--

1954
01:41:18,950 --> 01:41:23,690
once in the emigre
magazine Akiraciai,

1955
01:41:23,690 --> 01:41:27,860
which was very liberal and
very, very good, I would say.

1956
01:41:27,860 --> 01:41:32,570
That was probably the best
Lithuanian magazine ever.

1957
01:41:32,570 --> 01:41:36,680
And who had the totally
correct attitude

1958
01:41:36,680 --> 01:41:41,270
towards Holocaust and towards
the Lithuanian participation

1959
01:41:41,270 --> 01:41:42,590
in the Holocaust.

1960
01:41:42,590 --> 01:41:44,930
They printed it.

1961
01:41:44,930 --> 01:41:50,480
And then-- that's a long
story, but finally I

1962
01:41:50,480 --> 01:41:52,760
was given permission
to emigrate.

1963
01:41:52,760 --> 01:41:56,390
Well, what I
remember from this--

1964
01:41:56,390 --> 01:41:58,370
again from several decades ago--

1965

01:41:58,370 --> 01:42:01,580
is that it also went into the
Lithuanian underground press.

1966
01:42:01,580 --> 01:42:04,710
And wasn't it that you've
got some sort of responses.

1967
01:42:04,710 --> 01:42:07,910
Yes, but I was already
in the United States

1968
01:42:07,910 --> 01:42:09,230
when I got that response.

1969
01:42:09,230 --> 01:42:09,950
I see.

1970
01:42:09,950 --> 01:42:10,580
I see.

1971
01:42:10,580 --> 01:42:11,840
Then I got the response.

1972
01:42:11,840 --> 01:42:15,680
Then I finally--

1973
01:42:15,680 --> 01:42:17,090
Was Emigrating?

1974
01:42:17,090 --> 01:42:18,560
I emigrated.

1975
01:42:18,560 --> 01:42:21,020
I joined the Helsinki group.

1976
01:42:21,020 --> 01:42:25,820
And then the authorities
had only two choices, either

1977
01:42:25,820 --> 01:42:27,830
to imprison on me--

1978
01:42:27,830 --> 01:42:32,720
which was inconvenient
because my case was famous--

1979
01:42:32,720 --> 01:42:36,290
partly also because
of my family name--

1980
01:42:36,290 --> 01:42:39,590
but I don't think that
that was the main cause.

1981
01:42:39,590 --> 01:42:43,520
The main cause was that my
case was known in the West.

1982
01:42:43,520 --> 01:42:47,510

1983
01:42:47,510 --> 01:42:51,800
My case was discussed by Czeslaw
Milosz, by Josef Brodsky,

1984
01:42:51,800 --> 01:42:56,040
by Arthur Miller, of all
people, and so on and so on.

1985
01:42:56,040 --> 01:43:01,070
And it was very inconvenient to
imprison such a person, better

1986
01:43:01,070 --> 01:43:03,830
to let him out.

1987
01:43:03,830 --> 01:43:08,940
I understand the behavior
of the authorities this way.

1988
01:43:08,940 --> 01:43:13,850
Well, he is naive.

1989

01:43:13,850 --> 01:43:16,340
He will perish in the West.

1990
01:43:16,340 --> 01:43:20,360
He will never get a
decent employment.

1991
01:43:20,360 --> 01:43:22,340
He will be very unhappy.

1992
01:43:22,340 --> 01:43:28,670
Most likely he will address
us for letting him back

1993
01:43:28,670 --> 01:43:30,170
to the Soviet Union.

1994
01:43:30,170 --> 01:43:32,000
That will be our victory.

1995
01:43:32,000 --> 01:43:33,530
That did not happen.

1996
01:43:33,530 --> 01:43:36,800
I got a decent employment.

1997
01:43:36,800 --> 01:43:39,500
And I would say even
made a sort of a career

1998
01:43:39,500 --> 01:43:42,200
in the West, which
was very unexpected

1999
01:43:42,200 --> 01:43:43,940
for the Soviet authorities.

2000
01:43:43,940 --> 01:43:46,340
Also unexpected for
the many Lithuanian

2001
01:43:46,340 --> 01:43:52,580

dissidents, who also considered me to be a nomenklatura boy--

2002

01:43:52,580 --> 01:43:57,800
golden Soviet youth-- who will definitely perish in the West

2003

01:43:57,800 --> 01:44:03,740
or will never interest anybody in the West.

