

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,250

2
00:00:02,250 --> 00:00:05,340
This is a continuation of
the United States Holocaust

3
00:00:05,340 --> 00:00:09,870
Memorial Museum interview
of Gerald Averback, which

4
00:00:09,870 --> 00:00:14,040
began on October 28, 2016.

5
00:00:14,040 --> 00:00:20,400
It is being conducted by Gail
Schwartz on March 16, 2017.

6
00:00:20,400 --> 00:00:23,700
And it's taking place by
telephone in Saskatoon,

7
00:00:23,700 --> 00:00:27,690
Saskatchewan, and at the United
States Holocaust Memorial

8
00:00:27,690 --> 00:00:30,060
Museum.

9
00:00:30,060 --> 00:00:35,640
Before we begin, I just wanted
to summarize your experiences.

10
00:00:35,640 --> 00:00:37,660
And then we'll go on from there.

11
00:00:37,660 --> 00:00:40,410
So I just wanted
to say, you were

12
00:00:40,410 --> 00:00:45,900

born Isidore Averback
on February 19, 1930,

13
00:00:45,900 --> 00:00:48,600
in Soroca, Bessarabia.

14
00:00:48,600 --> 00:00:51,990
And you lived in Oradea Mare.

15
00:00:51,990 --> 00:00:54,000
Am I pronouncing it correctly?

16
00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:55,230
That is right.

17
00:00:55,230 --> 00:00:59,670
Which was occupied
by Hungary in 1939.

18
00:00:59,670 --> 00:01:03,690
You were in the ghetto from
late 1943 for two and 1/2 months

19
00:01:03,690 --> 00:01:08,520
and then went to
Auschwitz by cattle car,

20
00:01:08,520 --> 00:01:11,740
arriving June 16, 1944.

21
00:01:11,740 --> 00:01:14,100
And it was the last time
you saw your parents.

22
00:01:14,100 --> 00:01:16,230
You were 14 years old.

23
00:01:16,230 --> 00:01:17,930
You were in the children's camp.

24
00:01:17,930 --> 00:01:22,170
And after four days,

an adult male prisoner

25

00:01:22,170 --> 00:01:24,480
got you into the men's group.

26

00:01:24,480 --> 00:01:27,420
And you hid for
two and 1/2 days.

27

00:01:27,420 --> 00:01:31,830
And then you went with a
group, leaving Birkenau.

28

00:01:31,830 --> 00:01:36,120
And you went to a work camp in
a castle in Breslau, Poland,

29

00:01:36,120 --> 00:01:37,020
for six weeks.

30

00:01:37,020 --> 00:01:42,510
Then to Czechoslovakia by
railroad cars in Prague.

31

00:01:42,510 --> 00:01:45,720
And then to Flossenburg
camp and Freiberg.

32

00:01:45,720 --> 00:01:48,930
And then on a cattle car, you
were bombed by the Allies.

33

00:01:48,930 --> 00:01:53,370
And you walked to
Tuttlingen. And then

34

00:01:53,370 --> 00:01:57,360
you were wounded
by Allied bombs,

35

00:01:57,360 --> 00:02:00,810
rescued by a French
medical team,

36
00:02:00,810 --> 00:02:03,180
went by plane to
Strasbourg, France,

37
00:02:03,180 --> 00:02:06,000
and was in the hospital two
to three months in Colmar.

38
00:02:06,000 --> 00:02:08,729
Then you went to Paris, and
then Davos, Switzerland,

39
00:02:08,729 --> 00:02:13,180
to a sanatorium,
then to Versailles.

40
00:02:13,180 --> 00:02:18,180
And in September 1947,
you went to London,

41
00:02:18,180 --> 00:02:21,930
and then sailed to
Halifax, and then Montreal.

42
00:02:21,930 --> 00:02:24,900
And you finished your education,
high school, law school,

43
00:02:24,900 --> 00:02:26,550
worked in the prime
minister's office.

44
00:02:26,550 --> 00:02:31,890
And now you have your own law
offices in three provinces.

45
00:02:31,890 --> 00:02:37,840
So I just wanted
to summarize that.

46
00:02:37,840 --> 00:02:39,960
So I'd like to now

talk about some

47

00:02:39,960 --> 00:02:42,090
of your thoughts and feelings.

48

00:02:42,090 --> 00:02:46,120
Do you think about your
experiences often now?

49

00:02:46,120 --> 00:02:48,780

50

00:02:48,780 --> 00:02:52,710
I think about some of
it, especially when I

51

00:02:52,710 --> 00:02:56,910
read the newspaper of the
different genocides that

52

00:02:56,910 --> 00:03:02,170
are happening worldwide,
which means that in my view,

53

00:03:02,170 --> 00:03:06,180
I think that, obviously
nothing has changed.

54

00:03:06,180 --> 00:03:09,750
Humanity hasn't
learned anything.

55

00:03:09,750 --> 00:03:15,720
And what I've been thinking
quite a bit from time to time

56

00:03:15,720 --> 00:03:23,460
because you asked me to think
about what the museum can do,

57

00:03:23,460 --> 00:03:26,430
or done in the
past, or what they

58

00:03:26,430 --> 00:03:29,310
ought to do, in my opinion,
in the future dealing

59

00:03:29,310 --> 00:03:30,750
with genocide.

60

00:03:30,750 --> 00:03:33,400
And I've been really thinking
quite a bit about it.

61

00:03:33,400 --> 00:03:35,640
And I don't always agree.

62

00:03:35,640 --> 00:03:39,570
But, I think, because
things are changing

63

00:03:39,570 --> 00:03:48,540
and the world, in my opinion,
is becoming more unreasonable.

64

00:03:48,540 --> 00:03:54,690
And we learned nothing,
really, from the past.

65

00:03:54,690 --> 00:03:59,330
And that, I'm thinking
about it from time to time

66

00:03:59,330 --> 00:04:03,270
when I read the
newspapers and whatever.

67

00:04:03,270 --> 00:04:08,400
I was hoping that World War
II has taught nations a lot.

68

00:04:08,400 --> 00:04:10,290
But I'm wrong.

69

00:04:10,290 --> 00:04:14,870
Obviously, that
is not happening.

70
00:04:14,870 --> 00:04:18,690
And I've been thinking a
lot since you asked me,

71
00:04:18,690 --> 00:04:23,820
what do I think about
the museum generally?

72
00:04:23,820 --> 00:04:27,150
And, what do I think
they ought to do?

73
00:04:27,150 --> 00:04:30,030
Or, am I satisfied
that they have

74
00:04:30,030 --> 00:04:33,900
done everything
they can or they are

75
00:04:33,900 --> 00:04:36,700
licensed to do in this world?

76
00:04:36,700 --> 00:04:41,010
And I'm not always
agreeable myself

77
00:04:41,010 --> 00:04:45,550
as to whether I
have the solution.

78
00:04:45,550 --> 00:04:52,230
So that's basically, I think,
about many times when I read.

79
00:04:52,230 --> 00:04:57,045
And it reminds me of incidents
and pictures of my past.

80

00:04:57,045 --> 00:05:01,245

81

00:05:01,245 --> 00:05:08,320

And that is
reference to the time

82

00:05:08,320 --> 00:05:11,970

I spent in camps and so on.

83

00:05:11,970 --> 00:05:15,750

And many times, I get
the impression that,

84

00:05:15,750 --> 00:05:18,220

why did I survive?

85

00:05:18,220 --> 00:05:24,630

And I get the idea of,
maybe it was meant to be.

86

00:05:24,630 --> 00:05:28,710

Do I owe the world something
by doing something or saying

87

00:05:28,710 --> 00:05:32,820

something on a subject matter?

