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Summary

Interview with Margaretha Bauer, talking about when she was working as a secretary at the Swedish Embassy in Budapest, Hungary, from the summer of 1943 to March 17, 1945; how she was not working directly with Raoul Wallenberg; remembering Wallenberg arriving in July 1944, with the task to rescue Jews; describing Wallenberg as energetic, determined, decisive and full of initiative; she was living in a villa next to the embassy where Wallenberg had his first office, on the first floor; remembering Wallenberg hiring staff and getting several other offices in Pest; the only work Bauer did related to Wallenberg's was sending telegrams to the Swedish Foreign Office in Stockholm; remembers issuing at least one protective passport herself, to a woman who came to the embassy in Budapest when Bauer worked there again in 1973, showing her the passport and saying that 24 of her relatives died, probably in Auschwitz; that on October 15, 1944 Swedish citizens who were married to Hungarians were offered transport out of Hungary; after the Arrow Cross party took power, being arrested on December 24, 1944, and taken to the Finnish Embassy and to military barracks, together with Asta Nilsson of Save the Children, where they expected to be shot; seeing a pile of dead bodies in the outer court yard; being marched to the ghetto on the Pest side, together with 18 others; being saved by the Portuguese Charge d'Affairs (Gapongrats?); living in the medieval labyrinths of Esterhazy's Buda Castle, with several hundreds of people; last seeing Wallenberg around January 10-13, when he visited the diplomats under the castle to brief them; leaving Budapest February 17-18 with other diplomats; on February 17, being escorted on the trip by a Soviet officer who told the diplomats they (the Soviets) had taken care of Wallenberg, had brought him to Debrecen and that Wallenberg would be in Stockholm before the diplomats arrived; having a translator during this conversation called Margel, who was Polish and Jewish; traveling with Soviet escort via Bucharest to Tampere, Finland, where the officer left the group of 14 people.