2004

01:44:03,740 --> 01:44:04,760
They were also wrong.

2005

01:44:04,760 --> 01:44:08,450
But well, such things happen.

2006

01:44:08,450 --> 01:44:13,310
Now, when we emigrated--

2007

01:44:13,310 --> 01:44:17,690
when I emigrated,
I emigrated still

2008

01:44:17,690 --> 01:44:20,390
as a Soviet citizen
with a Soviet passport.

2009

01:44:20,390 --> 01:44:23,150
But my behavior in
the West was such

2010

01:44:23,150 --> 01:44:27,620
that they stripped me of
my Soviet citizenship.

2011

01:44:27,620 --> 01:44:29,780
I was denied.

2012

01:44:29,780 --> 01:44:33,500
The first, well
probably the tenth.

2013

01:44:33,500 --> 01:44:36,310

The first person stripped
of the Soviet citizenship

2014

01:44:36,310 --> 01:44:41,400

was no one else but Brodsky.

2015

01:44:41,400 --> 01:44:45,810

And it was considered
a punishment worse then

2016

01:44:45,810 --> 01:44:46,950

death punishment.

2017

01:44:46,950 --> 01:44:50,080

2018

01:44:50,080 --> 01:44:53,370

So but that was forgotten.

2019

01:44:53,370 --> 01:44:56,150

The second person stripped
of the Soviet citizen

2020

01:44:56,150 --> 01:44:59,040

was Svetlana Alliluyeva,
Stalin's daughter.

2021

01:44:59,040 --> 01:45:01,170

Stalin's daughter.

2022

01:45:01,170 --> 01:45:03,810

That next person
was Valery Chalidze,

2023

01:45:03,810 --> 01:45:06,030

who was a human rights fighter.

2024

01:45:06,030 --> 01:45:09,660

The fourth person was
Aleksandre Solzhenitsyn, also

2025

01:45:09,660 --> 01:45:12,720

a very well-known person,
the fourth person.

2026

01:45:12,720 --> 01:45:16,410

Then several more persons,
and then my humble person,

2027

01:45:16,410 --> 01:45:19,050

the number nine.

2028

01:45:19,050 --> 01:45:22,560

So I was extremely proud of it.

2029

01:45:22,560 --> 01:45:26,010

To be in one company that
Solzhenitsyn or Chalidze,

2030

01:45:26,010 --> 01:45:30,500

for that matter,
that was something.

2031

01:45:30,500 --> 01:45:36,530

And being in the West, my
first pronouncement was,

2032

01:45:36,530 --> 01:45:39,950

I am not going to ask
for political asylum

2033

01:45:39,950 --> 01:45:43,220

because I am a member of the
Lithuanian-Helsinki group.

2034

01:45:43,220 --> 01:45:46,220

And I would like to
have a possibility

2035

01:45:46,220 --> 01:45:49,640

to come back to Lithuania
and to take part

2036

01:45:49,640 --> 01:45:52,650
in the activities of the
Lithuania-Helsinki group.

2037
01:45:52,650 --> 01:45:55,850
But when they stripped me
of my Soviet citizenship,

2038
01:45:55,850 --> 01:46:00,170
then I asked for the political
asylum, which was granted.

2039
01:46:00,170 --> 01:46:03,510
And in due course I became
an American citizen.

2040
01:46:03,510 --> 01:46:06,230
But I never lost the
Lithuanian citizenship,

2041
01:46:06,230 --> 01:46:07,520
which I still have.

2042
01:46:07,520 --> 01:46:09,530
I have a double citizenship.

2043
01:46:09,530 --> 01:46:13,820
And I would tell that--

2044
01:46:13,820 --> 01:46:17,960
well, both citizens are
very important for me.

2045
01:46:17,960 --> 01:46:19,730
I am proud of both.

2046
01:46:19,730 --> 01:46:24,770
But I'm more-- in a
sense, more important

2047
01:46:24,770 --> 01:46:26,330
for me is the
Lithuanian citizenship

2048
01:46:26,330 --> 01:46:28,100
for a very simple reason.