88

00:05:32,820 --> 00:05:37,770

But I'm also not discussing
these things with anybody,

89

00:05:37,770 --> 00:05:43,710

except sometimes some
incidents come up.

90

00:05:43,710 --> 00:05:45,860

And, yeah.

91

00:05:45,860 --> 00:05:50,100

92

00:05:50,100 --> 00:05:59,580
But one thing is I don't
share my thoughts of my past

93
00:05:59,580 --> 00:06:02,280
because, A, I feel
that, whoever I talk

94
00:06:02,280 --> 00:06:04,560
to won't understand it anyway.

95
00:06:04,560 --> 00:06:07,950
So, what's the point of
saying it, or complaining,

96
00:06:07,950 --> 00:06:10,500
or discussing it?

97
00:06:10,500 --> 00:06:15,060
I get the impression that people
would not understand me anyway.

98
00:06:15,060 --> 00:06:18,180
Unless you went through
things, you won't understand.

99
00:06:18,180 --> 00:06:20,220
So, what's the point
of discussing it?

100
00:06:20,220 --> 00:06:22,725
So I'm a loner in that respect.

101
00:06:22,725 --> 00:06:26,655

102
00:06:26,655 --> 00:06:30,383
You lost your
childhood in many ways

103
00:06:30,383 --> 00:06:31,800
having to go through
what you did.

104
00:06:31,800 --> 00:06:35,180
Do you feel you
got any of it back?

105
00:06:35,180 --> 00:06:38,050
No.

106
00:06:38,050 --> 00:06:50,610
No, but it made me a person that
I don't trust people by nature.

107
00:06:50,610 --> 00:06:54,220

108
00:06:54,220 --> 00:06:59,340
In other words, the
idea, many times I've

109
00:06:59,340 --> 00:07:02,610
been approached in
business to join

110
00:07:02,610 --> 00:07:06,250
and so on, other
offices, and so on.

111
00:07:06,250 --> 00:07:12,180
And I don't do that because
there's something in me

112
00:07:12,180 --> 00:07:17,100
that I don't trust people that
they will not double-cross me.

113
00:07:17,100 --> 00:07:20,280
Another thing because
apparently I found out

114
00:07:20,280 --> 00:07:21,840
that I'm not the only one.

115

00:07:21,840 --> 00:07:24,330

When I walk into
a grocery store,

116

00:07:24,330 --> 00:07:30,060

I buy 10 times more food
than I would consume.

117

00:07:30,060 --> 00:07:32,490

I was told that I'm
not the only one that

118

00:07:32,490 --> 00:07:36,480
went through the camps because
of the hunger and whatever

119

00:07:36,480 --> 00:07:39,300

that we feel that tomorrow
there'll be no food left

120

00:07:39,300 --> 00:07:40,870

or whatever it is.

121

00:07:40,870 --> 00:07:45,450

So I buy without any reason
tremendous amount of food that

122

00:07:45,450 --> 00:07:47,765

I cannot consume.

123

00:07:47,765 --> 00:07:49,640

But, apparently, I've
heard from other people

124

00:07:49,640 --> 00:07:51,140

who went through
the camps that they

125

00:07:51,140 --> 00:07:53,190

do exactly the same thing now.

126

00:07:53,190 --> 00:07:55,560

So there's something

there, I don't

127

00:07:55,560 --> 00:07:58,740

know why, that the
past has something

128

00:07:58,740 --> 00:08:05,610

to do with my present
and my future, yeah.

129

00:08:05,610 --> 00:08:11,430

130

00:08:11,430 --> 00:08:16,920

For instance, the other day, I
was talking about a graduation.

131

00:08:16,920 --> 00:08:22,560

And I was saying to people
that I went through university,

132

00:08:22,560 --> 00:08:25,020

and so on and so forth,
got degrees, and so on.

133

00:08:25,020 --> 00:08:28,620

But I never attended
a graduation.

134

00:08:28,620 --> 00:08:32,970

In other words, I made
them send my degrees

135

00:08:32,970 --> 00:08:38,460

and whatever because, I felt
that, I would be there alone.

136

00:08:38,460 --> 00:08:40,950

But everybody and
family would be there.

137

00:08:40,950 --> 00:08:43,120

And sooner or later,

people would turn and says,

138
00:08:43,120 --> 00:08:44,910
how come that
fellow who has just

139
00:08:44,910 --> 00:08:46,890
got that degree over there--

140
00:08:46,890 --> 00:08:51,820
he has nobody there
family wise and so on?

141
00:08:51,820 --> 00:08:57,270
In other words, I don't
like to stand up in a crowd

142
00:08:57,270 --> 00:09:01,140
to speak about the Holocaust.

143
00:09:01,140 --> 00:09:03,820
I feel that is not a plus.

144
00:09:03,820 --> 00:09:07,410
So I have some
idiosyncrasies, so to speak,

145
00:09:07,410 --> 00:09:11,170
because of what
happened in the past.

146
00:09:11,170 --> 00:09:17,010
And I don't share it with
others or loved ones and nobody.

147
00:09:17,010 --> 00:09:22,120
So I'm a loner as far as
the past is concerned.

148
00:09:22,120 --> 00:09:25,020
And I don't like
to advertise it.

149

00:09:25,020 --> 00:09:28,740

I don't like-- I'm
not proud of the past.

150

00:09:28,740 --> 00:09:34,518

I'm not too font-- pontificate,
so to speak, about the past

151

00:09:34,518 --> 00:09:37,230

and find flaws or
whatever it is.

152

00:09:37,230 --> 00:09:40,860

So these things, I have
in common as many people,

153

00:09:40,860 --> 00:09:45,180

I understand, who went
through the identical thing.

154

00:09:45,180 --> 00:09:49,680

And many, many,
many times, I think,

155

00:09:49,680 --> 00:09:54,210

I don't know why I survived
that, or this, or that,

156

00:09:54,210 --> 00:09:56,430

not understanding this.

157

00:09:56,430 --> 00:09:59,400

And I got this word
that I've invented

158

00:09:59,400 --> 00:10:03,940

is hand of God who was
there because somebody

159

00:10:03,940 --> 00:10:09,280

had to be that what happened--

160

00:10:09,280 --> 00:10:12,565
was responsible that
I'm still alive.

161
00:10:12,565 --> 00:10:15,550
And, of course, the
question is, why me?

162
00:10:15,550 --> 00:10:18,180
And others, I've heard
saying the same thing

163
00:10:18,180 --> 00:10:23,080
went through that we don't
know going through whatever

164
00:10:23,080 --> 00:10:26,140
we did in the camp or
even after the camps

165
00:10:26,140 --> 00:10:28,010
and so on and so forth.

166
00:10:28,010 --> 00:10:33,540
But I'm not unique in that case.

167
00:10:33,540 --> 00:10:39,700
But again, I repeat, I don't
like to share my experiences.

168
00:10:39,700 --> 00:10:42,940
What do you think kept
you going after you

169
00:10:42,940 --> 00:10:46,850
didn't see your parents when
you, I think, you were 14,

170
00:10:46,850 --> 00:10:47,745
you said?

171
00:10:47,745 --> 00:10:49,120
What do you think

kept you going?

172

00:10:49,120 --> 00:10:53,898

You were a young
teenager at the time.

173

00:10:53,898 --> 00:10:54,940

What do you mean exactly?

174

00:10:54,940 --> 00:10:59,570

How did you keep on going,
surviving on your own,

175

00:10:59,570 --> 00:11:00,070

in a sense?

176

00:11:00,070 --> 00:11:05,626

Well, I kept on going
because I wanted to make sure

177

00:11:05,626 --> 00:11:09,400

that my parents who
were no longer alive

178

00:11:09,400 --> 00:11:11,320

would be proud of me in Heaven.

