

1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:04,800

2  
00:00:04,800 --> 00:00:11,220  
This is tape 2 side A and  
we were talking about 1942.

3  
00:00:11,220 --> 00:00:15,270  
And we were talking about  
the conditions there.

4  
00:00:15,270 --> 00:00:15,870  
You said--

5  
00:00:15,870 --> 00:00:21,930  
The condition was everybody  
was working for the Romanian

6  
00:00:21,930 --> 00:00:23,070  
government.

7  
00:00:23,070 --> 00:00:28,440  
All the Jews were afraid and  
oppressed because it's coming--

8  
00:00:28,440 --> 00:00:31,620  
every day, it's coming other  
low for the Jewish people.

9  
00:00:31,620 --> 00:00:32,400  
Such as?

10  
00:00:32,400 --> 00:00:32,910  
Such as--

11  
00:00:32,910 --> 00:00:34,368  
What were some of  
the restrictions?

12  
00:00:34,368 --> 00:00:36,090  
Restriction, you

have to give clothes.

13

00:00:36,090 --> 00:00:37,395

You have to give money.

14

00:00:37,395 --> 00:00:40,140

15

00:00:40,140 --> 00:00:45,240

Sometimes, it's coming  
words from not in the paper

16

00:00:45,240 --> 00:00:49,500

because they don't send in  
the paper, but words from one

17

00:00:49,500 --> 00:00:52,320

family to the other, from  
the Jewish community we have

18

00:00:52,320 --> 00:00:55,500

to send money or we have  
to give some jewelry

19

00:00:55,500 --> 00:01:00,360

because the Romanian government  
want some jewelry because they

20

00:01:00,360 --> 00:01:02,760

want to make some money.

21

00:01:02,760 --> 00:01:07,790

You see the other day a Jewish  
family was picked and sent down

22

00:01:07,790 --> 00:01:12,360

to-- sent in Transnistria,  
over the Dniester.

23

00:01:12,360 --> 00:01:14,670

Any time that you  
heard about something,

24

00:01:14,670 --> 00:01:17,970

they were sent over  
the Dniester is

25

00:01:17,970 --> 00:01:24,120

almost equal they go to die  
because over the Dniester

26

00:01:24,120 --> 00:01:28,110

the condition was so bad,  
they don't send women.

27

00:01:28,110 --> 00:01:29,910

They sent only men.

28

00:01:29,910 --> 00:01:34,890

They were forced, they said it's  
something concentration camp.

29

00:01:34,890 --> 00:01:38,230

They have to work  
12 hours a day.

30

00:01:38,230 --> 00:01:41,550

And very few people,  
they are coming back.

31

00:01:41,550 --> 00:01:45,360

After the war, there  
are some people

32

00:01:45,360 --> 00:01:48,870

what they are coming back  
because the Russian troops,

33

00:01:48,870 --> 00:01:51,300

when they are coming,  
they pick up them

34

00:01:51,300 --> 00:01:53,550

and they go with them and they--

35

00:01:53,550 --> 00:01:54,870  
and Romania.

36  
00:01:54,870 --> 00:01:58,920  
But before the war  
was ending, nobody

37  
00:01:58,920 --> 00:02:01,170  
is coming back  
from Transnistria.

38  
00:02:01,170 --> 00:02:03,542  
Now you said you had no  
radios, no newspapers--

39  
00:02:03,542 --> 00:02:04,500  
We don't have, no, we--

40  
00:02:04,500 --> 00:02:06,420  
What did you know or  
what did your family

41  
00:02:06,420 --> 00:02:09,270  
know what was happening in  
other countries in Europe

42  
00:02:09,270 --> 00:02:10,050  
at that time.

43  
00:02:10,050 --> 00:02:14,850  
I know what's up-- what's going  
on on the other part of Europe

44  
00:02:14,850 --> 00:02:19,050  
and what's going on  
with the American army

45  
00:02:19,050 --> 00:02:22,410  
and the other army where  
they're coming little

46  
00:02:22,410 --> 00:02:24,750  
by little to liberate.

47  
00:02:24,750 --> 00:02:29,610  
Because I have a friend,  
a Romanian friend.

48  
00:02:29,610 --> 00:02:31,410  
I know he's in New York.

49  
00:02:31,410 --> 00:02:35,070  
His family, I said Romanian  
people, not Jewish.

50  
00:02:35,070 --> 00:02:41,760  
But they have a big radio what  
in the night time, we go there

51  
00:02:41,760 --> 00:02:46,680  
and we are listening the  
BBC, British Broadcasting.

52  
00:02:46,680 --> 00:02:49,890  
And from there, they  
have a special hour

53  
00:02:49,890 --> 00:02:53,190  
when they broadcast  
in Romanian language.

54  
00:02:53,190 --> 00:02:56,490  
And to hear from there and  
to know from there what's

55  
00:02:56,490 --> 00:02:59,390  
going on in the rest of Europe.

56  
00:02:59,390 --> 00:03:01,320  
So did you know what was  
happening to the Jews

57  
00:03:01,320 --> 00:03:02,610  
in the other countries?

58

00:03:02,610 --> 00:03:06,210  
No, because they don't--

59  
00:03:06,210 --> 00:03:08,940  
the English people, they  
know what, they find out

60  
00:03:08,940 --> 00:03:11,778  
with the American, they find  
out later what's going to go.

61  
00:03:11,778 --> 00:03:13,570  
So at that point, your  
family did not know.

62  
00:03:13,570 --> 00:03:19,645  
No, no, we know only from  
the BBC what's going on--

63  
00:03:19,645 --> 00:03:20,145  
--military?

64  
00:03:20,145 --> 00:03:21,725  
--with the military side.

65  
00:03:21,725 --> 00:03:23,850  
But what's going on with  
the Jewish, we don't know.

66  
00:03:23,850 --> 00:03:24,767  
You did not know then?

67  
00:03:24,767 --> 00:03:28,260  
No, no, no, no.

68  
00:03:28,260 --> 00:03:30,577  
OK, so you continued in school.

69  
00:03:30,577 --> 00:03:32,910  
Were you ever afraid that you  
yourself were going to get

70

00:03:32,910 --> 00:03:35,360  
picked up?

71  
00:03:35,360 --> 00:03:39,200  
No, I was not afraid  
because in Bucharest

72  
00:03:39,200 --> 00:03:46,730  
after the Legionnaires, after  
the head of the government,

73  
00:03:46,730 --> 00:03:49,100  
Antonescu, he take the power.

74  
00:03:49,100 --> 00:03:52,250  
And he put the army  
against the Legionnaires.

75  
00:03:52,250 --> 00:03:53,570  
And he killed the Legionnaires.

76  
00:03:53,570 --> 00:03:57,380  
And he got rid of them.

77  
00:03:57,380 --> 00:04:03,240  
They were not more picked up  
Jewish people in Bucharest.

78  
00:04:03,240 --> 00:04:05,510  
They were picked up only--

79  
00:04:05,510 --> 00:04:07,210  
I heard of it--

80  
00:04:07,210 --> 00:04:10,370  
in the other part  
of Romania what

81  
00:04:10,370 --> 00:04:14,150  
they don't give enough  
money or they make something

82

00:04:14,150 --> 00:04:18,920  
against the Romanian government,  
they were picked and sent

83  
00:04:18,920 --> 00:04:20,120  
in Transnistria.

84  
00:04:20,120 --> 00:04:23,660  
And Bucharest was,  
as far as I know,

85  
00:04:23,660 --> 00:04:26,570  
because I was living only  
in my little part of--

86  
00:04:26,570 --> 00:04:27,830  
I don't know.

87  
00:04:27,830 --> 00:04:29,480  
It was not nothing--

88  
00:04:29,480 --> 00:04:31,430  
they don't put nothing  
on the newspaper,

89  
00:04:31,430 --> 00:04:36,650  
on the radio that  
everything was not official.

90  
00:04:36,650 --> 00:04:38,780  
Did your family know  
about the pogrom in Iasi?

91  
00:04:38,780 --> 00:04:44,510  
Oh, yes, oh yes, because that's  
coming from family to family

92  
00:04:44,510 --> 00:04:45,740  
the pogrom in Iasi.

93  
00:04:45,740 --> 00:04:49,190  
They have the trains  
what they pick up,



94

00:04:49,190 --> 00:04:52,040

put on the train in  
the wagon for what

95

00:04:52,040 --> 00:04:54,050

they carry cows and everything.

96

00:04:54,050 --> 00:04:57,620

And they go I don't know how  
many weeks with the train.

97

00:04:57,620 --> 00:05:00,830

And they don't give water  
and food to the people.

98

00:05:00,830 --> 00:05:05,060

And the people die there,  
women and kids and men

99

00:05:05,060 --> 00:05:08,020

altogether without  
sanitary, without nothing.

100

00:05:08,020 --> 00:05:09,210

And they were killed.

101

00:05:09,210 --> 00:05:11,700

So they knew, your family knew  
about this [BOTH TALKING]??

102

00:05:11,700 --> 00:05:12,325

Oh, sure, sure.

103

00:05:12,325 --> 00:05:14,150

And what did they say to you?

104

00:05:14,150 --> 00:05:14,900

Who?

105

00:05:14,900 --> 00:05:16,310

Your family.

106  
00:05:16,310 --> 00:05:17,550  
What they say to me?

107  
00:05:17,550 --> 00:05:18,630  
Yeah, I mean, how--

108  
00:05:18,630 --> 00:05:21,950  
I was big enough to  
understand without they

109  
00:05:21,950 --> 00:05:25,710  
to tell me what's going on.

110  
00:05:25,710 --> 00:05:30,650  
And what they remember is also--

111  
00:05:30,650 --> 00:05:34,220  
Was there more  
anti-Semitism in school?

112  
00:05:34,220 --> 00:05:37,383  
There was not anti-Semitism  
because it was a Jewish school.

113  
00:05:37,383 --> 00:05:39,050  
Oh, the high school  
was a Jewish school?

114  
00:05:39,050 --> 00:05:43,910  
The high school, that  
was [PLACE NAME]..

115  
00:05:43,910 --> 00:05:48,590  
After 1944 and the school-- they  
are coming little by little--

116  
00:05:48,590 --> 00:05:50,600  
was also Romanian kids.

117  
00:05:50,600 --> 00:05:53,520  
But before the

war, it was only--

118

00:05:53,520 --> 00:05:55,730

And what craft did you  
learn in school, you said?

119

00:05:55,730 --> 00:05:58,130

The craft I don't  
know in English.

120

00:05:58,130 --> 00:06:00,830

You put some piece  
of metal in this--

121

00:06:00,830 --> 00:06:01,790

going like this.

122

00:06:01,790 --> 00:06:04,160

And there are special  
tools, special--

123

00:06:04,160 --> 00:06:05,440

Tool dying.

124

00:06:05,440 --> 00:06:06,110

Tool dying.

125

00:06:06,110 --> 00:06:08,750

And you take the metal.

126

00:06:08,750 --> 00:06:10,630

And you make different  
form from the--

127

00:06:10,630 --> 00:06:13,400

I don't know what they  
name in English this.

128

00:06:13,400 --> 00:06:14,030

I try.

129

00:06:14,030 --> 00:06:15,140

I don't find my--

130  
00:06:15,140 --> 00:06:17,190  
I have a Romanian-English  
dictionary,

131  
00:06:17,190 --> 00:06:19,340  
but I cannot find it.

132  
00:06:19,340 --> 00:06:21,560  
So now comes 1944.

133  
00:06:21,560 --> 00:06:24,050  
No, before '44.

134  
00:06:24,050 --> 00:06:28,400  
Starting late '43,  
early '44, it's

135  
00:06:28,400 --> 00:06:31,730  
coming day and  
night bombardments.

