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Interview with Gary Neumann
Holocaust Oral History Project
Date: June 19, 1990 Place: San Francisco
Interviewer: Evelyn Fielden
Transcriber: Lee A. Bursten

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1 [Begin Tape 1]

2 MS. FIELDEN: My name is Evelyn Fielden.
3 I'm an interviewer for the Oral History Project in
4 northern California. We are in San Francisco today.
5 It's June 19th, and I'm here with Gary Neumann.

6 BY MS. FIELDEN:

7 Q Good afternoon, Gary.

8 A Good afternoon to you.

9 Q Nice to meet you.

10 A Thank you.

11 Q Would you like to tell me where you were
12 born?

13 A I was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1913, of
14 Jewish parents. I'm Jewish. And -- well, you ask me
15 what you want to know and then I'll answer your
16 questions.

17 Q Did you have any brothers?

18 A Yes, I have two brothers. Both left
19 Germany in 1935 to emigrate to Israel.

20 Q Were they older or younger?

21 A Older. Older brothers.

22 Q What was the occupation of your father?

1 What did he do in Berlin?

2 A My father was a traveling salesman from a
3 German company, until 1933.

4 Q And your mother did not work?

5 A No, she was -- as a matter of fact, my
6 mother passed away in 1920, and my father remarried in
7 1923. And both my parents -- my father and my
8 stepmother were killed in a concentration camp, I
9 think in Germany.

10 Q You went to school in Berlin?

11 A I went to school in Berlin until the age of
12 17. I intended to be an architect. And in order to
13 be an architect I had to serve an apprenticeship
14 either as a carpenter or as a bricklayer before I was
15 to be admitted to a college, to an architectural
16 college in Berlin.

17 I finished my apprenticeship in 1933, April
18 1933, and previously to that I had paid the initial
19 fee for the college; but for obvious reasons I was not
20 admitted to the college. That was in 1933 already.

21 Various organizations or businesses or
22 colleges took things into their own hands prior to

1 1938 or 1939, and made it very difficult for Jewish
2 people to be admitted or whatever.

3 Q So what did you do in 1933?

4 A I had been very active in the Jewish youth
5 movement in Berlin prior to 1933, and I eventually
6 through my connections got a job at a Jewish community
7 center in Berlin, and I worked as a youth advisor.

8 Q Did you do that full-time?

9 A I did that full-time, yes.

10 Q So when Hitler came into power, what was it
11 like for you at that time?

12 A Well, to be quite honest I considered
13 myself a German Jew, like most of the other Jewish
14 people in Germany. My father fought for Germany in
15 the First World War, and his attitude was, nothing can
16 happen to me, I'm a German, I got the Iron Cross, and
17 I'm a German.

18 Well, being very young, I sort of followed
19 those footsteps, until 1933 when I became aware of
20 things. However, I still felt that although many
21 people had or were leaving Germany already in 1933, I
22 felt I am also German and I don't want to leave.

1 But things obviously became considerably
2 more difficult for me, since when I wanted to travel
3 in 1933 during the summer vacations I had difficulties
4 in getting into any hotel in order to spend a
5 vacation. So instead of spending the vacation in
6 Germany I went to Denmark on a holiday.

7 Places like cafes and official places,
8 restaurants, cafes, hotels, had signs up, "Jews Not
9 Wanted." It did not say "Jews Forbidden," but "Jews
10 Not Wanted." And that was the reason why I went
11 somewhere else.

12 Things obviously got somewhat worse over a
13 period of time, and particularly in view of the fact
14 that I was working for the Jewish community center.
15 We had sort of some inside information. And as I
16 said, things got worse, and in 1935 I again traveled
17 to Denmark for a vacation. I did have a non-Jewish
18 friend since early childhood, and he advised me
19 towards the end of 1935, beginning of 1936, it would
20 be better for me to leave Germany.