179

00:11:11,320 --> 00:11:13,390

I mean, it sounds silly.

180

00:11:13,390 --> 00:11:17,930

But in other words,
notwithstanding

181

00:11:17,930 --> 00:11:20,860

that I had tremendous
difficulties financially

182

00:11:20,860 --> 00:11:23,770

and otherwise, that
I was going to show

183

00:11:23,770 --> 00:11:27,520
not the world but my
non-existing parents

184
00:11:27,520 --> 00:11:31,630
that I don't let them down.

185
00:11:31,630 --> 00:11:36,530
I mean, it may sound
not reasonable.

186
00:11:36,530 --> 00:11:40,490
But this is not to
disappoint them in Heaven.

187
00:11:40,490 --> 00:11:43,870
That's once you heard
that they didn't survive.

188
00:11:43,870 --> 00:11:44,470
Before that--

189
00:11:44,470 --> 00:11:46,640
Of course, I'm talking
about after the war.

190
00:11:46,640 --> 00:11:49,180
Yeah, but even during
the war, how did you

191
00:11:49,180 --> 00:11:50,545
keep going without your parents?

192
00:11:50,545 --> 00:11:51,580
You were so young.

193
00:11:51,580 --> 00:11:53,800
Well, during the
war in the camp,

194
00:11:53,800 --> 00:11:56,050
you tried to survive
on a daily basis.

195
00:11:56,050 --> 00:11:58,810
But you were young.

196
00:11:58,810 --> 00:12:02,005
Yes, that is right.

197
00:12:02,005 --> 00:12:05,350
Do you think being that age
was an advantage in a sense

198
00:12:05,350 --> 00:12:09,323
because that you weren't aware
of the whole ramifications

199
00:12:09,323 --> 00:12:10,240
of what was happening?

200
00:12:10,240 --> 00:12:12,430
Well, that's one thing.

201
00:12:12,430 --> 00:12:15,580
But many people
there were not aware.

202
00:12:15,580 --> 00:12:18,190
And you didn't know
on an hourly basis,

203
00:12:18,190 --> 00:12:22,630
never mind on a daily basis,
what's waiting tomorrow

204
00:12:22,630 --> 00:12:24,850
morning.

205
00:12:24,850 --> 00:12:28,600
And many times, you went
hungry because by the time

206
00:12:28,600 --> 00:12:34,960
you were on the line with

your dish for the soup,

207
00:12:34,960 --> 00:12:36,080
they ran out of soup.

208
00:12:36,080 --> 00:12:37,905
And they told you, get lost.

209
00:12:37,905 --> 00:12:40,380

210
00:12:40,380 --> 00:12:42,130
And there's nothing
you could do about it.

211
00:12:42,130 --> 00:12:44,750

212
00:12:44,750 --> 00:12:55,790
However, I did many times since
then thought about people who

213
00:12:55,790 --> 00:13:00,610
I've never known,
strangers came to my aid

214
00:13:00,610 --> 00:13:07,550
here and there for no reason
at all, no reason at all.

215
00:13:07,550 --> 00:13:09,460
And yet, I've been
thinking about it

216
00:13:09,460 --> 00:13:16,150
because these people who were
old enough to be my parents

217
00:13:16,150 --> 00:13:18,820
looked at this young kid.

218
00:13:18,820 --> 00:13:21,970

And many times,
they would give me

219
00:13:21,970 --> 00:13:23,860
a piece of their bread
or anything else,

220
00:13:23,860 --> 00:13:26,980
not that I asked
for whatever it is.

221
00:13:26,980 --> 00:13:33,070
So amazing how
strangers had something

222
00:13:33,070 --> 00:13:38,315
to do directly or
indirectly with my survival.

223
00:13:38,315 --> 00:13:44,860
And even the stranger who
got me out of one camp

224
00:13:44,860 --> 00:13:49,540
to take me to the other
camp, me not realizing

225
00:13:49,540 --> 00:13:52,340
what I'm getting into.

226
00:13:52,340 --> 00:13:58,550
And he didn't want to see me
after that at all and so on.

227
00:13:58,550 --> 00:14:01,400
And I asked why in my mind.

228
00:14:01,400 --> 00:14:05,080
And this is where I see
this hand of God, what

229
00:14:05,080 --> 00:14:11,860
strangers sometimes would

do and I don't know why,

230

00:14:11,860 --> 00:14:14,390

which is fantastic.

231

00:14:14,390 --> 00:14:19,210

But I can understand it that

I would do the same thing now

232

00:14:19,210 --> 00:14:21,400

if I were that.

233

00:14:21,400 --> 00:14:23,650

I didn't understand it then

because I was a young kid.

234

00:14:23,650 --> 00:14:24,730

You were too young, yeah.

235

00:14:24,730 --> 00:14:27,610

But I would do it again.

236

00:14:27,610 --> 00:14:30,340

I would do it not

again, I would do it

237

00:14:30,340 --> 00:14:35,770

because I can see it now

why they have done it.

238

00:14:35,770 --> 00:14:37,000

I didn't see it then.

239

00:14:37,000 --> 00:14:37,920

At the time, yeah.

240

00:14:37,920 --> 00:14:39,370

At the time, yeah.

241

00:14:39,370 --> 00:14:42,220

So you do learn.

242

00:14:42,220 --> 00:14:45,010

Life teaches you sometimes
good things and sometimes

243

00:14:45,010 --> 00:14:45,730

bad things.

244

00:14:45,730 --> 00:14:47,890

Do you feel in a
sense that you're

245

00:14:47,890 --> 00:14:51,130

two persons, one
person on the inside

246

00:14:51,130 --> 00:14:54,720

and another one to
the outside world?

247

00:14:54,720 --> 00:14:57,340

Very much so, very much so.

248

00:14:57,340 --> 00:15:03,070

249

00:15:03,070 --> 00:15:06,850

I'm not trying to hide the past.

250

00:15:06,850 --> 00:15:10,630

But, somehow, I'm not
proud of the past.

251

00:15:10,630 --> 00:15:12,250

And I don't want anybody's pity.

252

00:15:12,250 --> 00:15:14,770

253

00:15:14,770 --> 00:15:19,060

And that's why I've been asked
many, many, many, many times

254

00:15:19,060 --> 00:15:23,020
in my lifetime to
stand up and tell

255

00:15:23,020 --> 00:15:27,220
the people who are going to
be there what I went through

256

00:15:27,220 --> 00:15:28,330
and all of this.

257

00:15:28,330 --> 00:15:30,070
But I don't want to.

258

00:15:30,070 --> 00:15:32,640

259

00:15:32,640 --> 00:15:33,430
I don't want to.

260

00:15:33,430 --> 00:15:34,690
I don't want sympathy.

261

00:15:34,690 --> 00:15:36,070
I don't want pity.

262

00:15:36,070 --> 00:15:39,400
I don't want anything.

263

00:15:39,400 --> 00:15:44,110
I'm not that proud of
going through pure hell.

264

00:15:44,110 --> 00:15:48,430
And my joke used to be, I know
I won't go to hell because I've

265

00:15:48,430 --> 00:15:51,430
been there already.

266

00:15:51,430 --> 00:15:54,010

But that's true.

267

00:15:54,010 --> 00:15:59,710

Are you angry that you had to go through what you went through

268

00:15:59,710 --> 00:16:03,610

while children your age, let's say, in the United States

269

00:16:03,610 --> 00:16:04,510

didn't have to?

270

00:16:04,510 --> 00:16:11,915

No, I'm not angry, because angry at what or at whom?