136  
00:06:31,730 --> 00:06:32,970  
Right.

137  
00:06:32,970 --> 00:06:34,400  
Nighttime--

138  
00:06:34,400 --> 00:06:36,170  
This is the British air force?

139  
00:06:36,170 --> 00:06:39,110  
British and daytime  
the American.

140  
00:06:39,110 --> 00:06:46,391  
And the first time  
when I saw the B-40--

141  
00:06:46,391 --> 00:06:48,500  
the B--

142  
00:06:48,500 --> 00:06:49,460  
B-41?

143  
00:06:49,460 --> 00:06:52,380  
--40, --42, --40-something.

144  
00:06:52,380 --> 00:06:52,880  
I was--

145  
00:06:52,880 --> 00:06:53,520  
--B-47.

146  
00:06:53,520 --> 00:06:54,020  
--47.

147  
00:06:54,020 --> 00:06:54,520  
B-47.

148  
00:06:54,520 --> 00:06:56,000  
I was lying on the ground.

149  
00:06:56,000 --> 00:06:58,460  
I remember it was late spring.

150  
00:06:58,460 --> 00:07:00,140  
I was lying on the ground.

151  
00:07:00,140 --> 00:07:07,730  
And I see on the sky hundred  
of big American bombardiers.

152  
00:07:07,730 --> 00:07:10,370  
Where they are coming,  
they have an air force base

153  
00:07:10,370 --> 00:07:12,650  
in Foggia, Italy.

154  
00:07:12,650 --> 00:07:14,180  
And they are coming from there.

155

00:07:14,180 --> 00:07:15,740

Romania was big oil fields.

156

00:07:15,740 --> 00:07:27,170

And before the war, Romania  
was big oil producer.

157

00:07:27,170 --> 00:07:31,490

And the war time,  
the Germans, they

158

00:07:31,490 --> 00:07:35,360

pump as much as they  
can from the oil field.

159

00:07:35,360 --> 00:07:41,180

The oil field in Romania was  
around Ploiesti, Campina.

160

00:07:41,180 --> 00:07:48,110

And they are coming from Italy  
over Yugoslavia to the oil

161

00:07:48,110 --> 00:07:49,790

field to burn the oil.

162

00:07:49,790 --> 00:07:55,760

They bomb also-- and Bucharest  
was a big rail station.

163

00:07:55,760 --> 00:08:00,240

And I remember I have  
some friends in the part--

164

00:08:00,240 --> 00:08:01,220

this part of Bucharest.

165

00:08:01,220 --> 00:08:04,100

I was after a big  
American bombardment.

166

00:08:04,100 --> 00:08:07,190  
All the railroad was like this.

167  
00:08:07,190 --> 00:08:09,410  
Because they go  
and they drop bomb

168  
00:08:09,410 --> 00:08:13,730  
to cut all the communication.

169  
00:08:13,730 --> 00:08:17,780  
And Romania was close to--

170  
00:08:17,780 --> 00:08:26,570  
downtown Romania was a girl  
orthodox girl high school,

171  
00:08:26,570 --> 00:08:28,820  
all the girls from  
there, they carried

172  
00:08:28,820 --> 00:08:35,179  
crosses with Romanian flag band.

173  
00:08:35,179 --> 00:08:42,049  
It's red, yellow, and  
blue and with the cross.

174  
00:08:42,049 --> 00:08:47,940  
And the Romanian government,  
they close the school.

175  
00:08:47,940 --> 00:08:52,160  
And they put in the  
school was a camp

176  
00:08:52,160 --> 00:08:56,240  
for all the American  
pilots, what they--

177  
00:08:56,240 --> 00:08:57,740  
Prisoners of war, you mean?

178

00:08:57,740 --> 00:09:01,310

Not-- the pilot, what  
they shoot their plane.

179

00:09:01,310 --> 00:09:04,300

And then the pilot, they take  
them and they put there--

180

00:09:04,300 --> 00:09:05,120

As prisoners?

181

00:09:05,120 --> 00:09:10,400

Prisoners, around the school  
was the 100% safest place.

182

00:09:10,400 --> 00:09:12,150

Because when they are coming--

183

00:09:12,150 --> 00:09:15,110

not a bomb, they put there  
because they know there that

184

00:09:15,110 --> 00:09:16,460

their boys there.

185

00:09:16,460 --> 00:09:18,440

And I remember this.

186

00:09:18,440 --> 00:09:21,650

And it was hard time.

187

00:09:21,650 --> 00:09:25,395

Because we cannot  
sleep in the daytime.

188

00:09:25,395 --> 00:09:26,770

We cannot sleep  
in the nighttime.

189

00:09:26,770 --> 00:09:31,130

It was almost around  
the day bombardments.



190  
00:09:31,130 --> 00:09:32,690  
Were there bomb shelters?

191  
00:09:32,690 --> 00:09:37,340  
We have in our backyard, we  
have in our house a back yard.

192  
00:09:37,340 --> 00:09:41,720  
And we dig a long hole.

193  
00:09:41,720 --> 00:09:45,230  
And they covered with some  
wood and the dirt above.

194  
00:09:45,230 --> 00:09:49,100  
Anytime there was a  
bombardment, we go there.

195  
00:09:49,100 --> 00:09:54,050  
And I have our little injury  
here because one time,

196  
00:09:54,050 --> 00:09:57,020  
I go too late in the shelter.

197  
00:09:57,020 --> 00:10:02,210  
And a piece of metal from  
an American bomb what was

198  
00:10:02,210 --> 00:10:07,520  
close to us when I  
started going down--

199  
00:10:07,520 --> 00:10:15,700  
and that was late  
'43, early '44.

200  
00:10:15,700 --> 00:10:22,350  
I remember it was a day  
in 1944, summer '44.

201

00:10:22,350 --> 00:10:24,950

I was in downtown  
Bucharest when they

202

00:10:24,950 --> 00:10:27,140  
are coming, the Russian troops.

203

00:10:27,140 --> 00:10:30,370

204

00:10:30,370 --> 00:10:32,970  
And that's not  
important because they

205

00:10:32,970 --> 00:10:36,120  
are coming with tanks and--

206

00:10:36,120 --> 00:10:38,490  
my father, he was--  
because my father

207

00:10:38,490 --> 00:10:42,290  
was born in Russia,  
Bessarabia at this time.

208

00:10:42,290 --> 00:10:44,070  
And he was born-- was Russian.

209

00:10:44,070 --> 00:10:45,390  
He speaks Russian.

210

00:10:45,390 --> 00:10:47,970  
Immediately after the  
Russian coming to Bucharest

211

00:10:47,970 --> 00:10:51,360  
was a big black  
market with watches.

212

00:10:51,360 --> 00:10:53,950  
Because they don't-- for  
the Russian at this time,

213

00:10:53,950 --> 00:10:56,970

it was a big deal  
to have a watch.

214

00:10:56,970 --> 00:10:59,400

And they pay a lot of rubles.

215

00:10:59,400 --> 00:11:03,270

And they exchange their  
rubles and to have watches.

216

00:11:03,270 --> 00:11:07,770

And they sell them all lemons.

217

00:11:07,770 --> 00:11:10,230

My father because he was--

218

00:11:10,230 --> 00:11:14,940

he was-- his heart was  
always close to the Russian

219

00:11:14,940 --> 00:11:18,240

because he was born in Russia.

220

00:11:18,240 --> 00:11:21,180

Sometimes he forgot  
he was a Jew.

221

00:11:21,180 --> 00:11:24,690

But for all the people  
around the world,

222

00:11:24,690 --> 00:11:30,580

they have to understand  
because the Jewish,

223

00:11:30,580 --> 00:11:32,680

for the Jewish  
people and Romanian,

224

00:11:32,680 --> 00:11:38,080

the part of Europe what

was before the German was

225

00:11:38,080 --> 00:11:41,900  
the Russian were for the  
Jews and they are coming.

226

00:11:41,900 --> 00:11:43,960  
They were their gods.

227

00:11:43,960 --> 00:11:49,390  
Because they liberated  
us from our big oppressor

228

00:11:49,390 --> 00:11:51,505  
which was the German  
and the Nazis.

229

00:11:51,505 --> 00:11:54,280

230

00:11:54,280 --> 00:11:57,970  
I don't want to-- excuse  
me-- that was later

231

00:11:57,970 --> 00:12:01,360  
one of the reason because  
a lot of Jewish people

232

00:12:01,360 --> 00:12:06,130  
was involved in the communism.

233

00:12:06,130 --> 00:12:10,240  
Ana Pauker, I don't know if--

234

00:12:10,240 --> 00:12:15,700  
she was big rabbi daughter.

235

00:12:15,700 --> 00:12:19,450  
And she was the biggest  
number one Romanian

236

00:12:19,450 --> 00:12:21,340

in the Communist Party.

237

00:12:21,340 --> 00:12:24,970  
Was Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej,  
the general secretary

238

00:12:24,970 --> 00:12:27,730  
because he was Romanian name.

239

00:12:27,730 --> 00:12:34,390  
But the big, the powerful  
man at this time in Romania

240

00:12:34,390 --> 00:12:40,990  
was Ana Pauker, a rabbi  
daughter, French teacher

241

00:12:40,990 --> 00:12:43,030  
in a Jewish high school.

242

00:12:43,030 --> 00:12:45,160  
She was born and raised.

243

00:12:45,160 --> 00:12:51,250  
He was in Stalin's  
entourage, was Jewish.

244

00:12:51,250 --> 00:12:54,910  
I don't want to excuse  
her because she killed,

245

00:12:54,910 --> 00:12:59,800  
not with her hands, with other  
hands, a lot of Jewish people.

246

00:12:59,800 --> 00:13:02,680  
What did you feel like when the  
Russian tanks were coming in?

247

00:13:02,680 --> 00:13:05,050  
Heaven, I felt heaven.

248

00:13:05,050 --> 00:13:10,660  
Because I have on my mind,  
nobody will kill anymore.

249  
00:13:10,660 --> 00:13:15,550  
But later, I find they  
don't kill us directly,

250  
00:13:15,550 --> 00:13:18,250  
but indirectly  
they will kill us.

251  
00:13:18,250 --> 00:13:22,090  
I remember, again, my father  
was a Russian [? spy. ?]

252  
00:13:22,090 --> 00:13:26,050  
I remember one day, my  
father is coming from work

253  
00:13:26,050 --> 00:13:30,820  
with a Russian polokovnik,  
Russian colonel,

254  
00:13:30,820 --> 00:13:32,860  
very friendly with him.

255  
00:13:32,860 --> 00:13:33,610  
He's coming.

256  
00:13:33,610 --> 00:13:34,150  
He's coming.

257  
00:13:34,150 --> 00:13:37,420  
My mother, second  
mother, third mother-

258  
00:13:37,420 --> 00:13:39,680  
I don't know- put a big table.

259  
00:13:39,680 --> 00:13:41,960  
We have a big party  
with the Russian.

260  
00:13:41,960 --> 00:13:42,460  
Jew--

261  
00:13:42,460 --> 00:13:43,300  
This in '44?

262  
00:13:43,300 --> 00:13:47,290  
That was '44 immediately  
after the Russian,

263  
00:13:47,290 --> 00:13:49,030  
they are coming from Bucharest.

264  
00:13:49,030 --> 00:13:50,230  
He was a Jew.

265  
00:13:50,230 --> 00:13:56,740  
And he said to us in Yiddish,  
"I'm a Jew from Kharkiv.

266  
00:13:56,740 --> 00:13:59,680  
All of my family in Kharkiv--

267  
00:13:59,680 --> 00:14:03,730  
parents, wife, kids--  
were killed from German.