21 And I followed his advice, and I left in
22 July of 1936 to go to South Africa. Well, you know

1 the story about South Africa. I again was much
2 involved in the liberal movement, and I felt that
3 things are getting worse there too, and that was the
4 reason why I left with my family -- I was married in
5 South Africa -- I left for the United States in 1962.

6 Q Where in South Africa did you live?

7 A In a place called Durban, in a town.

8 Q Let me come back to your father. When you
9 told your father that you were going to leave Germany,
10 what was his reaction?

11 A His reaction was -- that was in the
12 beginning of 1936 -- was still the same as it was in
13 1933. Nothing would happen. The countries outside of
14 Germany will not allow anything to happen. That was
15 the reaction. But he did not make it any difficult
16 for me, did not put any difficulties in my way to
17 leave.

18 My brothers, both my brothers left also in
19 early 1936 for Israel, and I left in July 1936.

20 Q What made you choose South Africa?

21 A To be honest, I did not want to go to
22 Israel, for whatever reasons. And I felt an English

1 speaking country would be somewhat easier for me,
2 since I learned English in school, I had some basic
3 knowledge; and that was the reason.

4 Q Were your father and mother Orthodox Jews?

5 A No, Conservative. We belonged to a
6 Conservative congregation.

7 Q So you chose South Africa. How did you
8 manage to get out of Germany? What were you allowed
9 to take?

10 A I was allowed, in cash, ten marks. And I'm
11 a collector of stamps. I took my stamp album along.
12 They wanted to take it away when I crossed the border
13 into Italy. I left from -- yes, from Italy by boat.

14 Q Genoa?

15 A Yes, Genoa. But after a bit of haggling,
16 they did allow me to take it along.

17 Q So you went alone to South Africa?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And you got married in South Africa?

20 A That's right.

21 Q So when you arrived in South Africa, what
22 did you do to earn a living?

1 A In order to earn a living, the fact that I
2 had learned carpentry as an apprentice, I started to
3 work as a carpenter in South Africa. But since
4 carpentry was not my ultimate object, I did not care
5 very much for it, and although I made good money, I
6 switched from carpentry to a salesman.

7 In the meantime I also learned some
8 bookkeeping, because I'm intrigued by figures, and I
9 took up bookkeeping as a sideline, and I'm still doing
10 it today.

11 Q Great, wonderful. Were you in
12 communication with your parents?

13 A Yes, I was corresponding with my parents
14 until the outbreak of the war. After the outbreak of
15 the war I had some communications through the Red
16 Cross until 19 -- I would say '41. I'm not sure about
17 the year, but somewhere around there. And then I did
18 not hear anything further until after the war, when I
19 made inquiries and I was told that my parents were
20 taken to a concentration camp and killed.

21 Q Did you get any details about it?

22 A No. No. No details, no. Both my brothers

1 from Israel as well as I from South Africa made a
2 number of inquiries. We were just told that my
3 parents were in the concentration camp, and that was
4 it.

5 Q They did not even mention the name of the
6 concentration camp?

7 A No.

8 Q Did you have a large family, extended
9 family?

10 A Well, I had lots of uncles and aunts. Most
11 of them were also killed in concentration camps.

12 Q How many people do you think--

13 A Well, I know definitely my first mother's
14 sister was married and lived in our neighborhood, and
15 there was the husband, the wife and two children.

16 The husband I was told later was picked up,
17 taken to a concentration camp. My aunt committed
18 suicide straight after that. And my uncle and the two
19 children all were killed in concentration camps.

20 That's what I was told when I visited
21 Israel to visit my brothers on the way from South
22 Africa to America. There were some other family

1 members, indirect family members, and they told me
2 about the fate of this uncle and aunt and cousins.
3 Both cousins were young. The boy was, when I left,
4 about ten or 11, and the girl was about seven or
5 eight.

6 So they were very young, and taken to a
7 concentration camp, and they were all killed. I
8 checked it out when I was in Israel in 19 -- three
9 years ago. I visited the Yad Vashem and looked up in
10 the book and found their names, and found the names of
11 my father and my stepmother.