271

00:16:11,915 --> 00:16:13,450

I mean, while other children here

272

00:16:13,450 --> 00:16:15,200

were playing in their backyards while you

273

00:16:15,200 --> 00:16:18,910

were going through what you'd had to go through.

274

00:16:18,910 --> 00:16:23,080

Yeah, you're talking about after liberation.

275

00:16:23,080 --> 00:16:24,167

No, no, during the war.

276

00:16:24,167 --> 00:16:25,750

During the war, are you angry that you

277

00:16:25,750 --> 00:16:29,740

had to go through the wartime experience that you had?

278
00:16:29,740 --> 00:16:30,940
And right after, yeah.

279
00:16:30,940 --> 00:16:37,010
And right after, whereas other
children in the United States

280
00:16:37,010 --> 00:16:40,660
were leading a happy childhood.

281
00:16:40,660 --> 00:16:46,000
Well, it's not my parents'
fault. I mean, this was life.

282
00:16:46,000 --> 00:16:49,960
And I'm just lucky
that I survived.

283
00:16:49,960 --> 00:16:53,350
And so, I feel that, I'm lucky.

284
00:16:53,350 --> 00:16:56,660
And I kept asking
myself many, many times,

285
00:16:56,660 --> 00:16:59,260
I don't know why me.

286
00:16:59,260 --> 00:17:01,450
But I'm not the only one
who asks those questions.

287
00:17:01,450 --> 00:17:02,380
Right, of course.

288
00:17:02,380 --> 00:17:07,540
And I cannot answer
the question.

289
00:17:07,540 --> 00:17:13,089
But it's something

that we have to face.

290
00:17:13,089 --> 00:17:17,140
But, of course, then you have
to fight the fighting in you

291
00:17:17,140 --> 00:17:20,619
that you want to prove to
yourself and to the world--

292
00:17:20,619 --> 00:17:23,260
the world couldn't care less--

293
00:17:23,260 --> 00:17:26,230
is that you can survive,
that you can do,

294
00:17:26,230 --> 00:17:29,050
notwithstanding A, B,
C, D that's happening

295
00:17:29,050 --> 00:17:32,860
to you, that you will survive.

296
00:17:32,860 --> 00:17:36,850
I did work extremely
hard at university.

297
00:17:36,850 --> 00:17:40,540
I went through university
where I could only

298
00:17:40,540 --> 00:17:42,830
afford one meal a day.

299
00:17:42,830 --> 00:17:46,360
But I didn't tell
anybody and so on

300
00:17:46,360 --> 00:17:49,675
because it was very
important to get that degree.

301

00:17:49,675 --> 00:17:55,000

It was very important to get
a job because what it paid

302

00:17:55,000 --> 00:17:56,490

and so on.

303

00:17:56,490 --> 00:18:03,160

And without me telling
anybody that it's their fault

304

00:18:03,160 --> 00:18:04,540

or whatever it is.

305

00:18:04,540 --> 00:18:09,700

You accept life as it is and
try to make whatever it is.

306

00:18:09,700 --> 00:18:12,040

Sure, I lost my youth.

307

00:18:12,040 --> 00:18:17,820

I lost all the things that
go with that, the good part.

308

00:18:17,820 --> 00:18:19,600

And there was a struggle.

309

00:18:19,600 --> 00:18:23,830

But I'm not saying
now, poor me that I

310

00:18:23,830 --> 00:18:27,410

had to struggle while everybody
else just enjoyed life.

311

00:18:27,410 --> 00:18:34,060

I had to accept
the best I can do.

312

00:18:34,060 --> 00:18:39,310

In my mind, I was looking

after myself, like two people.

313
00:18:39,310 --> 00:18:43,390
And, I felt that, am I
doing what my parents would

314
00:18:43,390 --> 00:18:45,610
have wanted me to do?

315
00:18:45,610 --> 00:18:48,400
Or, am I-- so on and so forth.

316
00:18:48,400 --> 00:18:54,865
So I was policing myself
sometimes, do I do it right?

317
00:18:54,865 --> 00:18:57,830
And so on and so forth.

318
00:18:57,830 --> 00:18:59,610
Yeah, I was looking
after myself, so

319
00:18:59,610 --> 00:19:03,220
to speak, a two-person thing.

320
00:19:03,220 --> 00:19:07,900
And, would my parents be proud
of me if I do this and that?

321
00:19:07,900 --> 00:19:09,780
That always went
through my mind.

322
00:19:09,780 --> 00:19:13,090

323
00:19:13,090 --> 00:19:15,910
I know you were a
child at the time.

324
00:19:15,910 --> 00:19:19,690

But, how did the experience
affect your feelings

325
00:19:19,690 --> 00:19:20,515
about being Jewish?

326
00:19:20,515 --> 00:19:25,120

327
00:19:25,120 --> 00:19:27,850
Or, did it affect your
feelings about being Jewish?

328
00:19:27,850 --> 00:19:30,580

329
00:19:30,580 --> 00:19:34,390
It affected me.

330
00:19:34,390 --> 00:19:37,780
Let me answer your question
a little differently.

331
00:19:37,780 --> 00:19:43,000
When I was in France in
the orphanage, the OSE,

332
00:19:43,000 --> 00:19:46,180
many of the kids
there came from camps.

333
00:19:46,180 --> 00:19:51,330
So we were brothers and
sisters, whatever it is.

334
00:19:51,330 --> 00:19:57,550
The general idea there
is, we need revenge.

335
00:19:57,550 --> 00:20:05,110
And if you have seen the
movie Exodus, many of our kids

336

00:20:05,110 --> 00:20:08,720

in the OSE there were
on that real boat.

337

00:20:08,720 --> 00:20:12,020

I mean, the movie,
of course, and so on.

338

00:20:12,020 --> 00:20:15,220

And they want to Israel--

339

00:20:15,220 --> 00:20:18,370

the country that hasn't
been yet a country--

340

00:20:18,370 --> 00:20:19,860

to fight.

341

00:20:19,860 --> 00:20:23,050

And that was for revenge.

342

00:20:23,050 --> 00:20:25,570

And that's [AUDIO OUT] about.

343

00:20:25,570 --> 00:20:27,370

And when I--

344

00:20:27,370 --> 00:20:30,130

I'm also here to light
candles once a year

345

00:20:30,130 --> 00:20:33,590

during the Holocaust Day
where I am right now.

346

00:20:33,590 --> 00:20:37,600

I asked them many times that
I like to light a candle--

347

00:20:37,600 --> 00:20:39,490

seven candle, not six candle.

348

00:20:39,490 --> 00:20:42,100

Use seven.

349

00:20:42,100 --> 00:20:44,890

And I said, I wanted seven
for all those young kids

350

00:20:44,890 --> 00:20:48,310

after the war who went
to Israel and died.

351

00:20:48,310 --> 00:20:52,810

There were over 10,000,
11,000 of those kids

352

00:20:52,810 --> 00:20:56,920

fought during the
liberation and died.

353

00:20:56,920 --> 00:21:00,730

Their idea there was that--

354

00:21:00,730 --> 00:21:03,610

mind you, life was
cheap those days--

355

00:21:03,610 --> 00:21:09,070

is that they had to have revenge
for all the bad things that

356

00:21:09,070 --> 00:21:10,390

happened in the camp.

357

00:21:10,390 --> 00:21:14,230

And they were proud to go
there to fight and die.

358

00:21:14,230 --> 00:21:18,520

And I asked the local community
here, Jewish community,

359

00:21:18,520 --> 00:21:25,270

to let me light a seventh candle
for those people who have--

360
00:21:25,270 --> 00:21:29,815
nobody survived-- because they
were great heroes in my heart

361
00:21:29,815 --> 00:21:33,301
that went out after the
war-- they didn't have to--

362
00:21:33,301 --> 00:21:39,610
to fight for Israel, and to
show their anger, and whatever

363
00:21:39,610 --> 00:21:41,220
it is.