268  
00:14:03,730 --> 00:14:09,220  
I don't have nothing else in  
my heart, only to go in Berlin.

269  
00:14:09,220 --> 00:14:12,850  
And after, I have to  
make what I have to make.

270  
00:14:12,850 --> 00:14:14,440  
And after, I can die.

271  
00:14:14,440 --> 00:14:15,550  
I don't care.

272

00:14:15,550 --> 00:14:18,760

But for you--" he  
said, and all my life

273

00:14:18,760 --> 00:14:26,650

I've had his words in my head,  
"for you [INAUDIBLE] leave."

274

00:14:26,650 --> 00:14:30,340

And everybody was looking, why?

275

00:14:30,340 --> 00:14:31,960

You are coming.

276

00:14:31,960 --> 00:14:33,160

You are here.

277

00:14:33,160 --> 00:14:34,900

You liberated us.

278

00:14:34,900 --> 00:14:36,760

Why we have to leave?

279

00:14:36,760 --> 00:14:39,700

And he said, you  
don't know what's

280

00:14:39,700 --> 00:14:44,290

in Russia, what's  
over the big liberator

281

00:14:44,290 --> 00:14:47,830

and big communism,  
big anti-Semitism,

282

00:14:47,830 --> 00:14:52,360

is the biggest anti-Semitism  
in the world is in Russia."

283

00:14:52,360 --> 00:14:54,100

Later, we find out.



284

00:14:54,100 --> 00:14:58,270

But in this time, we  
cannot understand why.

285

00:14:58,270 --> 00:15:00,230

OK, it's 1944.

286

00:15:00,230 --> 00:15:01,420

That's 1944.

287

00:15:01,420 --> 00:15:04,630

And then what happened?

288

00:15:04,630 --> 00:15:06,820

Your life, the  
Russians had come in.

289

00:15:06,820 --> 00:15:07,840

You stayed in school.

290

00:15:07,840 --> 00:15:09,370

Your father was  
continuing to work.

291

00:15:09,370 --> 00:15:11,380

--to work.

292

00:15:11,380 --> 00:15:13,720

Did you have enough food?

293

00:15:13,720 --> 00:15:16,600

Little, but OK.

294

00:15:16,600 --> 00:15:18,880

They send in Romania  
Russian advisors.

295

00:15:18,880 --> 00:15:21,760

296

00:15:21,760 --> 00:15:25,524

I was working in 19--

297

00:15:25,524 --> 00:15:31,780

no, they send in, they send  
in Romania Russian advisors.

298

00:15:31,780 --> 00:15:36,670

And was not in '40--

299

00:15:36,670 --> 00:15:38,500

'44, little by little--

300

00:15:38,500 --> 00:15:42,550

in [? '44, ?] they start  
to take everything.

301

00:15:42,550 --> 00:15:49,120

Because the Romanian army, they  
make so many damage in Russia

302

00:15:49,120 --> 00:15:52,810

and they kill so many  
people, the Russian people.

303

00:15:52,810 --> 00:15:56,020

And they take  
everything from them.

304

00:15:56,020 --> 00:15:59,140

The Russian, they are  
looking for revenge.

305

00:15:59,140 --> 00:16:02,620

And they take from  
Romania everything.

306

00:16:02,620 --> 00:16:05,380

307

00:16:05,380 --> 00:16:07,120

They rationalized food.

308

00:16:07,120 --> 00:16:09,190  
We don't have more bread.

309  
00:16:09,190 --> 00:16:13,120  
And then was the fascist  
government, we have bread.

310  
00:16:13,120 --> 00:16:16,060  
We have not too  
much sugar, not too

311  
00:16:16,060 --> 00:16:18,970  
much oil, not too much meat.

312  
00:16:18,970 --> 00:16:21,910  
On the black market, you  
pay them, you can have.

313  
00:16:21,910 --> 00:16:27,020  
But when the Russians, they are  
coming, they take everything.

314  
00:16:27,020 --> 00:16:28,220  
We don't have more bread.

315  
00:16:28,220 --> 00:16:34,820  
We have corn meal  
baked in the oven.

316  
00:16:34,820 --> 00:16:36,920  
Because there was  
not more bread.

317  
00:16:36,920 --> 00:16:39,900  
Nothing, they take everything.

318  
00:16:39,900 --> 00:16:42,350  
And because it  
was not two rules,

319  
00:16:42,350 --> 00:16:45,200  
one for the Jewish  
people, one for--

320  
00:16:45,200 --> 00:16:49,100  
everybody was on  
the same [? bus ?]..

321  
00:16:49,100 --> 00:16:52,370  
And it was starting  
bad, bad time.

322  
00:16:52,370 --> 00:16:57,710

323  
00:16:57,710 --> 00:17:00,090  
We were not afraid to be killed.

324  
00:17:00,090 --> 00:17:04,250  
But we feel on our  
stomach and our everything

325  
00:17:04,250 --> 00:17:09,050  
was not more clothes, not more  
food, nothing was [INAUDIBLE]..

326  
00:17:09,050 --> 00:17:17,720  
And that started little  
by little to grow up--

327  
00:17:17,720 --> 00:17:20,790  
not directly the  
communism parties,

328  
00:17:20,790 --> 00:17:24,020  
but what they named  
the progressive party,

329  
00:17:24,020 --> 00:17:26,630  
that was the  
beginning of the what

330  
00:17:26,630 --> 00:17:30,710  
later what was the  
communist party.

331

00:17:30,710 --> 00:17:35,570

And because all the Jewish  
people were-- in Romania were--

332

00:17:35,570 --> 00:17:39,380

not all of them, it is not  
right to say all of them, 80%

333

00:17:39,380 --> 00:17:43,760

was with the Russian,  
all the Jew I have,

334

00:17:43,760 --> 00:17:46,430

colleagues in my high  
school would later

335

00:17:46,430 --> 00:17:52,670

become big security officers  
in the Romanian security.

336

00:17:52,670 --> 00:17:56,120

Do you know what was  
the Romanian security?

337

00:17:56,120 --> 00:18:00,770

That was KGB, like  
KGB in Russia was

338

00:18:00,770 --> 00:18:03,170

Romanian security in Romania.

339

00:18:03,170 --> 00:18:06,680

And colleagues, Jewish  
people what I have--

340

00:18:06,680 --> 00:18:12,410

and I sit on the class with  
other guy, Goldenberg Solomon,

341

00:18:12,410 --> 00:18:15,410

Goldenberg Jew.

342

00:18:15,410 --> 00:18:17,270  
Later, I meet with him.

343  
00:18:17,270 --> 00:18:19,850  
And because later  
I become a Zionist

344  
00:18:19,850 --> 00:18:23,360  
and I was in a youth  
Zionist organization,

345  
00:18:23,360 --> 00:18:27,080  
he's looking to me like enemy.

346  
00:18:27,080 --> 00:18:32,630  
He was a security officer,  
a captain or something,

347  
00:18:32,630 --> 00:18:34,280  
[INAUDIBLE] something.

348  
00:18:34,280 --> 00:18:38,060  
And he was looking  
to me like his enemy.

349  
00:18:38,060 --> 00:18:40,910

350  
00:18:40,910 --> 00:18:43,910  
I remember I have  
other colleagues,

351  
00:18:43,910 --> 00:18:47,790  
one or two year older than me,  
[? Leonoble ?] [? Barbo. ?] He

352  
00:18:47,790 --> 00:18:48,290  
was--

353  
00:18:48,290 --> 00:18:50,540  
Are you talking about  
before the war is over--

354

00:18:50,540 --> 00:18:52,040

No, no, no, no,  
after the war was--

355

00:18:52,040 --> 00:18:54,110

Well, let's do '44-'45 first.

356

00:18:54,110 --> 00:18:55,500

'44, the war was over.

357

00:18:55,500 --> 00:18:56,000

Over.

358

00:18:56,000 --> 00:18:59,450

Because in '44, for  
Romania, the war was over.

359

00:18:59,450 --> 00:19:01,190

The Russian troops  
were in Romania.

360

00:19:01,190 --> 00:19:02,570

Right.

361

00:19:02,570 --> 00:19:04,640

I'm talking about  
after or before--

362

00:19:04,640 --> 00:19:06,740

OK, so now it's '45--

363

00:19:06,740 --> 00:19:10,520

After it's '45 was  
freedom, especially

364

00:19:10,520 --> 00:19:11,910

for the Jewish people.

365

00:19:11,910 --> 00:19:14,280

We don't feel more oppressed.

366

00:19:14,280 --> 00:19:17,660

We don't have more-- we are  
not more afraid to be killed.

367

00:19:17,660 --> 00:19:21,560

Or everybody was starting  
to make some business

368

00:19:21,560 --> 00:19:23,600

with something like this.

369

00:19:23,600 --> 00:19:28,290

But was the big problem in our  
life with everything because--

370

00:19:28,290 --> 00:19:28,790

Such as?

371

00:19:28,790 --> 00:19:33,890

Such as food, such as--

372

00:19:33,890 --> 00:19:36,110

What was it like to feel free?

373

00:19:36,110 --> 00:19:39,522

To feel free-- for me,  
because I'm 44, I was 15.

374

00:19:39,522 --> 00:19:42,080

375

00:19:42,080 --> 00:19:45,470

Did your life change a lot?

376

00:19:45,470 --> 00:19:50,720

No, it was not too much  
changing in my life.

377

00:19:50,720 --> 00:19:54,710

Because I was working, I  
remember, in the same store

378



00:19:54,710 --> 00:19:57,110  
what my father was working.

379  
00:19:57,110 --> 00:19:59,090  
I helped them to  
make some money.

380  
00:19:59,090 --> 00:20:01,955

381  
00:20:01,955 --> 00:20:03,920  
I remember I had friends.

382  
00:20:03,920 --> 00:20:13,190  
We go together on Friday  
evening or Saturday evening

383  
00:20:13,190 --> 00:20:14,930  
was special places.

384  
00:20:14,930 --> 00:20:17,540  
We go to some clubs.

385  
00:20:17,540 --> 00:20:18,860  
We have little parties.

386  
00:20:18,860 --> 00:20:19,670  
We dance.

387  
00:20:19,670 --> 00:20:24,545  
And they are starting  
with the American music.

388  
00:20:24,545 --> 00:20:26,640  
"Chattanooga Choo  
Choo" and everything,

389  
00:20:26,640 --> 00:20:28,100  
what is coming from there.

390  
00:20:28,100 --> 00:20:30,170  
And we can enjoy.

391  
00:20:30,170 --> 00:20:33,170  
Later, it was hard to  
find something like this.

392  
00:20:33,170 --> 00:20:35,010  
Because the communists  
and the Russians,

393  
00:20:35,010 --> 00:20:36,350  
they take little by little.

394  
00:20:36,350 --> 00:20:38,750  
And everything was cut.

395  
00:20:38,750 --> 00:20:40,460  
But at this time, we have--

396  
00:20:40,460 --> 00:20:42,770  
we feel the freedom.

397  
00:20:42,770 --> 00:20:46,805  
And you felt comfortable about  
being Jewish on the street?

398  
00:20:46,805 --> 00:20:50,055  
I remember at the high school--

399  
00:20:50,055 --> 00:20:50,775  
'45.

400  
00:20:50,775 --> 00:20:52,970  
--I have a music teacher.

401  
00:20:52,970 --> 00:20:59,290

402  
00:20:59,290 --> 00:21:01,100  
I don't remember his name.

403  
00:21:01,100 --> 00:21:04,420

He was also in the  
big Jewish temple

404  
00:21:04,420 --> 00:21:08,860  
in downtown Bucharest,  
Temple Coral,

405  
00:21:08,860 --> 00:21:12,400  
he was the music arranger.

