

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,040

2

00:00:06,040 --> 00:00:08,980

This is tape three,
side A. And you

3

00:00:08,980 --> 00:00:12,370

were talking about your
feelings about Romanians

4

00:00:12,370 --> 00:00:14,230

and the Germans.

5

00:00:14,230 --> 00:00:19,540

My feeling about Romania is
they were, my generation,

6

00:00:19,540 --> 00:00:21,980

good people and bad people.

7

00:00:21,980 --> 00:00:22,900

I was a Romanian.

8

00:00:22,900 --> 00:00:27,080

Again, last year, two years
ago, I see the new generation.

9

00:00:27,080 --> 00:00:29,780

They're good people,
most of them.

10

00:00:29,780 --> 00:00:35,770

The new generation is not
more with the hate feelings,

11

00:00:35,770 --> 00:00:38,270

maybe few of them.

12

00:00:38,270 --> 00:00:40,545

But they have their problem.

13

00:00:40,545 --> 00:00:43,480

In Romania they have
problem to find out work,

14

00:00:43,480 --> 00:00:45,730

to find out what foods,
to make something.

15

00:00:45,730 --> 00:00:49,960

They don't have more time and
the feeling to be anti-Semitic.

16

00:00:49,960 --> 00:00:55,180

But for me, the best is
everybody to stay at his home.

17

00:00:55,180 --> 00:00:58,960

Jewish people have to stay in
Israel or in the United States

18

00:00:58,960 --> 00:01:07,760

and not to show too much, like,
who's the big billionaire?

19

00:01:07,760 --> 00:01:11,860

No, if you have money,
keep it for you.

20

00:01:11,860 --> 00:01:13,900

Keep your mouth shut.

21

00:01:13,900 --> 00:01:15,910

Make money, but don't
show up too much.

22

00:01:15,910 --> 00:01:18,760

Because here, we have,
also, our problem.

23

00:01:18,760 --> 00:01:20,740

We have our Louis Farrakhan.

24

00:01:20,740 --> 00:01:23,690

We have our Jesse Jackson.

25

00:01:23,690 --> 00:01:26,140

We have other people

what [? they eyes is ?]

26

00:01:26,140 --> 00:01:27,700

who make their money.

27

00:01:27,700 --> 00:01:30,820

And who is the guy

who make the money?

28

00:01:30,820 --> 00:01:33,730

29

00:01:33,730 --> 00:01:38,700

And I don't want to go.

30

00:01:38,700 --> 00:01:40,950

Sometime my wife said,

why do you don't make

31

00:01:40,950 --> 00:01:42,660

to mix up business and Romania?

32

00:01:42,660 --> 00:01:46,500

I don't want to make

business at Romania.

33

00:01:46,500 --> 00:01:47,540

Did what you--

34

00:01:47,540 --> 00:01:49,350

Israel, I was in Israel.

35

00:01:49,350 --> 00:01:51,390

I cannot recognize more Israel.

36

00:01:51,390 --> 00:01:59,850

Israel was, for me,
the sun on the sky.

37
00:01:59,850 --> 00:02:03,090
Israel is a business state.

38
00:02:03,090 --> 00:02:05,010
Money will make money.

39
00:02:05,010 --> 00:02:09,060
No more [? cynicism ?]

40
00:02:09,060 --> 00:02:13,530
I was last year, and
I was to my sister.

41
00:02:13,530 --> 00:02:15,510
She have two kids.

42
00:02:15,510 --> 00:02:16,400
They were married.

43
00:02:16,400 --> 00:02:18,640
They have kids.

44
00:02:18,640 --> 00:02:23,500
I was living in her
apartment, medium class.

45
00:02:23,500 --> 00:02:25,260
[INAUDIBLE] had friends.

46
00:02:25,260 --> 00:02:27,270
It's not [INAUDIBLE] Israel.

47
00:02:27,270 --> 00:02:29,460
Is a business state.

48
00:02:29,460 --> 00:02:31,170
And I cannot agree with this.

49

00:02:31,170 --> 00:02:35,190
They forget who was Theodor
Herzl, who was Ben-Gurion,

50
00:02:35,190 --> 00:02:36,740
who was Golda Meir.

51
00:02:36,740 --> 00:02:38,160
They fight.

52
00:02:38,160 --> 00:02:41,580
Their salary was a
janitor's salary.

53
00:02:41,580 --> 00:02:44,850
They want the money
to go for the state.

54
00:02:44,850 --> 00:02:49,200
How much money is
paid right now,

55
00:02:49,200 --> 00:02:54,330
secretary or a minister
in Israel government?