364
00:21:41,220 --> 00:21:45,250
And those were, in my mind,
my brothers and sisters,

365
00:21:45,250 --> 00:21:50,470
so to speak, because they came
out, they had great anger,

366
00:21:50,470 --> 00:21:53,920
and they felt that they can
do this and they can do that.

367
00:21:53,920 --> 00:22:00,010
And they were proud to go and
fight and die for anybody.

368
00:22:00,010 --> 00:22:03,520
But this was a new
country that's being born.

369
00:22:03,520 --> 00:22:10,350
That was the general
attitude is after the war,

370
00:22:10,350 --> 00:22:20,210

especially in institutions where
you had these survivors there.

371
00:22:20,210 --> 00:22:21,430
And I was one of them.

372
00:22:21,430 --> 00:22:23,960
And I shared with them the idea.

373
00:22:23,960 --> 00:22:25,630
In fact, I wanted to go too.

374
00:22:25,630 --> 00:22:26,980
But I had TB.

375
00:22:26,980 --> 00:22:29,680
And they wouldn't
let me, et cetera,

376
00:22:29,680 --> 00:22:33,790
not realizing what
I'm getting into.

377
00:22:33,790 --> 00:22:36,940
But I was ready to do that.

378
00:22:36,940 --> 00:22:43,260
And so there was the
anger for a long time

379
00:22:43,260 --> 00:22:50,730
that we owe it to those
who didn't make it.

380
00:22:50,730 --> 00:22:53,080
And we want to fight for it.

381
00:22:53,080 --> 00:22:56,650
And if you know
history, about 10,000,

382
00:22:56,650 --> 00:23:03,220

11,000 did go, and were involved
in the war, and paid the price.

383
00:23:03,220 --> 00:23:06,970

384
00:23:06,970 --> 00:23:09,550
This is what I'm thinking about.

385
00:23:09,550 --> 00:23:12,040
And there's nobody
to talk about them.

386
00:23:12,040 --> 00:23:14,920
These are the heroes
that there's nobody.

387
00:23:14,920 --> 00:23:18,070
And that's why I asked
the local to allow

388
00:23:18,070 --> 00:23:23,320
me to light the seventh candle.

389
00:23:23,320 --> 00:23:24,340
They haven't so far.

390
00:23:24,340 --> 00:23:27,040
But they're talking about it.

391
00:23:27,040 --> 00:23:30,100
And I don't like
to explain whoever

392
00:23:30,100 --> 00:23:33,850
is around why I'm
doing it and why,

393
00:23:33,850 --> 00:23:36,250
I believe that, should be done.

394
00:23:36,250 --> 00:23:40,330

But that's my
personal thing that I

395
00:23:40,330 --> 00:23:47,620
feel that those who
survived have not--

396
00:23:47,620 --> 00:23:52,150
I shouldn't say, received.

397
00:23:52,150 --> 00:23:56,590
Well, vengeance is not
normal and shouldn't be used.

398
00:23:56,590 --> 00:24:02,470
But the idea is that they
all felt the same thing,

399
00:24:02,470 --> 00:24:08,950
that they don't want to turn
the other cheek, so to speak.

400
00:24:08,950 --> 00:24:12,490
And the time has come that
you stand on your own feet

401
00:24:12,490 --> 00:24:15,370
and fight for whatever
rights you have.

402
00:24:15,370 --> 00:24:18,220
You have the fighting
in you that you

403
00:24:18,220 --> 00:24:20,590
feel that the world
took advantage

404
00:24:20,590 --> 00:24:24,570
of you, the past world.

405
00:24:24,570 --> 00:24:30,510

406
00:24:30,510 --> 00:24:32,800
In fact, when we
left the ghetto,

407
00:24:32,800 --> 00:24:36,910
and were all going
to camps, and so on,

408
00:24:36,910 --> 00:24:40,290
our elders did not tell us--

409
00:24:40,290 --> 00:24:43,560
not that we could have
done anything about it--

410
00:24:43,560 --> 00:24:46,290
where we're going
and what our chances.

411
00:24:46,290 --> 00:24:47,610
And they knew.

412
00:24:47,610 --> 00:24:48,790
Or they ought to have known.

413
00:24:48,790 --> 00:24:53,930

414
00:24:53,930 --> 00:24:56,170
So there is a fight in you.

415
00:24:56,170 --> 00:24:59,160
You feel that you were
cheated by the world.

416
00:24:59,160 --> 00:25:01,620
You got cheated by
the people around you

417
00:25:01,620 --> 00:25:04,020
by not telling you the

truth, not that you

418
00:25:04,020 --> 00:25:05,260
could have done something.

419
00:25:05,260 --> 00:25:12,580
But at least, there were
opportunities to do something.

420
00:25:12,580 --> 00:25:15,580

421
00:25:15,580 --> 00:25:21,210
And so you have the fighter in
you that you're now liberated.

422
00:25:21,210 --> 00:25:24,000
You don't trust anybody.

423
00:25:24,000 --> 00:25:31,650
And you do find or
meet antisemitism.

424
00:25:31,650 --> 00:25:33,420
I met that in Canada.

425
00:25:33,420 --> 00:25:37,010
The very first job that I
applied for, just a summer job

426
00:25:37,010 --> 00:25:38,190
during university.

427
00:25:38,190 --> 00:25:39,480
It was a very large company.

428
00:25:39,480 --> 00:25:41,100
And they told me right then.

429
00:25:41,100 --> 00:25:42,990
This goes back many, many years.

430

00:25:42,990 --> 00:25:46,230

They said, we
don't to hire Jews.

431

00:25:46,230 --> 00:25:51,960

And that was a shock, I
thought that what I am.

432

00:25:51,960 --> 00:25:53,130

And that was in Canada.

433

00:25:53,130 --> 00:25:58,590

But even in the USA,
things were still

434

00:25:58,590 --> 00:26:02,820

the same what you had
during World War II.

435

00:26:02,820 --> 00:26:06,360

436

00:26:06,360 --> 00:26:08,520

And especially in
Canada, what I'm

437

00:26:08,520 --> 00:26:13,710

told that they had
both coming from Europe

438

00:26:13,710 --> 00:26:15,240

the people escaping.

439

00:26:15,240 --> 00:26:17,670

And they didn't let the
Jews in because they said,

440

00:26:17,670 --> 00:26:18,780

one is too many.

441

00:26:18,780 --> 00:26:25,050

442
00:26:25,050 --> 00:26:30,690
So what I'm trying to say,
you accept what you get.

443
00:26:30,690 --> 00:26:34,650
But it doesn't mean that you're
really happy with what you get.

444
00:26:34,650 --> 00:26:39,510
But I wanted to leave
Europe for all times, which

445
00:26:39,510 --> 00:26:40,890
I managed to do.

446
00:26:40,890 --> 00:26:41,670
So that's a plus.

447
00:26:41,670 --> 00:26:44,190

448
00:26:44,190 --> 00:26:49,710
And I was able,
notwithstanding what

449
00:26:49,710 --> 00:26:53,865
they had in Canada at the time
after World War II, to survive.

450
00:26:53,865 --> 00:26:58,950

451
00:26:58,950 --> 00:27:04,320
But even at the university
that I have applied for,

452
00:27:04,320 --> 00:27:13,170
I was told by the dean that
too many Jewish people,

453
00:27:13,170 --> 00:27:18,930

youngsters who come to
university, and especially

454
00:27:18,930 --> 00:27:22,980
in the colleges of
medicine, law, and two

455
00:27:22,980 --> 00:27:25,410
or three other ones,
and so on and so forth.