2049
01:46:28,100 --> 01:46:34,310
The United States will manage
without my help and person,

2050
01:46:34,310 --> 01:46:35,450
if necessary.

2051
01:46:35,450 --> 01:46:40,190
But in Lithuania, I can
make some difference.

2052
01:46:40,190 --> 01:46:42,980
For that reason the
Lithuanian citizenship

2053
01:46:42,980 --> 01:46:45,590
is more important for me.

2054
01:46:45,590 --> 01:46:48,150
Well, but that's a digression.

2055
01:46:48,150 --> 01:46:49,160
Not really.

2056
01:46:49,160 --> 01:46:59,190
So when I left
Lithuania, well, there

2057
01:46:59,190 --> 01:47:03,090
was some reaction in the
Lithuanian immigration.

2058
01:47:03,090 --> 01:47:05,850
But several persons
told me that they

2059
01:47:05,850 --> 01:47:12,240
would put their signature

under my essay about Jews

2060

01:47:12,240 --> 01:47:14,310
and Lithuanians.

2061

01:47:14,310 --> 01:47:18,060
That was-- Algirdas
Julien Greimus,

2062

01:47:18,060 --> 01:47:20,130
a famous French scholar.

2063

01:47:20,130 --> 01:47:24,300
That was [INAUDIBLE],,
an American scholar.

2064

01:47:24,300 --> 01:47:29,820
And several other persons
whom I really respected.

2065

01:47:29,820 --> 01:47:32,130
Whom every Lithuanian respected.

2066

01:47:32,130 --> 01:47:36,480
They said, well, we would put
our signature on your work.

2067

01:47:36,480 --> 01:47:39,735
But there were also lots of
people who would never put

2068

01:47:39,735 --> 01:47:42,000
their signature under my essay.

2069

01:47:42,000 --> 01:47:48,120
And who even attacked me in
the *Emigré* press and also

2070

01:47:48,120 --> 01:47:49,740
anonymously.

2071

01:47:49,740 --> 01:47:55,230

But still, I had
enough of people

2072
01:47:55,230 --> 01:47:59,550
of Lithuanian immigrants,
who supported me,

2073
01:47:59,550 --> 01:48:02,580
including the entire
Akiraciai editorial

2074
01:48:02,580 --> 01:48:06,240
board and the entire people
who contributed to Akiraciai.

2075
01:48:06,240 --> 01:48:08,700
And that was a
very important part

2076
01:48:08,700 --> 01:48:10,610
of the return in immigration.

2077
01:48:10,610 --> 01:48:14,310
President Adamkus, for
example, the President Adamkus

2078
01:48:14,310 --> 01:48:16,080
was one of them.

2079
01:48:16,080 --> 01:48:19,830
And I am more than proud that
he was elected the Lithuanian

2080
01:48:19,830 --> 01:48:26,680
president, because he's a person
absolutely reproachless person

2081
01:48:26,680 --> 01:48:27,480
in any sense.

2082
01:48:27,480 --> 01:48:31,750

2083

01:48:31,750 --> 01:48:35,790

Yes, in Lithuania also
there was an article

2084

01:48:35,790 --> 01:48:41,340

in the underground press which
was also without much rhetoric,

2085

01:48:41,340 --> 01:48:45,780

but which said, well, of course,
the Holocaust is terrible.

2086

01:48:45,780 --> 01:48:49,870

It should not repeat
itself, and so on and so on.

2087

01:48:49,870 --> 01:48:55,980

But the Jews are also
not without their guilt,

2088

01:48:55,980 --> 01:49:00,690

because many of them
supported the Soviets.

2089

01:49:00,690 --> 01:49:03,760

Well, I also wrote an
answer to that person,

2090

01:49:03,760 --> 01:49:06,570

which was printed in
Akiraciai, explaining

2091

01:49:06,570 --> 01:49:10,860

my position, which is different,
which is a different position.

2092

01:49:10,860 --> 01:49:14,880

First of all, if somebody
supports the Soviets that

2093

01:49:14,880 --> 01:49:18,420

does not mean that
every person belonging

2094
01:49:18,420 --> 01:49:21,270
to that ethnic or
religious or racial group

2095
01:49:21,270 --> 01:49:22,500
should be persecuted.