12 Q How many members would you say of your
13 family perished in the Holocaust?

14 A I cannot answer that question. I don't
15 know. But I would say that of the extended family,
16 there were about -- from my uncle and my cousins there
17 were -- another uncle, another aunt, and also two
18 cousins. I don't know what happened to them. I have
19 never heard from them again.

20 Q Did you ever go back to Berlin?

21 A Yes, I was invited, and went back, and as
22 you probably know they couldn't do enough, and I also

1 visited my friend who advised me to leave Germany,
2 he's still alive, and I visited with him also.

3 Q Have you been back to Germany since then?

4 A No. No.

5 Q Let's come back to South Africa. So you
6 started bookkeeping.

7 A Yes.

8 Q And your wife, was she of German
9 background, too?

10 A Yes, she was also from Berlin.

11 Q Also from Berlin?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And you have children, too?

14 A Yes, I have two sons, both live in
15 Sacramento. I'm separated from my wife. Going back
16 to South Africa, I eventually opened my own business
17 full time. I was fairly successful. I had eight
18 employees working for me.

19 And it was -- as I said, I was successful,
20 and still I felt that particularly the Jewish
21 community in South Africa was well to do, successful
22 business people, the majority of them, but still the

1 political situation was not to my liking. As I
2 mentioned before, that's the reason I left. When I
3 came to the States I followed my occupation, and still
4 do the same.

5 South Africa is a beautiful country, but
6 things are changing, as you can see from the news
7 reports, and I think I did the right -- took the right
8 step, because one doesn't know what's going to happen.

9 Q Did you encounter any anti-Semitism while
10 you were in South Africa?

11 A When I arrived in South Africa, General
12 Smotz was the prime minister, and there was
13 anti-Semitism from the present party in power. But as
14 soon as they came to power after General Smotz passed
15 away, there was no open anti-Semitism. It was cut off
16 completely.

17 It does not mean to say that there isn't,
18 but officially you don't notice anything. Not in that
19 particular place where I lived, which is very English,
20 against, for instance, in northern Transvaal and
21 Orange Free State and the part of the Cape province
22 which is more Afrikaans than English. And mainly the

1 Afrikaans people were anti-Semites.

2 Q It never fails, does it?

3 A No, it never fails.

4 Q So you spent all together nine years?

5 A From 1936 to 1962. I left South Africa in
6 1962 to come here.

7 Q Quite a long time, isn't it?

8 A Yes. Yes.

9 Q And when you came to the United States,
10 where did you settle?

11 A San Francisco.

12 Q Did you have any relatives in either South
13 Africa or the United States?

14 A No.

15 Q You just picked this spot?

16 A Yes. Well, I was -- let me put it this
17 way, I was told that San Francisco is a beautiful city
18 to live in, except for the earthquakes, but I didn't
19 know about the earthquakes then. But I still feel
20 it's a good place to live in.

21 Q And your brothers in Israel, did they feel
22 the same way you did, leaving Germany?

1 A No, I think they took it a little easier.
2 No, they didn't feel the same way.

3 Q Would you like to talk a little bit
4 about --

5 A Well, they were -- my oldest brother was
6 born in 1908, and my second brother was born in 1910.
7 Maybe they were more advanced in their thinking.
8 Maybe they were more liberal in their outlook. Maybe
9 because they were older than I was, they saw things
10 clearer than I did.

11 This is just an assumption, I'm not
12 positive about it. But they lived their own lives,
13 you know, being that age, and that age difference. I
14 was the youngest in the family.

15 No, they didn't think much about it. They
16 went -- before they went to Israel they went to
17 Denmark in order to -- I don't know what you call it,
18 Hashah, do you know what that means? It's to change
19 their jobs, to change their --

20 Q Their profession?

21 A Yes, their profession. At that time Israel
22 wanted people working on the land, and that's what

1 they learned in Denmark before they went to Israel.