456
00:27:25,410 --> 00:27:28,740
And they apparently had quotas.

457
00:27:28,740 --> 00:27:31,650
This is in Canada at that time.

458
00:27:31,650 --> 00:27:35,710
6% whatever it is of the
applicants and so on.

459
00:27:35,710 --> 00:27:42,360
Now that was a shocker to me
coming to a country like that.

460
00:27:42,360 --> 00:27:44,483
But USA was no different.

461
00:27:44,483 --> 00:27:50,100

462
00:27:50,100 --> 00:27:53,136
Do you have any nostalgia?

463
00:27:53,136 --> 00:27:53,940
Any what?

464
00:27:53,940 --> 00:27:57,533
Any nostalgia for
Romania, for your birth,

465
00:27:57,533 --> 00:27:58,575

for your childhood place?

466
00:27:58,575 --> 00:28:00,370
No, not at all.

467
00:28:00,370 --> 00:28:03,750
I can't even speak
Romanian anymore.

468
00:28:03,750 --> 00:28:05,720
I forgot everything, I suppose.

469
00:28:05,720 --> 00:28:06,480
No, no.

470
00:28:06,480 --> 00:28:08,730
So you don't feel Romanian.

471
00:28:08,730 --> 00:28:09,480
No way.

472
00:28:09,480 --> 00:28:10,590
You're Canadian?

473
00:28:10,590 --> 00:28:12,720
How would you describe yourself?

474
00:28:12,720 --> 00:28:13,890
Oh, definitely.

475
00:28:13,890 --> 00:28:14,550
Oh, yes.

476
00:28:14,550 --> 00:28:15,210
Oh, yes.

477
00:28:15,210 --> 00:28:18,540
I have definitely
been a Canadian.

478
00:28:18,540 --> 00:28:27,600

And I feel nothing for Romania
or, to be honest with you,

479

00:28:27,600 --> 00:28:31,590

for that part of Europe,
all of Europe there.

480

00:28:31,590 --> 00:28:35,050

Have you been back
to Europe at all?

481

00:28:35,050 --> 00:28:35,550

No.

482

00:28:35,550 --> 00:28:36,720

The only back--

483

00:28:36,720 --> 00:28:37,960

I went to Israel.

484

00:28:37,960 --> 00:28:41,010

So I had stopped in
Netherlands for a day.

485

00:28:41,010 --> 00:28:42,660

But I don't call that--

486

00:28:42,660 --> 00:28:45,870

487

00:28:45,870 --> 00:28:48,690

And all of Europe,
you have no desire.

488

00:28:48,690 --> 00:28:49,620

Correct.

489

00:28:49,620 --> 00:28:50,190

Oh, no.

490

00:28:50,190 --> 00:28:52,350

I don't consider myself

a European at all.

491

00:28:52,350 --> 00:28:56,635

492

00:28:56,635 --> 00:28:58,800

And, I suppose, you know.

493

00:28:58,800 --> 00:29:00,480

Well, you should know.

494

00:29:00,480 --> 00:29:03,330

I worked for the prime minister.

495

00:29:03,330 --> 00:29:07,530

And I was shocked
years later that I

496

00:29:07,530 --> 00:29:11,670

had no problem getting a job.

497

00:29:11,670 --> 00:29:14,430

I think that they knew,
not when they hired me.

498

00:29:14,430 --> 00:29:16,920

But, eventually, they did
know that I was Jewish.

499

00:29:16,920 --> 00:29:17,970

No problem at all.

500

00:29:17,970 --> 00:29:23,020

501

00:29:23,020 --> 00:29:26,050

So that's a great plus.

502

00:29:26,050 --> 00:29:29,950

And, indirectly, I
benefited a great deal

503

00:29:29,950 --> 00:29:34,100
by working and a great
privilege when they hired me.

504

00:29:34,100 --> 00:29:36,610
And at that time, I
didn't think about it.

505

00:29:36,610 --> 00:29:41,380
But, subsequently, I was
really very privileged

506

00:29:41,380 --> 00:29:44,350
that being Jewish meant nothing.

507

00:29:44,350 --> 00:29:46,330
And I was staying
with a Jewish family

508

00:29:46,330 --> 00:29:50,720
while I was in the same
town and so on and so forth.

509

00:29:50,720 --> 00:29:53,230
So I was very proud.

510

00:29:53,230 --> 00:29:58,750
And because of that, I
kept being somehow active

511

00:29:58,750 --> 00:30:04,090
in politics in Canada,
in conservative policies

512

00:30:04,090 --> 00:30:08,920
and whatever it is, not now so
much, but through the years,

513

00:30:08,920 --> 00:30:12,620
and by donating, and getting
involved in [INAUDIBLE]..

514

00:30:12,620 --> 00:30:14,620
So when you were working
for the prime minister,

515
00:30:14,620 --> 00:30:15,703
you were living in Ottawa.

516
00:30:15,703 --> 00:30:17,530
Is that where?

517
00:30:17,530 --> 00:30:19,210
No.

518
00:30:19,210 --> 00:30:22,820
I was working for him in
the city that he comes from.

519
00:30:22,820 --> 00:30:24,380
And he had a law office.

520
00:30:24,380 --> 00:30:26,350
I was not working
in the government.

521
00:30:26,350 --> 00:30:27,430
Oh, I see.

522
00:30:27,430 --> 00:30:28,600
I see.

523
00:30:28,600 --> 00:30:30,900
So he hired me.

524
00:30:30,900 --> 00:30:34,550
It had nothing to do with my
political views and whatever it

525
00:30:34,550 --> 00:30:35,050
is.

526
00:30:35,050 --> 00:30:38,750
He hired me because he wanted

a lawyer, a young lawyer.

527

00:30:38,750 --> 00:30:40,420

And I learned a lot.

528

00:30:40,420 --> 00:30:46,090

And even after I left
him, I came to the city

529

00:30:46,090 --> 00:30:47,500

I am right now.

530

00:30:47,500 --> 00:30:51,070

And because of that, they
offered me a part-time job

531

00:30:51,070 --> 00:30:52,630

as a Crown prosecutor.

532

00:30:52,630 --> 00:30:55,240

And I've been a part-time
Crown prosecutor

533

00:30:55,240 --> 00:31:01,450

for 16 years in this
city before I dropped it.

534

00:31:01,450 --> 00:31:03,610

And I'm doing civil matters.

535

00:31:03,610 --> 00:31:07,120

What language do you think in?

536

00:31:07,120 --> 00:31:08,688

Oh, I would think in English.

537

00:31:08,688 --> 00:31:09,730

You think in English, OK.

538

00:31:09,730 --> 00:31:10,300

Oh, yes.

539

00:31:10,300 --> 00:31:13,510

540

00:31:13,510 --> 00:31:14,920

I speak French.

541

00:31:14,920 --> 00:31:17,290

But I don't think in French.

542

00:31:17,290 --> 00:31:19,075

I don't think in any
European language.

543

00:31:19,075 --> 00:31:23,530

544

00:31:23,530 --> 00:31:29,170

Are there any sights today,
or smells, or sounds that

545

00:31:29,170 --> 00:31:33,550

remind you of your childhood,
being in the trains,

546

00:31:33,550 --> 00:31:34,480

being in the camps?

547

00:31:34,480 --> 00:31:41,260

Anything that brings
back those experiences?

548

00:31:41,260 --> 00:31:42,460

I cannot think of any.

549

00:31:42,460 --> 00:31:47,010

550

00:31:47,010 --> 00:31:51,670

No, that was a long
time ago, I left Europe.