406  
00:21:12,400 --> 00:21:14,230  
And because I need  
some money and I

407  
00:21:14,230 --> 00:21:16,700  
have my voice was  
a good voice, he

408  
00:21:16,700 --> 00:21:23,620  
have for all the huppahs, all  
the weddings boys in the choir.

409  
00:21:23,620 --> 00:21:31,000  
And last year, I was in Romania  
and I was in the same place.

410  
00:21:31,000 --> 00:21:34,750  
And I have [? Coral-- ?]  
[? Schwartzmann, ?]

411  
00:21:34,750 --> 00:21:38,290  
[? Schwartzmann, ?]  
that was his name.

412  
00:21:38,290 --> 00:21:42,790  
And to make some money  
every Saturday-- in Romania,

413  
00:21:42,790 --> 00:21:45,490  
the Jewish wedding  
was Saturdays.

414  
00:21:45,490 --> 00:21:50,930

And we go there on  
the second level.

415  
00:21:50,930 --> 00:21:53,230  
And we have our little organ.

416  
00:21:53,230 --> 00:21:56,710  
And we have the boy chorus.

417  
00:21:56,710 --> 00:21:58,270  
And we enjoy the time--

418  
00:21:58,270 --> 00:22:01,360

419  
00:22:01,360 --> 00:22:05,450  
except the food  
and something else.

420  
00:22:05,450 --> 00:22:12,010  
But once we feel freedom and  
we saw some American boys--

421  
00:22:12,010 --> 00:22:13,550  
not too many--

422  
00:22:13,550 --> 00:22:14,390  
American soldiers.

423  
00:22:14,390 --> 00:22:17,250  
--American soldiers,  
[? Ameris ?]..

424  
00:22:17,250 --> 00:22:19,180  
Could you speak any English--

425  
00:22:19,180 --> 00:22:20,243  
No, no, no.

426  
00:22:20,243 --> 00:22:20,910  
--at that point?

427

00:22:20,910 --> 00:22:24,490

Later, I go to and I have--  
after this, I have problem.

428

00:22:24,490 --> 00:22:26,560

I go to the American  
library when

429

00:22:26,560 --> 00:22:28,420

the communists take the power.

430

00:22:28,420 --> 00:22:30,923

They have the list from  
the American Library.

431

00:22:30,923 --> 00:22:32,590

OK, now let's, now  
that the war is over,

432

00:22:32,590 --> 00:22:35,950

let's just talk generally what  
happened to you in your life.

433

00:22:35,950 --> 00:22:37,330

What's happened to me?

434

00:22:37,330 --> 00:22:39,820

How long did you  
stay in Bucharest?

435

00:22:39,820 --> 00:22:43,630

Until 1976.

436

00:22:43,630 --> 00:22:44,927

All right, so the war is over.

437

00:22:44,927 --> 00:22:45,760

And what did you do?

438

00:22:45,760 --> 00:22:47,860

You stayed in  
school for how long?

439  
00:22:47,860 --> 00:22:51,760  
I stayed in school until--

440  
00:22:51,760 --> 00:22:52,330  
What year?

441  
00:22:52,330 --> 00:22:57,717

442  
00:22:57,717 --> 00:22:59,130  
OK.

443  
00:22:59,130 --> 00:22:59,640  
Till '46.

444  
00:22:59,640 --> 00:23:01,050  
And then what did you do?

445  
00:23:01,050 --> 00:23:06,270  
Still I go to work and I was a--

446  
00:23:06,270 --> 00:23:15,420  
one of the biggest Romanian  
factory what they built.

447  
00:23:15,420 --> 00:23:21,460  
Train, locomotives, and  
wagon was the name they give

448  
00:23:21,460 --> 00:23:31,230  
[INAUDIBLE] that's manufactured  
23rd August, that was they

449  
00:23:31,230 --> 00:23:37,920  
put the name and they liberate,  
the Russians [INAUDIBLE]

450  
00:23:37,920 --> 00:23:39,930  
factory 23 August.

451

00:23:39,930 --> 00:23:40,620  
I was there.

452  
00:23:40,620 --> 00:23:44,790  
And I was working on my  
craft, my craft what I know.

453  
00:23:44,790 --> 00:23:47,880  
And I make some money.

454  
00:23:47,880 --> 00:23:49,500  
I helped my family.

455  
00:23:49,500 --> 00:23:53,100  
And I remember--

456  
00:23:53,100 --> 00:23:59,070  
I don't know the date when they  
change the Romanian currency.

457  
00:23:59,070 --> 00:24:02,340  
Because it was a lot of rich  
people, but they have money.

458  
00:24:02,340 --> 00:24:07,710  
And to cut their money, they  
make so monetary reforms

459  
00:24:07,710 --> 00:24:09,120  
to cut their money.

460  
00:24:09,120 --> 00:24:11,850  
And I remember because  
we were worker there.

461  
00:24:11,850 --> 00:24:13,890  
And all the communist  
bosses, they

462  
00:24:13,890 --> 00:24:17,520  
are coming to attract the  
workers to their party.

463

00:24:17,520 --> 00:24:22,380

And it was money reforms.

464

00:24:22,380 --> 00:24:23,910

They give us money.

465

00:24:23,910 --> 00:24:28,380

Because we were the  
later worker parties.

466

00:24:28,380 --> 00:24:29,700

And then I give my--

467

00:24:29,700 --> 00:24:33,660

and I take the money, the new  
money, fresh, fresh money.

468

00:24:33,660 --> 00:24:35,460

And I give my father--

469

00:24:35,460 --> 00:24:40,350

he was-- because he was working  
for private, they couldn't.

470

00:24:40,350 --> 00:24:44,250

But he was working for  
the government factories.

471

00:24:44,250 --> 00:24:45,390

I give his money.

472

00:24:45,390 --> 00:24:46,740

I go with him.

473

00:24:46,740 --> 00:24:49,080

And we have not in  
the neighborhood,

474

00:24:49,080 --> 00:24:52,440

but not too far  
from an open market.



475

00:24:52,440 --> 00:24:56,400

And he can buy with  
this money food

476

00:24:56,400 --> 00:24:58,860

for I don't know  
how many months.

477

00:24:58,860 --> 00:25:02,100

The rest of the people we  
have in our neighborhood,

478

00:25:02,100 --> 00:25:05,050

some Jewish, some  
little businessmen,

479

00:25:05,050 --> 00:25:07,260

they were bankrupt.

480

00:25:07,260 --> 00:25:10,230

Because they cannot  
exchange their money.

481

00:25:10,230 --> 00:25:12,420

That was one of the  
way to cut there.

482

00:25:12,420 --> 00:25:16,600

483

00:25:16,600 --> 00:25:19,560

So then you were working--

484

00:25:19,560 --> 00:25:25,050

They started to attract me  
to the Youth Communist Party.

485

00:25:25,050 --> 00:25:26,910

Because I was working.

486

00:25:26,910 --> 00:25:29,850

I have all the--

487  
00:25:29,850 --> 00:25:37,140  
I was the big icon  
because I was educated.

488  
00:25:37,140 --> 00:25:38,235  
I was a Jew.

489  
00:25:38,235 --> 00:25:42,060

490  
00:25:42,060 --> 00:25:43,680  
Because I was a  
Jew, they are not

491  
00:25:43,680 --> 00:25:46,720  
afraid I was a  
Legionnaire or a fascist.

492  
00:25:46,720 --> 00:25:50,910  
And I have all the  
cards in my hands.

493  
00:25:50,910 --> 00:25:54,870  
And they start to attract  
me to the young communists.

494  
00:25:54,870 --> 00:25:56,700  
But I don't like them.

495  
00:25:56,700 --> 00:25:57,930  
I dislike them.

496  
00:25:57,930 --> 00:26:05,680  
And I go little by little to  
our young Zionist organization.

497  
00:26:05,680 --> 00:26:07,635  
The name our organization was--

498  
00:26:07,635 --> 00:26:17,080

499

00:26:17,080 --> 00:26:18,670  
that was part of my party.

500

00:26:18,670 --> 00:26:21,670

501

00:26:21,670 --> 00:26:24,370  
I was in a kibbutz Beit Horim.

502

00:26:24,370 --> 00:26:25,860  
Maybe later, I don't remember.

503

00:26:25,860 --> 00:26:26,693  
It will come to you.

504

00:26:26,693 --> 00:26:27,650  
I don't remember.

505

00:26:27,650 --> 00:26:30,070  
And I was attracted there.

506

00:26:30,070 --> 00:26:35,620  
And I feel from the beginning  
so much they educated me.

507

00:26:35,620 --> 00:26:39,780

508

00:26:39,780 --> 00:26:41,880  
And I have so many  
friends there.

509

00:26:41,880 --> 00:26:45,240

510

00:26:45,240 --> 00:26:50,170  
I want to give my life for  
the Zionist organization.

511

00:26:50,170 --> 00:26:51,420

There was no problem of that--

512

00:26:51,420 --> 00:26:54,240

Was not a problem, was freedom.

513

00:26:54,240 --> 00:27:02,730

There are coming,  
all the big people

514

00:27:02,730 --> 00:27:04,680

from the communist organization.

515

00:27:04,680 --> 00:27:07,080

They have money coming  
from the United States,

516

00:27:07,080 --> 00:27:09,090

from the Jewish agency.

517

00:27:09,090 --> 00:27:16,050

And I was an [? ashkara. ?] And  
in the countryside of Romania,

518

00:27:16,050 --> 00:27:18,570

we have kibbutzim there.

519

00:27:18,570 --> 00:27:25,800

And that was till  
'49 when they cut,

520

00:27:25,800 --> 00:27:30,030

the communists cut all  
the Zionist organizations.

521

00:27:30,030 --> 00:27:31,920

Everything was cut.

522

00:27:31,920 --> 00:27:40,710

And the-- not the big  
bosses, the people,

523

00:27:40,710 --> 00:27:43,260

the biggest people in the  
community organization,

524

00:27:43,260 --> 00:27:46,230

they put in the prison,  
they put them in the prison.

525

00:27:46,230 --> 00:27:50,212

And the prison, Romanian prison,  
they put the Jewish people what

526

00:27:50,212 --> 00:27:54,933

they have-- what they  
educate the young Zionists,

527

00:27:54,933 --> 00:27:55,800

they put them in--

528

00:27:55,800 --> 00:27:57,467

The Zionist put in  
there, in the prison.

529

00:27:57,467 --> 00:28:03,150

They put in the prison  
was a Hashomer Hatzair.

530

00:28:03,150 --> 00:28:09,870

Hashomer Hatzair was left  
hand Zionist organization.

531

00:28:09,870 --> 00:28:11,640

And I have friends there.

532

00:28:11,640 --> 00:28:14,850

Later when they cut the  
Zionist organization

533

00:28:14,850 --> 00:28:19,440

and they don't give them the  
green light to leave Romania,

534

00:28:19,440 --> 00:28:22,500

later they are coming--

they are becoming communist.

535

00:28:22,500 --> 00:28:25,320

And I have heard  
people, Jewish people

536

00:28:25,320 --> 00:28:32,310

from Romania, what before  
they were Hashomer Hatzair.

537

00:28:32,310 --> 00:28:34,710

Later, they were student  
in the Soviet Union.

538

00:28:34,710 --> 00:28:37,350

And they make engineering  
in the Soviet Union

539

00:28:37,350 --> 00:28:40,560

because they were smart  
people, educated people,

540

00:28:40,560 --> 00:28:44,310

and they need these  
people to be leader,

541

00:28:44,310 --> 00:28:49,620

bigger bosses in the Romanian  
factories and everything.