2 Q Going back to Germany, when you lived there
3 after Hitler came into power, how did you move around?

4 A I told you that I was busy in the Jewish
5 youth movement, and in that capacity as a youth leader
6 I was arrested once by the police, and I was dismissed
7 after a couple of days spending in jail.

8 And on another occasion in 1935 we had a
9 meeting of about 30 youngsters, aged between 15 and
10 20. We met once a week in the evenings. And the
11 S.A., a troop of S.A. people came and raided us, and
12 since there was a police station just around the
13 corner, that was 1935, I somehow as a leader felt I
14 had to do something, and I sort of passed through them
15 and went to the police station. I told the police
16 what had happened.

17 There were about 40 to 50 S.A. troop men
18 spread out from one corner of the street to the other
19 corner, every ten, 20 yards, and they raided us and
20 they told us to get out of our meeting place, and as
21 our young people went out they were hit by the S.A.
22 wherever they went, whether they went left, right, to

1 the side, whatever.

2 But somehow I got through and went to the
3 police station. But the police just shrugged their
4 shoulders, they can't do anything. But what happened
5 is that a few S.A. men saw me going to the police, and
6 they followed me. But they did not come up to the
7 police station themselves.

8 And somehow I saw them waiting downstairs,
9 and I asked for police protection. And the police
10 gave me protection. But somehow the S.A. people found
11 out where I lived, and I did not dare to go home. And
12 I spent a week sleeping every night some other place,
13 some of my friends' places. And after a week things
14 died down, and I went home again.

15 That was one occasion. Another occasion,
16 my parents were away overnight. I was woken up at
17 5:00 in the morning, the doorbell rang. Gestapo.
18 That was in early 1936. Now, we lived on the top
19 floor of an apartment building. You know Germany? On
20 the roof they have washroom and driers, that sort of
21 thing.

22 And the Gestapo, they just came in. There

1 were two men, and they didn't say anything. They just
2 went on through the apartment, opened cupboards,
3 doors. And after a while, after 20 minutes, they left
4 again.

5 I found out subsequently that the -- on the
6 roof, in the washroom, a window was open, and the wind
7 closed and opened the window all the time, and that
8 made a noise. And people who lived on the floor
9 thought that we have a secret -- what do you call it?

10 Q Hiding place?

11 A No, a printing press, a printing press, and
12 that's what they were looking for. Those are all the
13 events which I can describe. Fortunately nothing
14 happened to me otherwise, and I got away in '36.

15 Q You were very fortunate, weren't you,
16 before the yellow star came.

17 A That's right, yes.

18 Q Did you have any Jewish friends who --

19 A Yes. Well, through my youth work, through
20 the group I was working with. Many of them were
21 killed. I found someone in New York, a friend of
22 mine, also who was originally a member of that group,

1 got a scholarship for Cincinnati for the Jewish
2 seminar, and he became a rabbi. And he lived in New
3 York.

4 And when I had the occasion to go to New
5 York I visited with him, and he told me about some of
6 the others of that group who disappeared and
7 eventually were killed in concentration camps.

8 Q A sad experience.

9 A Not as sad as many others, fortunately.

10 Q Fortunately. But why compare? It was sad
11 enough for you.

12 A Yes, it was an experience, to say the
13 least.

14 Q And did you ever go back to South Africa
15 again?

16 A No. And I have no desire to do so. It's a
17 beautiful country.

18 Q You said you have two sons?

19 A Yes. They were born in South Africa. They
20 both live in Sacramento. My eldest son is the
21 associate conductor of the Sacramento Symphony
22 Orchestra. And my younger son is working as an X-ray

1 technologist in a hospital in Sacramento. Both are
2 married and both have families, and both are very much
3 aware of the Holocaust.

