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| Interviewee: | <u>BARANSKI</u> , Tibor | Date: | October 2 & 3, 1986 |
| Interviewer: | Josey G. Fisher | | |
| Audio tapes: | 5 English | Transcript: | 1 vol. (unpaged) English |
| Restrictions: | None | Libr. Catlg. #: | D 810.J4 G7 no. 169 |

SUMMARY

Tibor Baranski, honored as a Righteous Among the Nations by *Yad Vashem*, was born June 11, 1922 in Budapest, Hungary. He was educated in Hungarian *Gymnasia* and aware of rising antisemitism by 1938. He studied for the priesthood in Vespem in 1940 and in Kassa (Kosice) in 1943. He learned of Nazi extermination plans through church channels. He returned to Budapest October 20, 1944 as the Russian army drew near.

Mr. Baranski provides a very detailed and extensive description of several rescues of Jews, from October to December, 1944, at the request of Angelo Rotta, the papal nuncio, who acted as a representative of the Vatican under orders of Pope Pius XII. He rescued Jews from a transit camp to safe houses in Budapest. He worked with representatives from neutral nations and the Red Cross to stop deportations from Hegyeshalom, using protective letters (*Schutzpasse*), and safe houses to shelter almost 6000 Jews. He was almost executed several times. He provides details of efforts to hide Jews by Christian groups and individuals. He credits Elizabeth Kemeny, Raoul Wallenberg, Prince Esterhazy, Father Hummel and a number of priests and nuns who helped in the rescue. He talks about his encounter with Wallenberg and why he was arrested by the Russians.

Mr. Baranski was arrested by the Russians December 30, 1944 and sent on a deathmarch from Budapest to Szekszarv. Saved by a Russian soldier, he returned to Budapest. He worked with an underground movement opposed to communist rule and was arrested by the Russians again November 1948. He describes postwar life in Hungary under communist rule.

He discusses Hungarian-German relations, Miklo Horthy's attitude towards Jews and Nazis, German occupation of Hungary, and the role of the Vatican in great detail based on his contacts. He entered the United States in 1961 and became a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Note: Audiotaped interviews of Per Anger and Elizabeth Kemeny Fuchs (referred to by Tibor Baranski) are at the Holocaust Oral History Archive and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

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SUBJECT HEADINGS

Righteous Gentiles in the Holocaust
World War, 1939-1945: Jews, rescues, hiding
Catholics
Hegyeshalom, Hungary
Hungary-History-German occupation, 1944-1945
Hungary-History-communism, post World War 1944-1945
Miklo Horthy
Raoul Wallenberg
Death march: Budapest, Hungary