542

00:28:49,620 --> 00:28:52,880

And they were the best.

543

00:28:52,880 --> 00:28:55,590

Let's go back in time a  
little bit after the war

544

00:28:55,590 --> 00:28:57,810

when you and your  
family heard about what

545

00:28:57,810 --> 00:29:01,690

happened to the other Jews

in Europe and the camps.

546

00:29:01,690 --> 00:29:04,615

Do you remember hearing  
about that, finding out?

547

00:29:04,615 --> 00:29:05,115

Later--

548

00:29:05,115 --> 00:29:08,720

549

00:29:08,720 --> 00:29:11,650

Do you remember what  
it was like to hear?

550

00:29:11,650 --> 00:29:18,740

Something in late '45,  
'46, little by little,

551

00:29:18,740 --> 00:29:21,840

we find out what's going  
on with other Jews from--

552

00:29:21,840 --> 00:29:22,590

What had happened.

553

00:29:22,590 --> 00:29:24,640

--what's happened  
with the other Jews

554

00:29:24,640 --> 00:29:29,920

from Europe, especially from  
Germany before [INAUDIBLE] war

555

00:29:29,920 --> 00:29:31,690

what's happened to  
all of the Jewish,

556

00:29:31,690 --> 00:29:35,050

what the Jewish people,  
the Russians and the German

557

00:29:35,050 --> 00:29:37,030

was there and they  
killed them all.

558

00:29:37,030 --> 00:29:40,960

And after this, we find  
out what's happening,

559

00:29:40,960 --> 00:29:45,460

Anne Frank and what's happening  
with the Jewish people from

560

00:29:45,460 --> 00:29:48,968

Italy what they call them  
under [INAUDIBLE] and--

561

00:29:48,968 --> 00:29:51,010

So that took some time  
after the war for you to--

562

00:29:51,010 --> 00:29:51,520

Some time--

563

00:29:51,520 --> 00:29:52,270

--for you to hear.

564

00:29:52,270 --> 00:29:55,600

What I want to mention  
because my second mother,

565

00:29:55,600 --> 00:29:58,240

she was from the  
part of Romania what

566

00:29:58,240 --> 00:30:01,390

was under the Bulgarian rules.

567

00:30:01,390 --> 00:30:06,380

And they have in  
Bulgaria her family.

568

00:30:06,380 --> 00:30:11,530



We find out after the  
war, the Bulgarian army--

569  
00:30:11,530 --> 00:30:14,770  
not only the Bulgarian  
army, the Bulgarian people

570  
00:30:14,770 --> 00:30:18,430  
have a lot of respect from them.

571  
00:30:18,430 --> 00:30:23,290  
They save all the  
Jewish community.

572  
00:30:23,290 --> 00:30:27,990  
They don't kill  
Jews in Bulgaria.

573  
00:30:27,990 --> 00:30:33,580  
And this time was the King  
Boris in Bulgaria something,

574  
00:30:33,580 --> 00:30:35,320  
Bulgarian army.

575  
00:30:35,320 --> 00:30:37,480  
They save Jewish people.

576  
00:30:37,480 --> 00:30:41,410  
They save-- and I have a lot  
of respect for the Bulgarians.

577  
00:30:41,410 --> 00:30:45,460  
I meet here some Jewish  
Bulgarian people.

578  
00:30:45,460 --> 00:30:59,760

579  
00:30:59,760 --> 00:31:02,970  
This is tape 2  
side B. And you had

580

00:31:02,970 --> 00:31:04,860

said you were a member  
of the Zionist group.

581

00:31:04,860 --> 00:31:09,810

I was a member of  
the Dror Habonim.

582

00:31:09,810 --> 00:31:11,950

We're talking about  
after the war now.

583

00:31:11,950 --> 00:31:18,150

We're talking about-- we're  
talking about '46, late '46.

584

00:31:18,150 --> 00:31:20,490

I was in the Zionist group.

585

00:31:20,490 --> 00:31:22,380

I was very happy.

586

00:31:22,380 --> 00:31:28,260

I have a lot of friends,  
girls and boys, young men.

587

00:31:28,260 --> 00:31:30,750

And I enjoyed the  
time when I was

588

00:31:30,750 --> 00:31:33,000

in the Zionist organization.

589

00:31:33,000 --> 00:31:37,530

I was working with my father.

590

00:31:37,530 --> 00:31:43,380

I was working with--

591

00:31:43,380 --> 00:31:48,960

spending time without making  
nothing, something like this.

592  
00:31:48,960 --> 00:31:52,020  
That was the '46, late '46.

593  
00:31:52,020 --> 00:31:59,400  
And I have girlfriends  
and boyfriends.

594  
00:31:59,400 --> 00:32:06,245  
And I remember because I was  
in the technical school there

595  
00:32:06,245 --> 00:32:11,250  
are coming people from  
around the school there

596  
00:32:11,250 --> 00:32:15,270  
was some Jewish people  
and we make some--

597  
00:32:15,270 --> 00:32:18,510  
I work for them to  
make some money.

598  
00:32:18,510 --> 00:32:25,800  
And I was [? akshara. ?]  
[? Akshara ?] is--

599  
00:32:25,800 --> 00:32:31,440  
I was in Bukovina,  
other part of Romania,

600  
00:32:31,440 --> 00:32:36,780  
to have, to be trained for that.

601  
00:32:36,780 --> 00:32:41,790  
Because our goal was to leave  
Romania and go in Israel

602  
00:32:41,790 --> 00:32:43,560  
to work in the kibbutzim.

603

00:32:43,560 --> 00:32:45,300

And to work on  
the kibbutzim, you

604

00:32:45,300 --> 00:32:46,740

build an [? akshara ?]  
in Romania

605

00:32:46,740 --> 00:32:52,290

to have the training on  
the field to milk cows,

606

00:32:52,290 --> 00:32:56,250

to all kind of--

607

00:32:56,250 --> 00:33:00,330

but was problem on the kibbutzim  
because was all over Romania

608

00:33:00,330 --> 00:33:02,490

no food, no food.

609

00:33:02,490 --> 00:33:04,230

And we have a problem there.

610

00:33:04,230 --> 00:33:07,740

And I have some health problem.

611

00:33:07,740 --> 00:33:10,830

And I'm coming back  
to my father house.

612

00:33:10,830 --> 00:33:20,880

And I was in a Jewish  
hospital because I have some--

613

00:33:20,880 --> 00:33:24,810

614

00:33:24,810 --> 00:33:27,320

the youth have acnes.

615

00:33:27,320 --> 00:33:28,340  
You don't have acne.

616  
00:33:28,340 --> 00:33:31,730  
I have big like acne where  
they have to operate me.

617  
00:33:31,730 --> 00:33:34,450  
That's coming all  
from the bad food.

618  
00:33:34,450 --> 00:33:37,730  
If you don't have enough  
calcium, enough protein.

619  
00:33:37,730 --> 00:33:45,960  
And a big, big problem.

620  
00:33:45,960 --> 00:33:51,460  
And I was very depressed  
in 1949 when they

621  
00:33:51,460 --> 00:33:54,100  
cut the Zionist organization.

622  
00:33:54,100 --> 00:34:00,250  
Because I was always I was  
thinking, I am a Zionist

623  
00:34:00,250 --> 00:34:02,600  
and I have to go to Israel.

624  
00:34:02,600 --> 00:34:05,920  
And they cut the  
Zionist organization.

625  
00:34:05,920 --> 00:34:09,370  
One of the reason because  
they cut was to [? dump-- ?]

626  
00:34:09,370 --> 00:34:12,940  
because they find  
out little by little,

627  
00:34:12,940 --> 00:34:15,940  
Israel is more attached  
to the United States

628  
00:34:15,940 --> 00:34:20,199  
than to the Russian, that  
was the main problem.

629  
00:34:20,199 --> 00:34:25,360  
Israel was more attached to  
the United States than Stalin,

630  
00:34:25,360 --> 00:34:28,989  
the representative  
voted the United Nation

631  
00:34:28,989 --> 00:34:31,969  
to establish the state of  
Israel, one of his goal

632  
00:34:31,969 --> 00:34:36,820  
was Israel was to the  
left side and he will--

633  
00:34:36,820 --> 00:34:40,960  
when Israel was attached  
more to the United States.

634  
00:34:40,960 --> 00:34:43,000  
The communists find  
out they don't have

635  
00:34:43,000 --> 00:34:45,961  
to subsidize there with what?

636  
00:34:45,961 --> 00:34:50,949  
With people, cut people, don't  
more immigration to Israel.

637  
00:34:50,949 --> 00:34:55,210  
And I was very depressed.

638

00:34:55,210 --> 00:35:00,340

And I don't know  
what I have to do.

639

00:35:00,340 --> 00:35:03,370

And because I have to--

640

00:35:03,370 --> 00:35:05,950

to make money, to  
make a living, I

641

00:35:05,950 --> 00:35:19,090

go in a Romanian factory,  
the 23 August factory.

642

00:35:19,090 --> 00:35:20,580

And I was working there.

643

00:35:20,580 --> 00:35:22,380

And I make some money.

644

00:35:22,380 --> 00:35:24,180

I have mine.

645

00:35:24,180 --> 00:35:28,140

I helped my father, my family.

646

00:35:28,140 --> 00:35:33,440

And that was the life in  
Romania for this time.

647

00:35:33,440 --> 00:35:35,520

I changed.

648

00:35:35,520 --> 00:35:39,780

Because I don't like too  
much to be a craftsman.

649

00:35:39,780 --> 00:35:52,950

And my aunt then some relation  
with big boss, a communist

650

00:35:52,950 --> 00:36:00,410  
or Jewish guy who was the CEO--

651

00:36:00,410 --> 00:36:04,290  
see if you can name it, a  
big director, a big chairman,

652

00:36:04,290 --> 00:36:10,260  
on other manufactures in  
Bucharest, the Republica,

653

00:36:10,260 --> 00:36:15,000  
Republic, part of the  
name, of the pipe,

654

00:36:15,000 --> 00:36:19,020  
big pipes for the oil fields.

655

00:36:19,020 --> 00:36:23,460  
And I was moving there  
like a draftsmen.

656

00:36:23,460 --> 00:36:26,720  
I started working because  
I had from the high school,

657

00:36:26,720 --> 00:36:28,410  
they teach us drafting.

658

00:36:28,410 --> 00:36:29,550  
I have the skill.

659

00:36:29,550 --> 00:36:32,730  
I go there and I start  
working like a draftsman.

660

00:36:32,730 --> 00:36:36,150  
And I make more money.

661

00:36:36,150 --> 00:36:37,800  
I have other kinds of living.



662

00:36:37,800 --> 00:36:42,030

I was not with all the dirty  
people, all the low level

663

00:36:42,030 --> 00:36:43,020

people in the factory.

664

00:36:43,020 --> 00:36:46,500

I was in the offices.

665

00:36:46,500 --> 00:36:52,110

The guy's name I want to mention  
his name because he was a good

666

00:36:52,110 --> 00:37:02,180

man helping people, [? Pesa ?]  
[? Vexsler. ?] That was

667

00:37:02,180 --> 00:37:07,280

the chief engineer from the  
Republica factory in Bucharest

668

00:37:07,280 --> 00:37:07,940

at this time.

669

00:37:07,940 --> 00:37:10,520

I believe he's a long time dead.

670

00:37:10,520 --> 00:37:12,740

But he was a good  
man, a helping man.

671

00:37:12,740 --> 00:37:13,820

He helped.

672

00:37:13,820 --> 00:37:15,110

I sent him a letter.