4 Q That's what I was going to ask you.

5 A Yes.

6 Q You did discuss your life with them?

7 A Oh, yes. Yes.

8 Q And what happened to you, and your father
9 and mother?

10 A Yes, and they read about it, and they hear
11 from others, and they are very much aware of what has
12 happened.

13 Q Very good.

14 A Yes.

15 Q Did you ever meet any school friends?

16 A No. No. Apart from my non-Jewish friend
17 who I visited while I was in Germany, no.

18 Q He was really a true friend to you.

19 A Oh, yes. Yes.

20 Q Would you have left, if he had not given
21 you the advice at that time?

22 A I suppose I would have left eventually. It

1 would not have been in 1936. It would have been
2 later. But I could see things got worse, and did not
3 improve, and I certainly would have left, yes. But
4 this is an assumption. I'm not sure.

5 Q But you were old enough -- you were about
6 20, weren't you?

7 A Yes, I was 23 when I left.

8 Q -- to see things quite clearly?

9 A Yes. I had hoped in 1933 also, like my
10 father did, that nothing will happen to us, we are
11 Germans by birth, and that other countries will not
12 allow things to happen. But as it proved, we were
13 wrong.

14 Q Many were wrong.

15 A Yes, unfortunately.

16 Q So you came to San Francisco and you took
17 up your bookkeeping.

18 A Yes. First I worked for a firm of CPAs for
19 five or six years, seven years, and then I started on
20 my own.

21 Q You were very fortunate to come here, this
22 beautiful city.

1 A Yes.

2 Q Is there anything else you would like to
3 tell us about?

4 A Nothing I can think of offhand.

5 Q We will make a stop, maybe.

6 Something else that is important. You
7 can't remember your whole life within minutes, it's so
8 difficult.

9 A Okay. Let's start. As I mentioned before,
10 I was very active in the Jewish youth movement even
11 before 1933. And that involved a youth group of about
12 20 to 30 youngsters, aged 13, 14, up to 20 years of
13 age.

14 We used to meet once a week on a certain
15 evening, and had -- usually had a speaker to talk to
16 us about Jewish affairs, Jewish religion, Torah,
17 whatever. And particularly during the summer months
18 we used to go on weekend trips overnight, tenting, and
19 through this work I was able after 1933 to get a job
20 with a Jewish community center in Berlin.

21 Many of my friends who were in that group
22 disappeared during the Holocaust, as I was told later

1 on. In particular I had one friend who left already
2 in 1933 for America in order to study for the
3 rabbinate. And when I saw him in New York some years
4 ago, he told me about the fate of some of the other
5 members of the youth group.

6 The last thing I tell you, I feel I am very
7 lucky to be in this country, although maybe not
8 everything is 100 percent, but still I have lived a
9 full life, it's going towards the end. I'm 77 years
10 of age. And looking back, I would say that I had a
11 reasonably good youth, with the interruption of 1936
12 when I had to leave, or when I left Germany of my own
13 free will.

14 That's about all I can tell you at this
15 stage.

16 Q Have you encountered here in the United
17 States any anti-Semitism personally?

18 A Personally, no, I have not. Fortunately I
19 can say no.

20 Q I was curious, given your interest in
21 Jewish cultural affairs and your first job, I was
22 curious about your remark that you decided that you

1 would not emigrate to Israel, for some particular
2 reasons of your own. I was curious to know what your
3 thinking was.

4 A I can answer that question. I was
5 violently anti-Zionist. That is perhaps based on the
6 fact that I was a German. I don't know whether you
7 will understand the connection, having been born a
8 German of the Jewish faith, but the Jewish faith and
9 Zionists are two entirely different things. That's
10 the way I looked at it at that time. And that is the
11 reason why I did not want to go to Israel.

12 As far as my brothers are concerned, for
13 instance, they were not Zionists either, but I suppose
14 they had no other option or choice. Why I thought of
15 South Africa, I cannot answer that question. I
16 mentioned before that on account of the language, but
17 they did not think of any other country but Israel.
18 Not because they were Zionist, but because it was easy
19 to get there and to get into Israel; as it was then,
20 Palestine.