2096
01:49:22,500 --> 01:49:24,300
That does not mean it.

2097
01:49:24,300 --> 01:49:30,960
The person should answer for his
or her deeds and nothing else.

2098
01:49:30,960 --> 01:49:34,750
The Soviets also persecuted
people because, for example,

2099
01:49:34,750 --> 01:49:37,500
not of their nature
or national origin,

2100
01:49:37,500 --> 01:49:39,510
but because of their
social origin--

2101
01:49:39,510 --> 01:49:41,880
because of their
class origin, which

2102
01:49:41,880 --> 01:49:43,950
is also simply unacceptable.

2103
01:49:43,950 --> 01:49:48,790
But this is a different
kind of persecution.

2104
01:49:48,790 --> 01:49:50,850
So I wrote this answer.

2105
01:49:50,850 --> 01:49:54,420

And this answer was also
published in Akiraciai.

2106
01:49:54,420 --> 01:49:57,660
I wrote that I would like
it to be published also

2107
01:49:57,660 --> 01:50:00,090
in the Lithuanian
underground press.

2108
01:50:00,090 --> 01:50:02,130
That was never done.

2109
01:50:02,130 --> 01:50:06,690
But Antanas Terleckas, a
famous Lithuanian dissident

2110
01:50:06,690 --> 01:50:11,100
and underground
fighter, wrote an essay

2111
01:50:11,100 --> 01:50:15,270
in the Lithuanian underground
press supporting my position.

2112
01:50:15,270 --> 01:50:18,450
So I can tell that the
Lithuanian underground,

2113
01:50:18,450 --> 01:50:21,850
at that time,
supported my position.

2114
01:50:21,850 --> 01:50:25,290
Well, that's probably almost
everything I can tell you.

2115
01:50:25,290 --> 01:50:28,360
You know something, I think
we've come close to the end

2116
01:50:28,360 --> 01:50:28,860

then.

2117

01:50:28,860 --> 01:50:29,490

Yes.

2118

01:50:29,490 --> 01:50:31,410

Thank you.

2119

01:50:31,410 --> 01:50:34,170

I think those are the
most important points

2120

01:50:34,170 --> 01:50:38,050

that I wanted to highlight.

2121

01:50:38,050 --> 01:50:39,970

I do have one last question.

2122

01:50:39,970 --> 01:50:40,470

Yes.

2123

01:50:40,470 --> 01:50:41,710

It may be a big one.

2124

01:50:41,710 --> 01:50:45,360

But I hope that it
will not be very big.

2125

01:50:45,360 --> 01:50:48,150

How would you evaluate today?

2126

01:50:48,150 --> 01:50:52,080

How do people in
Lithuania come--

2127

01:50:52,080 --> 01:50:53,970

how do they understand
the Holocaust

2128

01:50:53,970 --> 01:50:57,930

and their own connection
to it, in your view?

2129
01:50:57,930 --> 01:51:03,450
My feeling is that
now it is 50-50.

2130
01:51:03,450 --> 01:51:08,546
That means that when I
wrote my article, "Jews

2131
01:51:08,546 --> 01:51:12,590
and Lithuanians", there
were probably 80 to 20.

2132
01:51:12,590 --> 01:51:14,000
80 not supporting and 20--

2133
01:51:14,000 --> 01:51:17,040
80 not supporting
and 20 supporting--

2134
01:51:17,040 --> 01:51:18,750
now it is 50-50.

2135
01:51:18,750 --> 01:51:23,190
Maybe my supporters
even prevail, especially

2136
01:51:23,190 --> 01:51:25,080
in the younger generation.

2137
01:51:25,080 --> 01:51:33,090
Because they get
lots of letters and I

2138
01:51:33,090 --> 01:51:35,850
am even stopped on
the street and told

2139
01:51:35,850 --> 01:51:39,930
that the people support
me, and so on and so on.

2140

01:51:39,930 --> 01:51:49,050
At the same time I got
hundreds of anonymous internet

2141
01:51:49,050 --> 01:51:53,690
commentaries, which
are generally terrible.

2142
01:51:53,690 --> 01:51:56,360
The internet
commentaries, if this

2143
01:51:56,360 --> 01:52:00,530
is the subconscious
of the people, then

2144
01:52:00,530 --> 01:52:02,600
the subconscious
of our people it's

2145
01:52:02,600 --> 01:52:05,550
in a very, very bad
shape, unfortunately.