673

00:37:15,110 --> 00:37:17,570

And I say, I'm a  
Jew, such and such,

674

00:37:17,570 --> 00:37:20,570

I was in a Zionist organization.

675

00:37:20,570 --> 00:37:21,740

I cannot find more--

676

00:37:21,740 --> 00:37:23,960

I want to work.

677

00:37:23,960 --> 00:37:24,950

He hired me.

678

00:37:24,950 --> 00:37:26,420

And I worked for him.

679

00:37:26,420 --> 00:37:28,490

How long did you stay there?

680

00:37:28,490 --> 00:37:37,520

I stayed there from 1948 to '50.

681

00:37:37,520 --> 00:37:48,980

In 1950, I move from there to  
was the Institute of Project--

682

00:37:48,980 --> 00:37:52,190

Study and Project of Romania  
[? electification. ?]

683

00:37:52,190 --> 00:37:55,520

That was a big, big office.

684

00:37:55,520 --> 00:37:58,850

Because the communists,  
they want to--

685

00:37:58,850 --> 00:38:04,790

one of their goal was to  
electrificate Romania.

686

00:38:04,790 --> 00:38:08,120

Because for their future,  
they need factories.

687  
00:38:08,120 --> 00:38:10,340  
They need heavy industry.

688  
00:38:10,340 --> 00:38:13,970  
And heavy industry  
is the other word

689  
00:38:13,970 --> 00:38:18,770  
is electricity, more  
electricity, more power.

690  
00:38:18,770 --> 00:38:26,870  
And I start and the short term  
for this was ISPE, I-S-P-E.

691  
00:38:26,870 --> 00:38:31,400  
And I started working  
there like a draftsman.

692  
00:38:31,400 --> 00:38:34,130  
And little by little, I go up.

693  
00:38:34,130 --> 00:38:39,140  
And I was a designer  
and a senior designer.

694  
00:38:39,140 --> 00:38:42,620  
When I left Romania  
in 1976, I was--

695  
00:38:42,620 --> 00:38:43,700  
I was a senior--

696  
00:38:43,700 --> 00:38:46,940  
So you stayed with  
that until 1976?

697  
00:38:46,940 --> 00:38:49,670  
26 years from 1950 to '76.

698

00:38:49,670 --> 00:38:51,773  
And then what happened in 19--

699

00:38:51,773 --> 00:38:57,440  
1950, I was working, I was  
a lot of Jewish engineers.

700

00:38:57,440 --> 00:39:00,650  
They helped me there.

701

00:39:00,650 --> 00:39:03,950  
And I was working.

702

00:39:03,950 --> 00:39:05,420  
I meet my wife.

703

00:39:05,420 --> 00:39:11,240  
Because she was working  
like a estimator there.

704

00:39:11,240 --> 00:39:19,950  
I meet my wife there in 1955.

705

00:39:19,950 --> 00:39:26,110  
My father with his wife, my  
stepmother, his third wife,

706

00:39:26,110 --> 00:39:29,460  
and my sister,  
they put the paper.

707

00:39:29,460 --> 00:39:33,360  
And they have the  
approval to go in Israel.

708

00:39:33,360 --> 00:39:36,180  
I can't-- my sister was a minor.

709

00:39:36,180 --> 00:39:40,620  
And she put-- she was on  
the same paper with them.

710

00:39:40,620 --> 00:39:43,050

I was major, I  
cannot put the paper.

711

00:39:43,050 --> 00:39:45,300

I put my paper.

712

00:39:45,300 --> 00:39:49,050

And I cannot-- they don't  
give me the approval to leave

713

00:39:49,050 --> 00:39:55,200

Romania because I was working  
for this damn project.

714

00:39:55,200 --> 00:39:57,480

And I was working  
for electrification.

715

00:39:57,480 --> 00:40:00,660

And for this reason  
I know secrets.

716

00:40:00,660 --> 00:40:05,070

And they don't give me the  
green light to leave Romania.

717

00:40:05,070 --> 00:40:12,930

And they leave, they  
left Romania in 1955.

718

00:40:12,930 --> 00:40:16,500

And they have a hard time in  
Israel because at this time,

719

00:40:16,500 --> 00:40:20,220

Israel was not enough buildings.

720

00:40:20,220 --> 00:40:24,370

They [? Yokne'am ?], I  
visit [? Yokne'am ?]..

721

00:40:24,370 --> 00:40:26,040

They were living  
in [? Yokne'am ?]..

722

00:40:26,040 --> 00:40:32,250

That's between Tel Aviv and  
Yerushalayim in a little town.

723

00:40:32,250 --> 00:40:35,475

They were living in a tent.

724

00:40:35,475 --> 00:40:38,910

725

00:40:38,910 --> 00:40:44,310

And my sister, she was in army.

726

00:40:44,310 --> 00:40:48,630

She meet a guy and she  
wanted to marry him.

727

00:40:48,630 --> 00:40:53,670

My father said, no because his  
wife, she don't like Israel.

728

00:40:53,670 --> 00:40:56,520

She was Jewish, she  
don't like Israel.

729

00:40:56,520 --> 00:41:00,330

And she wanted to  
come back to Romania.

730

00:41:00,330 --> 00:41:02,640

And they are coming  
back to Romania.

731

00:41:02,640 --> 00:41:04,020

That was--

732

00:41:04,020 --> 00:41:05,070

Three of them come back?

733

00:41:05,070 --> 00:41:06,237

--between all three of them.

734

00:41:06,237 --> 00:41:11,650

735

00:41:11,650 --> 00:41:18,940

There was very, very,  
very few Jewish people.

736

00:41:18,940 --> 00:41:23,320

All my friends, all my  
family, all my neighbors,

737

00:41:23,320 --> 00:41:26,530

everything-- everybody  
was leaving for Israel.

738

00:41:26,530 --> 00:41:28,420

And they make a living there.

739

00:41:28,420 --> 00:41:31,030

My father, his wife, and  
my sister, my sister,

740

00:41:31,030 --> 00:41:32,617

she don't want to come back.

741

00:41:32,617 --> 00:41:33,700

Because she want to marry.

742

00:41:33,700 --> 00:41:35,500

She met a guy there.

743

00:41:35,500 --> 00:41:38,350

My father said, no,  
you are coming with us.

744

00:41:38,350 --> 00:41:39,520

And she's coming back.

745

00:41:39,520 --> 00:41:43,250

746

00:41:43,250 --> 00:41:57,750

And they left Romania  
in 1950 and they

747

00:41:57,750 --> 00:42:01,150

are coming back in 1955.

748

00:42:01,150 --> 00:42:02,820

Now when did you get married?

749

00:42:02,820 --> 00:42:07,080

I was married in 1956.

750

00:42:07,080 --> 00:42:08,950

My wife is not Jewish.

751

00:42:08,950 --> 00:42:12,180

She's a Romanian Christian.

752

00:42:12,180 --> 00:42:13,020

And--

753

00:42:13,020 --> 00:42:15,120

And then you stayed until 1976.

754

00:42:15,120 --> 00:42:16,638

I stay.

755

00:42:16,638 --> 00:42:18,180

Did you have any  
children in Romania?

756

00:42:18,180 --> 00:42:22,320

I have two children in  
Romania, my daughter Irina,

757

00:42:22,320 --> 00:42:32,410

she is born in May 29, '63.



758

00:42:32,410 --> 00:42:38,700

And my son, September 29, '67.

759

00:42:38,700 --> 00:42:42,480

760

00:42:42,480 --> 00:42:43,970

And--

761

00:42:43,970 --> 00:42:47,050

And then in 1976, you  
said you left Romania?

762

00:42:47,050 --> 00:42:51,940

And I was working for them.

763

00:42:51,940 --> 00:42:53,650

I don't have a bad time.

764

00:42:53,650 --> 00:42:56,050

I have consideration there.

765

00:42:56,050 --> 00:42:57,100

I have respect.

766

00:42:57,100 --> 00:42:59,200

I was working hard.

767

00:42:59,200 --> 00:43:01,670

And I have a problem.

768

00:43:01,670 --> 00:43:04,570

I have a problem,  
I told you before,

769

00:43:04,570 --> 00:43:13,240

because in 1945, '46 I was  
to find out about the United

770

00:43:13,240 --> 00:43:15,370

States, about what's going on.

771  
00:43:15,370 --> 00:43:21,910  
They have American library  
in downtown Romania--

772  
00:43:21,910 --> 00:43:26,440  
in downtown Bucharest close  
to the American embassy.

773  
00:43:26,440 --> 00:43:27,550  
And I was there.

774  
00:43:27,550 --> 00:43:31,930  
And I see movies, books.

775  
00:43:31,930 --> 00:43:36,340  
And they have the lists after  
the communists take the power,

776  
00:43:36,340 --> 00:43:38,240  
the security take the lists.

777  
00:43:38,240 --> 00:43:39,190  
The list of what?

778  
00:43:39,190 --> 00:43:41,080  
The list of names, who were--

779  
00:43:41,080 --> 00:43:42,040  
Oh, who came there?

780  
00:43:42,040 --> 00:43:45,430  
Who came there because after  
the communist take the power,

781  
00:43:45,430 --> 00:43:52,720  
everything was imperialist,  
capitalist, profit,

782  
00:43:52,720 --> 00:43:56,090  
the bigger troublemaker  
in the world,

783  
00:43:56,090 --> 00:43:58,120  
that was all the  
name of the game.

784  
00:43:58,120 --> 00:43:59,950  
And they called me  
to the security.

785  
00:43:59,950 --> 00:44:02,050  
And they gave me a hard time.

786  
00:44:02,050 --> 00:44:03,460  
In what way?

787  
00:44:03,460 --> 00:44:05,890  
In what way?

788  
00:44:05,890 --> 00:44:07,450  
You have to shut up.

789  
00:44:07,450 --> 00:44:09,010  
You have to go to work.

790  
00:44:09,010 --> 00:44:12,940  
And don't raise your eyes.

791  
00:44:12,940 --> 00:44:17,710  
You want to read the American,  
the big imperialist literature,

792  
00:44:17,710 --> 00:44:20,110  
you want to be an American spy?

793  
00:44:20,110 --> 00:44:23,950

794  
00:44:23,950 --> 00:44:26,860  
And I was working hard.

795  
00:44:26,860 --> 00:44:31,720

796

00:44:31,720 --> 00:44:38,980

In 1950, '51, I go  
youth communists

797

00:44:38,980 --> 00:44:41,240

because it was a [INAUDIBLE].

798

00:44:41,240 --> 00:44:45,910

When they find out I  
have my family in Israel,

799

00:44:45,910 --> 00:44:47,260

they expelled--

800

00:44:47,260 --> 00:44:51,700

they take-- they expelled  
me from the communists.

801

00:44:51,700 --> 00:44:55,390

Because everything what  
was Israel was imperialist

802

00:44:55,390 --> 00:45:02,140

and Israel and the United  
States was one piece for them.

803

00:45:02,140 --> 00:45:07,600

And I have some hard time, but  
because I was a hard worker

804

00:45:07,600 --> 00:45:14,110

and I go all over Romania with  
engineers and we make work

805

00:45:14,110 --> 00:45:21,370

and to make big factories and  
I meet in the Romanian country,

806

00:45:21,370 --> 00:45:24,970

which I was in  
North Transylvania,

807  
00:45:24,970 --> 00:45:32,030  
and I meet with very  
religious Jewish people

808  
00:45:32,030 --> 00:45:37,180  
there, in north Transylvania.

809  
00:45:37,180 --> 00:45:40,720  
They were cut from  
everything, from everything.

810  
00:45:40,720 --> 00:45:43,210  
I meet with all kinds of people.