551

00:31:51,670 --> 00:31:57,580
And I have no desire or
connection to visit, or stay,

552
00:31:57,580 --> 00:32:07,080
or whatever with the
exception of, perhaps, France,

553
00:32:07,080 --> 00:32:11,140
but not Eastern Europe
or whatever it is.

554
00:32:11,140 --> 00:32:13,600
What were your thoughts
during the Eichmann Trial?

555
00:32:13,600 --> 00:32:20,110
Did you have any special
feelings at the time?

556
00:32:20,110 --> 00:32:26,980
Well, the idea is that they
should have prosecuted more

557
00:32:26,980 --> 00:32:28,840
than Eichmann.

558
00:32:28,840 --> 00:32:33,130
There was many, many who got
away as far as prosecuting.

559
00:32:33,130 --> 00:32:37,360
But it was important to have
it because by having it,

560
00:32:37,360 --> 00:32:38,920
you show the world.

561
00:32:38,920 --> 00:32:44,170
But, I believe, that today,
all these years have passed,

562
00:32:44,170 --> 00:32:47,500

you will have a more difficult
time to prosecute somebody

563
00:32:47,500 --> 00:32:50,480
like you did Eichmann today.

564
00:32:50,480 --> 00:32:55,000
In other words, what I find very
disappointing that the world

565
00:32:55,000 --> 00:32:57,220
has changed not for the better.

566
00:32:57,220 --> 00:33:06,490
And where Europe was still,
what's right is right and wrong

567
00:33:06,490 --> 00:33:13,570
is wrong, that, I think, has
vanished in Europe very much so

568
00:33:13,570 --> 00:33:16,170
in the last few years.

569
00:33:16,170 --> 00:33:19,210
And the way I look
at Europe today

570
00:33:19,210 --> 00:33:22,420
is what Europe used to
be prior to World War II.

571
00:33:22,420 --> 00:33:26,170

572
00:33:26,170 --> 00:33:37,150
Sometimes, the hatred, the
changes, and whatever it is,

573
00:33:37,150 --> 00:33:42,730
it's not the Europe that I would
like to live in even today.

574

00:33:42,730 --> 00:33:45,070

And I cannot see
much difference.

575

00:33:45,070 --> 00:33:48,805

Mind you, I'm not there on a
daily basis or whatever it is.

576

00:33:48,805 --> 00:33:54,280

577

00:33:54,280 --> 00:34:03,460

You have asked me, what do
I think about the museum

578

00:34:03,460 --> 00:34:14,860

that you're working for and what
I would suggest and whatever.

579

00:34:14,860 --> 00:34:19,719

And I thought about
it a long time,

580

00:34:19,719 --> 00:34:25,670

in today's world, what should
be done or could be done.

581

00:34:25,670 --> 00:34:30,880

And I made a couple
of notes and so on.

582

00:34:30,880 --> 00:34:35,469

I was very impressed of what
I saw in Washington, D.C.

583

00:34:35,469 --> 00:34:37,989

about the Holocaust
Memorial Museum.

584

00:34:37,989 --> 00:34:43,870

And, I think, I mentioned in
writing before that the museum

585

00:34:43,870 --> 00:34:47,260

will survive many generations
because it touches

586

00:34:47,260 --> 00:34:51,010

the heart of many faiths
regardless of who they

587

00:34:51,010 --> 00:34:54,495

are when they come and visit.

588

00:34:54,495 --> 00:34:58,750

And it will continue to
shine the spotlight on areas

589

00:34:58,750 --> 00:35:03,580

of our world where the horrors
of the past is being forgotten

590

00:35:03,580 --> 00:35:05,590

and/or repeated.

591

00:35:05,590 --> 00:35:09,280

And we see brutality
as it was in the past.

592

00:35:09,280 --> 00:35:12,130

593

00:35:12,130 --> 00:35:18,850

Now, am I right that you want
me to express an opinion as

594

00:35:18,850 --> 00:35:23,500

to what I think to the
future for the museum?

595

00:35:23,500 --> 00:35:25,990

I'm asking a question.

596

00:35:25,990 --> 00:35:31,090

If you wish to say anything,

that's your prerogative.

597

00:35:31,090 --> 00:35:37,090

Well, what I believe--
and I did think about it.

598

00:35:37,090 --> 00:35:42,220

I feel that it should
be a duty of the museum

599

00:35:42,220 --> 00:35:46,990

to remind the world from
time to time of any horrors

600

00:35:46,990 --> 00:35:49,720

that-- what was happening.

601

00:35:49,720 --> 00:35:58,120

And to remind them, the world,
that actually will never

602

00:35:58,120 --> 00:36:02,170

be forgotten, or forgiven,
or accepted by the world.

603

00:36:02,170 --> 00:36:04,210

And that people in
all parts of the world

604

00:36:04,210 --> 00:36:08,185

will be held accountable
and brought to justice.

605

00:36:08,185 --> 00:36:11,590

606

00:36:11,590 --> 00:36:14,980

I'm convinced that any
such declaration and/or

607

00:36:14,980 --> 00:36:20,920

action by the museum against
the perpetrators in the world

608
00:36:20,920 --> 00:36:25,600
will give the museum
the stature it acquired

609
00:36:25,600 --> 00:36:27,110
since it has been founded.

610
00:36:27,110 --> 00:36:30,970

611
00:36:30,970 --> 00:36:34,930
Mind you, because the museum is
not meant to be an institution

612
00:36:34,930 --> 00:36:38,920
to police the world from
repeating the horrors of World

613
00:36:38,920 --> 00:36:43,060
War II, I cannot see
the museum involvement,

614
00:36:43,060 --> 00:36:47,560
except for stating numerous
times to the perpetrators,

615
00:36:47,560 --> 00:36:53,230
wherever they are, of a specific
horror that they will be held

616
00:36:53,230 --> 00:36:57,100
accountable and brought to
international justice in due

617
00:36:57,100 --> 00:36:58,690
course.

618
00:36:58,690 --> 00:37:01,900
And stating that the objective
of the Holocaust Museum

619

00:37:01,900 --> 00:37:05,380
is to make available the
names of all the perpetrators

620
00:37:05,380 --> 00:37:09,250
to every country
and get a commitment

621
00:37:09,250 --> 00:37:13,390
from each country to deny
entry to those individuals

622
00:37:13,390 --> 00:37:15,860
to their country for life.

623
00:37:15,860 --> 00:37:16,950
I mean, this is a threat.

624
00:37:16,950 --> 00:37:20,080

625
00:37:20,080 --> 00:37:23,540
And I think about one thing
because it was only about two,

626
00:37:23,540 --> 00:37:24,340
three weeks ago.

627
00:37:24,340 --> 00:37:27,400
Two elderly ladies
in Canada, I think,

628
00:37:27,400 --> 00:37:33,310
Toronto, came on the
television, radio,

629
00:37:33,310 --> 00:37:36,250
saying that they were
survivors of the Holocaust.

630
00:37:36,250 --> 00:37:40,330
And they feel that all
what's going on in the world

631
00:37:40,330 --> 00:37:42,820
is almost a repetition
of the Holocaust

632
00:37:42,820 --> 00:37:46,420
whether it's Syria or some other
places and so on and so forth.

633
00:37:46,420 --> 00:37:52,390
And they were saying that
no country is standing up

634
00:37:52,390 --> 00:37:54,670
for those victims.

635
00:37:54,670 --> 00:37:57,520
And then I was thinking
about the Holocaust Museum

636
00:37:57,520 --> 00:38:02,020
that it's not for the museum,
of course, to police it.