2146
01:52:05,550 --> 01:52:09,740
But I think that partly
it is done maybe even

2147
01:52:09,740 --> 01:52:13,430
by Putin and Putin
people, maybe.

2148
01:52:13,430 --> 01:52:14,630
Yes, in part.

2149
01:52:14,630 --> 01:52:18,140
But there is lots
of such comments.

2150
01:52:18,140 --> 01:52:22,530
I learned not to pay
much attention to it.

2151

01:52:22,530 --> 01:52:26,690
And it even gives me some
adrenaline, so to speak.

2152
01:52:26,690 --> 01:52:32,790
But I also get lots of support,
much more than ever before.

2153
01:52:32,790 --> 01:52:37,240

2154
01:52:37,240 --> 01:52:40,430
We can only hope
that it will change.

2155
01:52:40,430 --> 01:52:44,710
And that it will
be 95% of people

2156
01:52:44,710 --> 01:52:53,350
who understand the problem, and
only 5% of very hopeless people

2157
01:52:53,350 --> 01:52:57,770
who don't understand it,
which happened in Germany--

2158
01:52:57,770 --> 01:53:00,700
which maybe was [INAUDIBLE],,
but it happened.

2159
01:53:00,700 --> 01:53:05,050
It happened in Western
Europe, to some degree.

2160
01:53:05,050 --> 01:53:09,200
But also to the degree
50-50, it happened in Poland.

2161
01:53:09,200 --> 01:53:13,060
Poland, in that sense,
it's similar to Lithuania.

2162

01:53:13,060 --> 01:53:17,650

In some sense, maybe even
worse than Lithuania today.

2163

01:53:17,650 --> 01:53:20,560

Because they are even
have a government

2164

01:53:20,560 --> 01:53:29,440

who insists that Polish people
are absolutely beyond reproach.

2165

01:53:29,440 --> 01:53:31,610

They are not.

2166

01:53:31,610 --> 01:53:35,410

So in Lithuania we have
probably less people insisting

2167

01:53:35,410 --> 01:53:37,930

on that and the fact that
Lithuanian people are

2168

01:53:37,930 --> 01:53:40,870

absolutely beyond reproach--

2169

01:53:40,870 --> 01:53:45,460

and government does not
support that position.

2170

01:53:45,460 --> 01:53:48,190

Now but the government's change.

2171

01:53:48,190 --> 01:53:51,280

Now, what else can be told?

2172

01:53:51,280 --> 01:53:58,990

So I hope that in Germany
it took more than 50 years,

2173

01:53:58,990 --> 01:54:05,650

and a very strong effort of
serious people such as Willy

2174
01:54:05,650 --> 01:54:07,388
Brandt, such as Heinrich Boll.

2175
01:54:07,388 --> 01:54:07,930
That's right.

2176
01:54:07,930 --> 01:54:09,550
And many, many others.

2177
01:54:09,550 --> 01:54:13,300
In Lithuania, it also
take time and effort.

2178
01:54:13,300 --> 01:54:17,380
Well, I try to contribute
to that effort.

2179
01:54:17,380 --> 01:54:21,880
The time will go soon, the
time will also do its work.

2180
01:54:21,880 --> 01:54:25,760
If we don't cease to
do out our effort.

2181
01:54:25,760 --> 01:54:26,420
Thank you.

2182
01:54:26,420 --> 01:54:27,170
Thank you.

2183
01:54:27,170 --> 01:54:28,770
Thank you very much.

2184
01:54:28,770 --> 01:54:32,510
I will say then that this
concludes the United States

2185
01:54:32,510 --> 01:54:36,190
Holocaust Memorial Museum
interview with Mr. Tomas

2186
01:54:36,190 --> 01:54:40,490
Venclova on
September 30th, 2018.

2187
01:54:40,490 --> 01:54:43,460
Thank you and excuse
my bad English.

2188
01:54:43,460 --> 01:54:45,050
Your English is wonderful.

2189
01:54:45,050 --> 01:54:45,740
Thank you.

2190
01:54:45,740 --> 01:54:47,290
Thank you.