811  
00:45:43,210 --> 00:45:47,860  
I go and I see a lot of  
obelisks and monuments

812  
00:45:47,860 --> 00:45:53,050  
from what they built there  
for the big Jewish community

813  
00:45:53,050 --> 00:45:56,860  
in north Transylvania  
what was part of Hungary.

814  
00:45:56,860 --> 00:45:57,880  
And they killed.

815  
00:45:57,880 --> 00:46:01,370  
They sent them to  
concentration camps.

816  
00:46:01,370 --> 00:46:09,160  
And was for me was that has  
to be, I have to stay there

817  
00:46:09,160 --> 00:46:11,510  
for all of my life.

818  
00:46:11,510 --> 00:46:13,750

There is not other way.

819  
00:46:13,750 --> 00:46:19,060  
I try over the year  
to push again my paper

820  
00:46:19,060 --> 00:46:26,110  
to leave Romania, always  
I have, "no, no, no,

821  
00:46:26,110 --> 00:46:31,110  
you are a need for us to build  
Romanian electrification.

822  
00:46:31,110 --> 00:46:34,180  
You have to stay to help us."

823  
00:46:34,180 --> 00:46:43,670  
And they give me in Bucharest  
outskirts an apartment.

824  
00:46:43,670 --> 00:46:48,080  
They give me with rent  
brand new apartment.

825  
00:46:48,080 --> 00:46:54,170  
Every institution, every  
office, they give their profit

826  
00:46:54,170 --> 00:46:56,750  
to the government.

827  
00:46:56,750 --> 00:47:00,230  
And the government,  
they built buildings.

828  
00:47:00,230 --> 00:47:04,640  
And they said, your institution  
have five apartments,

829  
00:47:04,640 --> 00:47:09,050  
you have to give to your most  
precious, what everybody what

830  
00:47:09,050 --> 00:47:11,030  
you think is a need for them.

831  
00:47:11,030 --> 00:47:13,400  
And they are working  
hard for you.

832  
00:47:13,400 --> 00:47:17,990  
The reward was you give them an  
apartment, not own apartment,

833  
00:47:17,990 --> 00:47:19,100  
to pay rent.

834  
00:47:19,100 --> 00:47:22,490  
They give me apartment,  
nice apartment.

835  
00:47:22,490 --> 00:47:26,690  
A nice, small, but a living  
room and two bedrooms.

836  
00:47:26,690 --> 00:47:29,450  
In one bedroom, I was  
living me and my wife

837  
00:47:29,450 --> 00:47:35,120  
and the little boy,  
the other bedroom

838  
00:47:35,120 --> 00:47:39,810  
was for my daughter brand new.

839  
00:47:39,810 --> 00:47:44,090  
At this time, when I'm looking  
back, that was a nothing.

840  
00:47:44,090 --> 00:47:48,440  
But for the time being  
there was something.

841

00:47:48,440 --> 00:47:51,950  
And I said, that's my life.

842  
00:47:51,950 --> 00:47:54,170  
I have to spend it.

843  
00:47:54,170 --> 00:48:06,560  
In 1976, early '76, I receive a  
letter from the Romanian police

844  
00:48:06,560 --> 00:48:10,580  
that they are  
handling the paper.

845  
00:48:10,580 --> 00:48:14,090  
Mr. Ghelman-- Then,  
I put the paper,

846  
00:48:14,090 --> 00:48:17,270  
I put the paper to  
leave for Israel.

847  
00:48:17,270 --> 00:48:21,950  
Mr. Ghelman you have the  
approval to leave for Israel.

848  
00:48:21,950 --> 00:48:27,310

849  
00:48:27,310 --> 00:48:36,390  
I want to mention  
in 1964, '63, '64,

850  
00:48:36,390 --> 00:48:40,840  
my sister, before this,  
she married a Jewish guy

851  
00:48:40,840 --> 00:48:42,030  
in Bucharest.

852  
00:48:42,030 --> 00:48:43,680  
They have a child.



853

00:48:43,680 --> 00:48:44,670

They had boy.

854

00:48:44,670 --> 00:48:49,650

And they left for  
good in Israel.

855

00:48:49,650 --> 00:48:55,500

And you have to go--

856

00:48:55,500 --> 00:49:01,895

you have that approval to  
go in Israel first time.

857

00:49:01,895 --> 00:49:04,400

I write a letter to my  
sister and say I'm coming.

858

00:49:04,400 --> 00:49:10,070

And she said, Ionel, because  
you are a Jew, you are Jewish

859

00:49:10,070 --> 00:49:11,675

and your wife is not Jewish.

860

00:49:11,675 --> 00:49:14,360

It is not the best for  
to come to go to Israel.

861

00:49:14,360 --> 00:49:18,050

Because always, I have  
two kids, always, the kids

862

00:49:18,050 --> 00:49:19,850

and Israel, they--

863

00:49:19,850 --> 00:49:24,340

864

00:49:24,340 --> 00:49:28,300

because it is, Israel,  
the religions part

865  
00:49:28,300 --> 00:49:30,130  
is ruled by the rabbis.

866  
00:49:30,130 --> 00:49:33,850  
And always, the rabbi  
said the religious,

867  
00:49:33,850 --> 00:49:39,400  
the kids religion  
is mother's side.

868  
00:49:39,400 --> 00:49:43,090  
They will not have a  
hard time, but it is not

869  
00:49:43,090 --> 00:49:45,290  
the best for them.

870  
00:49:45,290 --> 00:49:48,550  
So I said, what I have to do,  
I go to the Romanian police.

871  
00:49:48,550 --> 00:49:51,880  
And I said, I don't want  
to go more in Israel.

872  
00:49:51,880 --> 00:49:56,720  
They guy said, was a colonel,  
Mr. Ghelman before they don't

873  
00:49:56,720 --> 00:50:00,370  
talk with you with mister--  
mister was a forbidden word,

874  
00:50:00,370 --> 00:50:03,870  
[INAUDIBLE].

875  
00:50:03,870 --> 00:50:08,160  
Mister because when you have the  
approval to left, you have not

876

00:50:08,160 --> 00:50:09,720  
[INAUDIBLE] a  
camera to be there.

877  
00:50:09,720 --> 00:50:11,190  
You are mister.

878  
00:50:11,190 --> 00:50:14,750  
Mister, are you crazy?

879  
00:50:14,750 --> 00:50:18,560  
I said, look, if I  
can go somewhere else?

880  
00:50:18,560 --> 00:50:20,900  
They said, "no problem."

881  
00:50:20,900 --> 00:50:24,170  
Make a piece of paper and said,  
"Where do you want to go?"

882  
00:50:24,170 --> 00:50:26,330  
And you will have--

883  
00:50:26,330 --> 00:50:28,070  
you will have approval.

884  
00:50:28,070 --> 00:50:29,570  
Later on, I understand why.

885  
00:50:29,570 --> 00:50:34,250  
Because in 1975, United  
States give Romania

886  
00:50:34,250 --> 00:50:36,470  
the most favored nation.

887  
00:50:36,470 --> 00:50:38,180  
Instead of this,  
they said you have

888  
00:50:38,180 --> 00:50:44,180

to give the green light to  
so many, not Jewish, Germans.

889  
00:50:44,180 --> 00:50:48,740  
And Mr. CeauÈ™escu  
for this, for bucks,

890  
00:50:48,740 --> 00:50:51,980  
because he received  
greenbacks, he said,

891  
00:50:51,980 --> 00:50:58,620  
that's the best trade  
for us, people for money.

892  
00:50:58,620 --> 00:51:02,240  
And I said I want to leave  
for the United States.

893  
00:51:02,240 --> 00:51:05,330  
In the next two weeks,  
I have the old passport,

894  
00:51:05,330 --> 00:51:10,100  
what was Israel, erase  
Israel and put USA.

895  
00:51:10,100 --> 00:51:16,880  
I go to the United States  
embassy because I cannot have

896  
00:51:16,880 --> 00:51:20,180  
directly the entrance  
to the United States,

897  
00:51:20,180 --> 00:51:23,030  
not what's going  
on in California.

898  
00:51:23,030 --> 00:51:28,040  
They go over the fence and  
they are in the United States.

899

00:51:28,040 --> 00:51:30,540

And you cannot  
do-- you have to--

900

00:51:30,540 --> 00:51:33,320

I have to go to  
the official way.

901

00:51:33,320 --> 00:51:38,330

I go to the American embassy  
and was at this time in 1976,

902

00:51:38,330 --> 00:51:41,030

it was a vice  
consular Jewish guy.

903

00:51:41,030 --> 00:51:42,980

I don't remember his name.

904

00:51:42,980 --> 00:51:46,970

He said, you cannot  
have the entrance,

905

00:51:46,970 --> 00:51:51,153

but there's HIAS in Paris.

906

00:51:51,153 --> 00:51:52,070

You know what is HIAS?

907

00:51:52,070 --> 00:51:54,950

908

00:51:54,950 --> 00:51:56,690

You have to go to Paris.

909

00:51:56,690 --> 00:52:02,240

So I sell all my  
belongings what I

910

00:52:02,240 --> 00:52:05,750

have because I carry only  
some suitcases and that's it,

911  
00:52:05,750 --> 00:52:08,490  
nothing else.

912  
00:52:08,490 --> 00:52:09,890  
And we go to Paris.

913  
00:52:09,890 --> 00:52:14,030  
But to go to Paris, I have  
to go to Hungarian embassy

914  
00:52:14,030 --> 00:52:15,530  
to have the transit.

915  
00:52:15,530 --> 00:52:18,500  
And I have to go to the German.

916  
00:52:18,500 --> 00:52:20,000  
I don't have problem  
with Hungarian.

917  
00:52:20,000 --> 00:52:21,980  
I don't have a  
problem with France.

918  
00:52:21,980 --> 00:52:24,050  
I have a problem with German.

919  
00:52:24,050 --> 00:52:27,920  
Because at this name  
was West Germany.

920  
00:52:27,920 --> 00:52:31,520  
And West Germany  
embassy said that you

921  
00:52:31,520 --> 00:52:34,460  
don't have our visa because  
a lot of Jewish people,

922  
00:52:34,460 --> 00:52:37,520  
they have the transit  
and they go down

923  
00:52:37,520 --> 00:52:41,690  
and we don't have  
more money to work.

924  
00:52:41,690 --> 00:52:43,880  
I said, that's the only way.

925  
00:52:43,880 --> 00:52:47,660  
I wait I don't know  
how many years.

926  
00:52:47,660 --> 00:52:49,790  
So I go back to the  
United States embassy.

927  
00:52:49,790 --> 00:52:52,280  
And the guy who I  
told, he said, look,

928  
00:52:52,280 --> 00:52:59,810  
I give you a not a permanent  
visa, only a visit visa.

929  
00:52:59,810 --> 00:53:02,630  
Go to show to the  
German embassy.

930  
00:53:02,630 --> 00:53:06,470  
You have our green light.

931  
00:53:06,470 --> 00:53:12,080  
Finally, finally they give  
me for 48 hours transit visa.

932  
00:53:12,080 --> 00:53:14,960  
And I sell everything.

933  
00:53:14,960 --> 00:53:17,750  
We have a sleep car, I pay for.

934  
00:53:17,750 --> 00:53:20,390

935  
00:53:20,390 --> 00:53:24,740  
And we go to Vienna, to Paris.

936  
00:53:24,740 --> 00:53:26,990  
We stay in Paris.

937  
00:53:26,990 --> 00:53:32,690  
We go to Paris and Paris to  
the United States embassy.

938  
00:53:32,690 --> 00:53:35,360  
They send us to--  
they have a doctor

939  
00:53:35,360 --> 00:53:37,550  
to have the medical examination.