21 Q So you're saying that your anti-Zionism was
22 a reflection of your German nationalism?

1 A Yes. Yes. Yes. Although I was not a
2 nationalist, but I was a German national.

3 Q Right.

4 A They are two different things.

5 Q That is very common. It was very common.

6 A Yes, it was, actually.

7 Q Did you find this viewpoint of yours
8 challenged by any of your peers as the '30s devolved?

9 A Yes. It was challenged before. One or two
10 members of our youth group, for instance, were ardent
11 Zionists. And we had discussions during our meetings
12 about Zionism versus anti-Zionism. And it was more or
13 less also -- I don't know why, a religious question,
14 because Zionism is not to be equalled with religious
15 Judaism. They are two different aspects.

16 And to be very honest, I have not changed
17 my mind very much, funnily enough. I don't know
18 whether it's funny or not. But I still feel that
19 Zionism is a purely political way of thinking, and you
20 can question or you can ask yourself whether Herzl,
21 who wanted a homeland for the Jews -- but it is today,
22 and it was over the last year, it's a political

1 entity, and it's political divisions within the
2 country, and I'm not very hopeful as far as the future
3 is concerned. But this is my personal opinion.

4 Q Are you a supporter of Israel?

5 A I am a supporter of Israel, yes. I've been
6 there twice and I have family there, and -- but deep
7 down I fear for Israel.

8 Q We have had many survivors say they feel
9 the existence of Israel is essential to preventing
10 another Holocaust. Do you feel that's --

11 A No, I don't think I feel that way. I don't
12 think it will -- nothing will stop any Holocaust, if
13 it ever occurs again. Israel won't stop it either. I
14 personally don't think so. The political divisions in
15 Israel are so -- what shall I say? So strong, so
16 deep, that unless something entirely different
17 happens, I don't know what will happen.

18 And I'm not even thinking so much about
19 whatever surrounds Israel. I think it's within the
20 country.

21 Q Disagreements about the identity of the
22 country?

1 A Yes.

2 Q By Israelis?

3 A Yes.

4 Q I have another question for you.

5 A Yes.

6 Q When you wrote to your father, I suppose
7 you wrote letters back and forth before the war?

8 A Yes.

9 Q You did not telephone each other?

10 A No.

11 Q Did the question ever come up of him
12 emigrating or joining you?

13 A Yes, the question did come up. In 1938 I
14 was trying to get my parents out of Germany into South
15 Africa. And a letter took about three weeks by
16 airmail. And by writing forwards and backwards, the
17 time lapsed, and after they eventually decided, yes,
18 they would consider coming, South Africa closed its
19 doors to emigration.

20 And that was the end of it. And then we
21 tried -- and my brothers from Israel to get them into
22 Israel, and that was officially closed.

1 Q In 1938?

2 A It was around about 1938, '39, when England
3 made it extremely difficult for people to go to
4 Israel, to Palestine.

5 Q And South Africa was closed?

6 A Yes, and South Africa closed its doors.

7 Q So you don't know if your parents ever made
8 an effort to go anywhere else?

9 A Not to my knowledge, no. No.

10 Q It's very hard. Well, what do you think we
11 all should do to prevent another Holocaust from
12 happening? What can we do?

13 A Nothing. Nothing. That's my opinion. As
14 long as the Church has a lot of say, and as long as
15 the Pope and the Catholics, particularly the Catholic
16 Church feels, whether it's official or not official,
17 that the Jews killed Christ, Jesus, as long as that's
18 happening, there will be no change. You cannot stop
19 it.

20 You cannot stop it if parents talk amongst
21 themselves about the Jews and the children hear it.
22 Then they will be anti-Jewish too. It's inborn, and

1 maybe education might help to some extent, but I
2 personally don't think it will. We have it since the
3 early 19th century, when the question came up again
4 and again and again, and did it help? No.

5 And you find -- you didn't find it only in
6 Germany. You find it in France, you find it in
7 England, you find it to some extent here, in South
8 Africa. Wherever you go. And the people who --
9 educated people know better, but unfortunately the
10 majority of the populations in any country is not
11 educated.