56
00:02:54,330 --> 00:02:56,620
I cannot understand.

57
00:02:56,620 --> 00:03:01,560
Did what you went through
between 1939 and 1945

58
00:03:01,560 --> 00:03:05,950
make you more Jewish, make you
feel more Jewish, less Jewish?

59
00:03:05,950 --> 00:03:10,020
Oh, I'm 101% Jewish.

60
00:03:10,020 --> 00:03:12,840
My feeling is--

61

00:03:12,840 --> 00:03:16,740

I have a friend in
Israel, [? Benun ?] David.

62

00:03:16,740 --> 00:03:19,110

And Jewish people,
his wife a Jew.

63

00:03:19,110 --> 00:03:21,450

They have kids-- grandkid.

64

00:03:21,450 --> 00:03:29,100

And one time, when I meet with
him and his wife, my wife--

65

00:03:29,100 --> 00:03:32,940

his wife asked me
I guess, Ionel--

66

00:03:32,940 --> 00:03:37,320

she knows my wife is
not Jewish Ionel, why

67

00:03:37,320 --> 00:03:38,940

you don't change your religion?

68

00:03:38,940 --> 00:03:40,670

Because your wife
is-- well, you know.

69

00:03:40,670 --> 00:03:43,290

And my answer was,
spontaneously,

70

00:03:43,290 --> 00:03:45,360

I don't think about that.

71

00:03:45,360 --> 00:03:48,550

I was born a Jew.

72

00:03:48,550 --> 00:03:49,610

I will died a Jew.

73
00:03:49,610 --> 00:03:52,530

74
00:03:52,530 --> 00:03:55,500
What do you think kept
you going as a young boy

75
00:03:55,500 --> 00:04:00,110
during those six
years, 1939 to '45?

76
00:04:00,110 --> 00:04:00,720
Your youth?

77
00:04:00,720 --> 00:04:02,450
Do you think it was
your youth that--

78
00:04:02,450 --> 00:04:03,230
No.

79
00:04:03,230 --> 00:04:07,560
Hearing the pogroms and
hearing of terrible things?

80
00:04:07,560 --> 00:04:16,649
My feeling was,
where are the people?

81
00:04:16,649 --> 00:04:18,360
God select us.

82
00:04:18,360 --> 00:04:21,930
We have to go through
all this thing

83
00:04:21,930 --> 00:04:24,780
because we have to show
the world we are the best.

84
00:04:24,780 --> 00:04:27,830

85

00:04:27,830 --> 00:04:30,320

Do you receive any reparations?

86

00:04:30,320 --> 00:04:34,760

No, after a couple of years

what I am coming here,

87

00:04:34,760 --> 00:04:37,205

I go to the German

embassy somewhere on the--

88

00:04:37,205 --> 00:04:41,740

it was West German embassy

on Reservory roads.

89

00:04:41,740 --> 00:04:43,390

And I fill up some paper there.

90

00:04:43,390 --> 00:04:45,140

After a couple of

month, I have my answer.

91

00:04:45,140 --> 00:04:47,210

No, you are not--

92

00:04:47,210 --> 00:04:50,270

you don't meet our requirements.

93

00:04:50,270 --> 00:04:55,910

Are there any sights, or

smells, or sounds today

94

00:04:55,910 --> 00:04:58,700

that remind you of the war time?

95

00:04:58,700 --> 00:05:01,430

Does anything call

it back sometime?

96

00:05:01,430 --> 00:05:02,630

I grow older.

97

00:05:02,630 --> 00:05:05,360

And I sleep more.

98

00:05:05,360 --> 00:05:06,230

I dream more.

99

00:05:06,230 --> 00:05:11,610

And my dreams-- without--

100

00:05:11,610 --> 00:05:19,560

to will is coming back sometime,
the old memories, old people,

101

00:05:19,560 --> 00:05:21,260

faces.

102

00:05:21,260 --> 00:05:29,240

And maybe it's that because
I'm old, I have old philosophy.

103

00:05:29,240 --> 00:05:35,720

You have to bless,
and forget, and give

104

00:05:35,720 --> 00:05:41,810

the blessing for everything,
forgive, forgive everything.

105

00:05:41,810 --> 00:05:44,500

But I cannot forgive it.

106

00:05:44,500 --> 00:05:45,500

Any time when I'm--

107

00:05:45,500 --> 00:05:48,980

108

00:05:48,980 --> 00:05:51,620

I read, every day,
the newspaper.