940  
00:53:37,550 --> 00:53:44,300  
We stay in Paris 6 and 1/2  
months until April 1978.

941  
00:53:44,300 --> 00:53:49,250  
I want to mention, we  
have the best living

942  
00:53:49,250 --> 00:53:53,230  
in the world in Paris.

943  
00:53:53,230 --> 00:54:01,660  
HIAS was the official, COJASOR  
was the Jewish community,

944  
00:54:01,660 --> 00:54:08,770  
French Jewish community offices  
what they give us money.

945  
00:54:08,770 --> 00:54:10,120  
And they rent for us.

946  
00:54:10,120 --> 00:54:14,450



And they pay for us apartment.

947

00:54:14,450 --> 00:54:18,950

And they give us every  
month money for the rent

948

00:54:18,950 --> 00:54:20,420

and for food.

949

00:54:20,420 --> 00:54:24,290

And they put my daughter  
and my son-- and my daughter

950

00:54:24,290 --> 00:54:29,750

was in a high school in  
Paris in a Jewish part

951

00:54:29,750 --> 00:54:33,680

of the Paris [INAUDIBLE]  
with a lot of Jewish people

952

00:54:33,680 --> 00:54:37,910

and France's high school for  
boys and high school for girls,

953

00:54:37,910 --> 00:54:41,100

separated [? daughter. ?] And  
she had a good education there.

954

00:54:41,100 --> 00:54:44,870

My son was in elementary school.

955

00:54:44,870 --> 00:54:50,070

I don't have so much food  
in my life what I can buy

956

00:54:50,070 --> 00:54:54,020

and I have in Paris with  
help from the COJASOR

957

00:54:54,020 --> 00:54:58,160

from the Jewish community,  
God help them and give them

958  
00:54:58,160 --> 00:55:01,460  
all the best in the world.

959  
00:55:01,460 --> 00:55:04,430  
And I have help from HIAS.

960  
00:55:04,430 --> 00:55:10,310  
They pay us for the  
airfare from Brussels.

961  
00:55:10,310 --> 00:55:15,560  
Because before when we have  
the approval for the entrance

962  
00:55:15,560 --> 00:55:22,280  
in the United States, HIAS,  
I finished with COJASOR,

963  
00:55:22,280 --> 00:55:24,710  
we don't owe them,  
we have everything

964  
00:55:24,710 --> 00:55:28,880  
for free, not return, nothing.

965  
00:55:28,880 --> 00:55:34,400  
They pay us train tickets  
from Paris to Brussels.

966  
00:55:34,400 --> 00:55:39,650  
Because was the agreement  
between Sabena and HIAS.

967  
00:55:39,650 --> 00:55:42,680  
They have some deals  
with low airfares.

968  
00:55:42,680 --> 00:55:46,190  
And we left Paris  
two or three days

969

00:55:46,190 --> 00:55:51,170  
before we have the ticket  
to leave with airfare.

970  
00:55:51,170 --> 00:55:52,580  
And we stay in Brussels.

971  
00:55:52,580 --> 00:55:55,250  
And we visit Brussels.

972  
00:55:55,250 --> 00:56:01,430  
And on April 1976, we  
left Brussels and Sabena

973  
00:56:01,430 --> 00:56:05,150  
to have coming to New York.

974  
00:56:05,150 --> 00:56:07,880  
We stayed overnight in New York.

975  
00:56:07,880 --> 00:56:12,770  
And on April 21, we are coming  
up with American Airlines

976  
00:56:12,770 --> 00:56:17,090  
from [? Brucsell ?]  
to Washington, DC.

977  
00:56:17,090 --> 00:56:18,770  
New York to Washington?

978  
00:56:18,770 --> 00:56:24,666  
From New York, I'm  
sorry, to Washington.

979  
00:56:24,666 --> 00:56:33,410  
At Washington national, we have  
our social workers from JCC.

980  
00:56:33,410 --> 00:56:35,420  
They meet us.

981

00:56:35,420 --> 00:56:37,220  
They go with us.

982  
00:56:37,220 --> 00:56:39,650  
We have a rent apartment.

983  
00:56:39,650 --> 00:56:43,400  
And we go with her  
to rent apartment.

984  
00:56:43,400 --> 00:56:48,330  
And this time was  
JCC was Mrs. Brooks

985  
00:56:48,330 --> 00:56:52,820  
was head of the social agency.

986  
00:56:52,820 --> 00:56:56,120  
We have a lot of help  
from Mrs. Brooks.

987  
00:56:56,120 --> 00:56:58,610  
They pay us until I find a job.

988  
00:56:58,610 --> 00:57:02,390  
They pay us for the  
rent for the apartment.

989  
00:57:02,390 --> 00:57:06,950  
They give us money for food.

990  
00:57:06,950 --> 00:57:33,620  
And in July '77, I stay in  
Paris from '76 till April '77.

991  
00:57:33,620 --> 00:57:39,230  
In '77, April 21,  
and July '77, I

992  
00:57:39,230 --> 00:57:43,790  
find a job at Bechtel Power  
Corporation in Gaithersburg.

993

00:57:43,790 --> 00:57:45,695

And I start working for them.

994

00:57:45,695 --> 00:57:49,430

And from this time, we are.

995

00:57:49,430 --> 00:57:53,150

Can we just ask,  
discuss some of the--

996

00:57:53,150 --> 00:57:55,035

your thoughts about  
what you went through?

997

00:57:55,035 --> 00:57:57,680

998

00:57:57,680 --> 00:58:00,800

Does it still affect you,  
your experiences of what you

999

00:58:00,800 --> 00:58:02,030

went through during the war?

1000

00:58:02,030 --> 00:58:03,440

Does it still affect you today?

1001

00:58:03,440 --> 00:58:07,700

1002

00:58:07,700 --> 00:58:11,930

Yes, maybe I'm right,  
maybe I'm wrong.

1003

00:58:11,930 --> 00:58:14,240

I have some friends--  
not Jewish friends.

1004

00:58:14,240 --> 00:58:19,610

After the communism was dead  
in Romania, they go there

1005

00:58:19,610 --> 00:58:22,340

and they make  
their own business.

1006

00:58:22,340 --> 00:58:25,400

I said, never I will go there.

1007

00:58:25,400 --> 00:58:28,220

Again, maybe I'm  
right, maybe I'm wrong.

1008

00:58:28,220 --> 00:58:36,620

Because I cannot say everybody  
in Romania was anti-Semitic.

1009

00:58:36,620 --> 00:58:38,970

There was good people  
and bad people.

1010

00:58:38,970 --> 00:58:40,550

I have bad time.

1011

00:58:40,550 --> 00:58:42,500

And I have good time.

1012

00:58:42,500 --> 00:58:45,560

I have a good time  
because I have

1013

00:58:45,560 --> 00:58:48,740

the apartment in a time  
when other people, they

1014

00:58:48,740 --> 00:58:52,250

don't have nothing, I  
have my own apartment.

1015

00:58:52,250 --> 00:58:58,130

I can grow my kids the  
best kind in the world.

1016

00:58:58,130 --> 00:59:00,110

I was working.

1017  
00:59:00,110 --> 00:59:04,100  
My wife, after she have her  
first baby, my daughter,

1018  
00:59:04,100 --> 00:59:06,230  
she stayed home  
to grow the kids.

1019  
00:59:06,230 --> 00:59:10,700  
And we were living with  
one salary, my salary.

1020  
00:59:10,700 --> 00:59:14,540  
We don't have plenty  
of goods, but we

1021  
00:59:14,540 --> 00:59:23,210  
have not good, a good living.

1022  
00:59:23,210 --> 00:59:24,380  
We have food enough.

1023  
00:59:24,380 --> 00:59:25,460  
We don't desire.

1024  
00:59:25,460 --> 00:59:29,150  
I don't have my car there,  
I have the apartment.

1025  
00:59:29,150 --> 00:59:34,250  
I was running in the  
morning to the street car.

1026  
00:59:34,250 --> 00:59:37,550  
But we can make it.

1027  
00:59:37,550 --> 00:59:41,120  
But when I go back  
and I remember

1028

00:59:41,120 --> 00:59:44,540  
my first day of school,  
elementary school, when

1029  
00:59:44,540 --> 00:59:47,780  
I go to my mother  
and I say "Mother,

1030  
00:59:47,780 --> 00:59:51,320  
why do they call me Jew and  
they point me with a finger?"

1031  
00:59:51,320 --> 00:59:54,830  
I cannot forget this.

1032  
00:59:54,830 --> 00:59:56,070  
Maybe I'm right.

1033  
00:59:56,070 --> 00:59:57,260  
Maybe I'm wrong.

1034  
00:59:57,260 --> 00:59:58,160  
That is the reason.

1035  
00:59:58,160 --> 01:00:01,040  
Because when other  
people go in Romania

1036  
01:00:01,040 --> 01:00:03,740  
and I was last year  
and two years ago,

1037  
01:00:03,740 --> 01:00:07,820  
and I saw Jewish from Israel,  
friends and not friends,

1038  
01:00:07,820 --> 01:00:12,500  
they are coming from Israel and  
they make business in Romania.

1039  
01:00:12,500 --> 01:00:14,660  
I cannot make this.



1040

01:00:14,660 --> 01:00:16,370

I cannot forget.

1041

01:00:16,370 --> 01:00:21,140

I don't want to make business  
to find-- to see other people

1042

01:00:21,140 --> 01:00:24,590

point to me and say, look  
here, this guy is a Jew

1043

01:00:24,590 --> 01:00:27,080

and he is coming back to rob us.

1044

01:00:27,080 --> 01:00:30,680

Because in their mind, you  
don't make a business to make

1045

01:00:30,680 --> 01:00:35,300

a business, to hire people  
to give work To rob them,

1046

01:00:35,300 --> 01:00:36,710

I cannot make this.

1047

01:00:36,710 --> 01:00:40,040

I don't want to make this.

1048

01:00:40,040 --> 01:00:46,640

For me, it's one, Jewish  
people has to stay in Israel

1049

01:00:46,640 --> 01:00:48,950

and has to stay in  
the States, yes.

1050

01:00:48,950 --> 01:00:53,240

But Louis Farrakhan,  
bloodsuckers,

1051

01:00:53,240 --> 01:00:57,740

bloodsuckers, from

where is coming this?

1052

01:00:57,740 --> 01:01:04,910

Who in some people's minds  
put, built Hollywood?

1053

01:01:04,910 --> 01:01:09,575

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, who  
was Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer?

1054

01:01:09,575 --> 01:01:11,840

A Jew, yeah.

1055

01:01:11,840 --> 01:01:15,620

Steve Spielberg, who is Steve  
Spielberg, he make billions.

1056

01:01:15,620 --> 01:01:19,730

They point at him, look, he  
is-- who is the money market?

1057

01:01:19,730 --> 01:01:23,270

The Jew, I cannot enter--

1058

01:01:23,270 --> 01:01:29,480

for me, it's something,  
I'm not able to go back.

1059

01:01:29,480 --> 01:01:32,520

1060

01:01:32,520 --> 01:01:35,610

Is there anything else you  
wish to add before we close?

1061

01:01:35,610 --> 01:01:39,000

--we finish.

1062

01:01:39,000 --> 01:01:47,470

What I want to say is, again,  
Romania were first I cannot say

1063

01:01:47,470 --> 01:01:50,730  
in this time all the German  
people they are guilty.

1064  
01:01:50,730 --> 01:01:53,430  
Because the old  
generation was guilty.

1065  
01:01:53,430 --> 01:01:59,730  
You cannot make the new  
generation guilty for what

1066  
01:01:59,730 --> 01:02:04,010  
their father and  
their father make.

1067  
01:02:04,010 --> 01:02:05,000