12 Q It makes one cry.

13 A Of course, one must cry. Whether they will
14 be successful, that's a different question.

15 Q In closing I would like to ask you if you
16 have a special message you would like to leave as your
17 legacy with us.

18 A I hope and I wish that you will be
19 successful in your endeavors, not only to educate the
20 Jewish population, but the other part of the
21 population, and I come back to what I just talked
22 about. Whether it will help, I hope so, but I'm

1 somehow doubtful.

2 Q Gary, thank you very much for letting us
3 take this interview. It has been a real pleasure
4 meeting you.

5 A Thank you. Same here. Thank you.

6 Q I was curious, one South Africa question,
7 you said you left in '62 because of the political
8 environment. I was just curious specifically what you
9 were referring to; specific experiences or issues?

10 A No. In general I sort of foresaw -- having
11 been in Germany, I could somehow compare matters.

12 Q And you saw parallels?

13 A I saw a parallel not as far as the Jewish
14 question is concerned, but as far as the black
15 question is concerned, and it proved to be true.
16 Things are changing rapidly. Whether it will to be
17 for the good, that's another question again.

18 Fortunately for the white population in
19 South Africa, the blacks are divided amongst
20 themselves. And that will create difficulties, even
21 if the white government will say tomorrow, all right,
22 we give you the power, we give power to the black

1 people.

2 But since they are very much divided
3 amongst themselves, it will not be easy. It will be
4 extremely difficult. And who will suffer? It's the
5 white man. Because the black man is uneducated,
6 generally speaking, and he doesn't mind if he kills
7 someone. It doesn't matter to him.

8 And that is the reason why I could foresee
9 what is happening or what will happen eventually.
10 Whether it will happen that way or not, I do not know.
11 But I didn't want to know anymore.

12 Q What were some of the incidents or
13 political phenomena that you noticed in South Africa
14 that struck you as, I just saw this in Germany 15 or
15 20 years ago?

16 A It was -- no. My personal experience, as I
17 mentioned before, I was active in the liberal movement
18 in South Africa, and I met with a number of black
19 people, educated people, and we had meetings in homes,
20 private homes. I had lived in a house, and I didn't
21 dare to ask those people to come during the daylight
22 on account of the neighbors, who would point out, you

1 know, he is a liberal, and he's a Jew, you know. I
2 wanted to avoid that.

3 But apart from that, I saw the trend, the
4 political trend as far as the black population is
5 concerned, and not only the black population. For
6 instance, where I lived in Durban, we had 100,000
7 white people, 100,000 black people, and 100,000 Indian
8 people, people of Indian origin. It's a very mixed
9 population.

10 But I could feel the hostilities. That was
11 just a feeling, the hostilities between the one and
12 the other one and the third one. And I felt it has to
13 erupt one day. Maybe a hundred years from now. I
14 don't know. But one day it has to erupt. I didn't
15 want to wait for that.

16 Q You had great foresight altogether. You
17 left Germany early, you left South Africa.

18 A Yes. It was just pure luck.

19 Q No, I don't think it's just pure luck. I
20 think you can sense it.

21 A Yes, yes, sometimes you can.

22 Q What do you think about Mandela?

1 A Well, I think he's a reasonable man. I
2 think he is a reasonable man. But again, I come back
3 to what I said just now, the blacks are so much
4 divided amongst themselves. It's not only Mandela,
5 there are other leading figures on the opposite end of
6 the spectrum amongst the black population, that it
7 will not be easy for him or anyone to bind the black
8 population together as one unit. That will, in my
9 opinion, not happen.

10 And that will create difficulties.

11 Q As you say, that hurts the whites.

12 A Yes. Yes.

13 Q That's all we can do, is hope.

14 A Yes, that's all we can do. There's nothing
15 else.

16 Q Okay, that's it. Thanks a lot.

17 A You're welcome.

18 Q It was an interesting interview.

19 [End Tape 1]

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