109
00:05:51,620 --> 00:05:58,000
And I see the agreement
between Israel and PLO.

110
00:05:58,000 --> 00:06:03,290
I saw the handshake.

111
00:06:03,290 --> 00:06:06,350
I cannot forgive the handshake.

112
00:06:06,350 --> 00:06:06,850
I am not--

113
00:06:06,850 --> 00:06:09,560

114
00:06:09,560 --> 00:06:12,680
I remember Ma'alot.

115
00:06:12,680 --> 00:06:15,170
Do you know what
happened in Ma'alot?

116
00:06:15,170 --> 00:06:20,000
The terrorist go to
the kindergarten school

117
00:06:20,000 --> 00:06:21,140
over the window.

118
00:06:21,140 --> 00:06:26,630
And they kill kids for two or
three years, innocent kids.

119
00:06:26,630 --> 00:06:27,700
Why?

120
00:06:27,700 --> 00:06:30,530
Who can forget this?

121

00:06:30,530 --> 00:06:33,320
Somebody want to forget,
to say enough is enough.

122
00:06:33,320 --> 00:06:34,770
Maybe enough is enough.

123
00:06:34,770 --> 00:06:35,600
I don't know.

124
00:06:35,600 --> 00:06:38,870
But I cannot forget this.

125
00:06:38,870 --> 00:06:44,120
For me, Ma'alot is
like a bad dream.

126
00:06:44,120 --> 00:06:46,640
Somebody want to
forget Shimon Peres.

127
00:06:46,640 --> 00:06:51,710
If he can forget, maybe then
he will be in his grave.

128
00:06:51,710 --> 00:06:53,628
Somebody will push him back.

129
00:06:53,628 --> 00:06:54,170
I don't know.

130
00:06:54,170 --> 00:06:56,770

131
00:06:56,770 --> 00:07:00,280
Is there anything you wanted
to add about your experience

132
00:07:00,280 --> 00:07:04,130
during the war that we
haven't talked about?

133

00:07:04,130 --> 00:07:06,450
Any other--

134
00:07:06,450 --> 00:07:10,950
My experience during the
war is in every country

135
00:07:10,950 --> 00:07:13,980
and every people, there are
good people and bad people.

136
00:07:13,980 --> 00:07:21,110
Maybe the good people, they
are fewer than the bad people.

137
00:07:21,110 --> 00:07:26,190
But everywhere is good
people and bad people.

138
00:07:26,190 --> 00:07:29,960
I meet-- then, I
was a young boy.

139
00:07:29,960 --> 00:07:36,240
And the school, I meet good
friends, good family friends

140
00:07:36,240 --> 00:07:37,640
and bad family friends.

141
00:07:37,640 --> 00:07:44,430

142
00:07:44,430 --> 00:07:52,300
And our generation is coming
little by little to our end.

143
00:07:52,300 --> 00:07:57,970
The new generation have
to don't forget something.

144
00:07:57,970 --> 00:08:02,830
They have to fight

to don't come back.

145

00:08:02,830 --> 00:08:07,000

Because somebody said
that history is repeating

146

00:08:07,000 --> 00:08:11,780

every 40, 50 years.

147

00:08:11,780 --> 00:08:17,800

Don't let the history to come
back in the next 50 years.

148

00:08:17,800 --> 00:08:20,230

Enough is enough.

149

00:08:20,230 --> 00:08:26,820

We go to bad time, 1940, '45.

150

00:08:26,820 --> 00:08:30,460

With other word, after,
immediately after the year

151

00:08:30,460 --> 00:08:32,530

2000, we have to go, no.

152

00:08:32,530 --> 00:08:33,940

Fight.

153

00:08:33,940 --> 00:08:35,830

Stay strong.

154

00:08:35,830 --> 00:08:40,549

And don't let nobody to
come back to the old time.

155

00:08:40,549 --> 00:08:41,679

Thank you.

156

00:08:41,679 --> 00:08:43,090

It's a good note to end it on.

157

00:08:43,090 --> 00:08:45,860

Thank you very much.

158

00:08:45,860 --> 00:08:49,750

This concludes the interview
with Mr. Ionel Ghelman,

159

00:08:49,750 --> 00:08:55,240

which took place on May 9, 1996
in Silver Spring, Maryland.

160

00:08:55,240 --> 00:08:57,220

And it was conducted
by Dale Schwartz

161

00:08:57,220 --> 00:09:01,380

on behalf of the United States
Holocaust Memorial Museum.

162

00:09:01,380 --> 00:09:05,000