637
00:38:02,020 --> 00:38:07,300
But, I think, that the museum
should condemn regardless--

638
00:38:07,300 --> 00:38:09,880
nothing to do with being
Jewish or not Jewish--

639
00:38:09,880 --> 00:38:13,720
against the perpetrators, saying
that you cannot get away with

640
00:38:13,720 --> 00:38:15,030
it.

641
00:38:15,030 --> 00:38:18,580
That you will be held
accountable in the future

642

00:38:18,580 --> 00:38:23,270

by the world for doing
what you're doing.

643

00:38:23,270 --> 00:38:28,550

It is genocide because
that's what you hear.

644

00:38:28,550 --> 00:38:29,800

It's not only the Middle East.

645

00:38:29,800 --> 00:38:32,680

It's Africa as well
and some other parts.

646

00:38:32,680 --> 00:38:38,260

And people who are running away
from many parts of the world

647

00:38:38,260 --> 00:38:40,435

because of what's
going on there.

648

00:38:40,435 --> 00:38:44,140

649

00:38:44,140 --> 00:38:48,580

And this hasn't happened
since World War II.

650

00:38:48,580 --> 00:38:52,040

And it's happening
now in more places.

651

00:38:52,040 --> 00:38:57,610

So that's my view because
you have established

652

00:38:57,610 --> 00:39:00,740

something which is fantastic.

653

00:39:00,740 --> 00:39:01,540

Now that's fine.

654
00:39:01,540 --> 00:39:03,070
It's in the USA.

655
00:39:03,070 --> 00:39:05,830
And that's where you have all
those people coming day in,

656
00:39:05,830 --> 00:39:09,310
day out to see it
and be a part of it.

657
00:39:09,310 --> 00:39:13,870
But, have we learned
anything from the past

658
00:39:13,870 --> 00:39:15,730
not to do in the future?

659
00:39:15,730 --> 00:39:18,040
Obviously, we have not.

660
00:39:18,040 --> 00:39:19,090
And that bothers me.

661
00:39:19,090 --> 00:39:22,300

662
00:39:22,300 --> 00:39:27,760
So the question
is, whose job is it

663
00:39:27,760 --> 00:39:30,400
to make it known to the
world that's not acceptable?

664
00:39:30,400 --> 00:39:33,550

665
00:39:33,550 --> 00:39:39,280
And, I think, that you

cannot find anything better,

666

00:39:39,280 --> 00:39:47,630

anybody more well known than the
Holocaust Museum in Washington.

667

00:39:47,630 --> 00:39:52,070

And so anyway, this
is just my thoughts.

668

00:39:52,070 --> 00:39:52,570

OK.

669

00:39:52,570 --> 00:39:54,080

Well, that's important.

670

00:39:54,080 --> 00:39:55,840

It's important to you.

671

00:39:55,840 --> 00:39:58,390

You certainly have
the right to say that.

672

00:39:58,390 --> 00:40:01,570

Lots of people have put
their heart and soul

673

00:40:01,570 --> 00:40:06,460

in the museum volunteering,
I think, including you.

674

00:40:06,460 --> 00:40:08,110

So you're doing a great job.

675

00:40:08,110 --> 00:40:10,540

But the question
is, are you doing

676

00:40:10,540 --> 00:40:12,740

a great job for the world?

677

00:40:12,740 --> 00:40:13,990

It's not only for the museum.

678

00:40:13,990 --> 00:40:15,940

You are for the world.

679

00:40:15,940 --> 00:40:18,050

Now you're not a police person.

680

00:40:18,050 --> 00:40:21,490

You cannot say, we're going
to go out there and throw you

681

00:40:21,490 --> 00:40:22,930

into jail.

682

00:40:22,930 --> 00:40:24,010

You're not saying that.

683

00:40:24,010 --> 00:40:26,740

You're only saying that
we haven't forgotten.

684

00:40:26,740 --> 00:40:29,380

We'll make it known to the
countries in the future

685

00:40:29,380 --> 00:40:33,010

that whatever you're going
to run in the future,

686

00:40:33,010 --> 00:40:34,630

will catch up with you.

687

00:40:34,630 --> 00:40:37,555

And we won't let you
in or whatever it.

688

00:40:37,555 --> 00:40:41,920

That is a threat that you
cannot get away with it.

689

00:40:41,920 --> 00:40:44,680

That's basically what
a threat is about.

690
00:40:44,680 --> 00:40:45,760
But I do notice.

691
00:40:45,760 --> 00:40:49,040
I did notice,
especially this year,

692
00:40:49,040 --> 00:40:52,240
that they have a
Holocaust Day in Europe.

693
00:40:52,240 --> 00:40:53,710
And they had it in Germany.

694
00:40:53,710 --> 00:40:56,950
They had it in two or
three places, Holland

695
00:40:56,950 --> 00:40:58,550
and some other places.

696
00:40:58,550 --> 00:41:01,030
And that's great.

697
00:41:01,030 --> 00:41:02,830
But Europe is something.

698
00:41:02,830 --> 00:41:04,830
They know what has
happened in the past.

699
00:41:04,830 --> 00:41:08,851

700
00:41:08,851 --> 00:41:12,190
And they can police themselves.

701
00:41:12,190 --> 00:41:14,530
But, what about the

rest of the world?

702
00:41:14,530 --> 00:41:17,950
They're not doing it.

703
00:41:17,950 --> 00:41:22,105
I was going to say, that's
a very timely message

704
00:41:22,105 --> 00:41:25,150
to conclude our interview with.

705
00:41:25,150 --> 00:41:27,130
Is there anything
else that we haven't

706
00:41:27,130 --> 00:41:32,540
discussed that you wanted
to include before we end?

707
00:41:32,540 --> 00:41:34,420
Well, we have discussed
my past, which is--

708
00:41:34,420 --> 00:41:44,330

709
00:41:44,330 --> 00:41:47,620
If there's nothing
else, if you feel

710
00:41:47,620 --> 00:41:53,300
we've covered the important
areas, I wanted to--

711
00:41:53,300 --> 00:41:54,010
I do.

712
00:41:54,010 --> 00:41:55,630
I mean, you're in command.

713
00:41:55,630 --> 00:41:56,800

OK.

714
00:41:56,800 --> 00:41:59,770
Are you satisfied that
whatever you wanted to know?

715
00:41:59,770 --> 00:42:03,370
Yes, very much so, very much so.

716
00:42:03,370 --> 00:42:06,700
And I wanted to thank you
then for agreeing to do

717
00:42:06,700 --> 00:42:09,790
this interview in two parts.

718
00:42:09,790 --> 00:42:13,255
Well, I do appreciate
it very much.

719
00:42:13,255 --> 00:42:19,390
And, I think that, I keep
repeating that you people are

720
00:42:19,390 --> 00:42:21,770
doing a tremendous job.

721
00:42:21,770 --> 00:42:23,875
But you have to make
it known to the world

722
00:42:23,875 --> 00:42:26,020
that it's not forgotten.

723
00:42:26,020 --> 00:42:28,060
I know World War II
was a long time ago.

724
00:42:28,060 --> 00:42:31,030

725
00:42:31,030 --> 00:42:37,660

But that atrocities committed
then and now are not forgotten

726
00:42:37,660 --> 00:42:39,010
or will not be forgotten.

727
00:42:39,010 --> 00:42:40,480
Right, absolutely.

728
00:42:40,480 --> 00:42:41,620
Yeah.

729
00:42:41,620 --> 00:42:45,190
Well, thank you for
doing the interview

730
00:42:45,190 --> 00:42:50,700
and let me just say that
this concludes the interview

731
00:42:50,700 --> 00:42:53,160
of Gerald Averbach.

732
00:42:53,160 --> 00:42:54,000