

1 INTERVIEW WITH: SOLOMON MENDEL SLUCKI

2 INTERVIEWER:

3 DATE:

4 PLACE: *San Francisco*

5 TRANSCRIBER: WANDA HOFFMAN

6

7

8 Q OK.

9 A So we spent all the time together, because we had a
10 big house; people used to sleep in the rooms. So a Monday
11 night -- my wife was then away with my son; he had to go
12 to the mountains because he was sick -- so a Monday night
13 when we came back from dinner my sister-in-law says to me
14 "What's going to be? We have to find out who did it." I
15 said "It's money; it's a complicated thing. How can we
16 find out who did it? The only thing" -- I said to her
17 then -- "would be a search on the people, although I have
18 doubts about it, but if you want." She said "Yes, I want
19 a search."

20 So the four men were sitting in another room playing
21 cards. So I went in with my heart beating (inaudible). I
22 said "Fellows, we have to do something very unpleasant to
23 everybody. I'm going to make a search." I locked the
24 doors. I locked the doors; took the key, put it in my
25 pocket. I said "Everyone here" -- we were but five men --



1 "should whisper in my ear how much money he has, and I will
2 have to check it."

3 So we started to search. I told them to let their
4 pants down. And we searched, and everything came out just
5 about what they said to me. But among them was one who was
6 very, very -- I don't mean smart, but, you know, the kind
7 which is always aware of things. He said "Look." He went
8 over to that fellow for whom I arranged the papers for him.
9 He said "Look, one of the two things: either you or I have
10 taken the money. I'm going to rip your shoes, your jacket,
11 and you're going to rip my shoes and my jacket. We have
12 to find the money." So they started to look, one to the
13 other's belongings.

14 Oh, by the way, when we came back we started to search.
15 I opened a suitcase -- the first thing I did, I opened a
16 suitcase and the stockings was gone. So I said to that
17 fellow for whom I arranged his papers -- that was his
18 suitcase -- "Yesterday there were three pair of silken
19 stockings. Where are they?" So he insisted, he said "There
20 was not." I said "I have a witness who had seen it." "But
21 besides," -- he said, -- "you had no right to look into my
22 suitcase." I said "That question I don't ask you now. That,
23 we'll discuss later."

24 At the very end you'll know why I'm telling you this
25 story.



1 So the man didn't have the stockings, but that still
2 don't prove that he took the money.

3 So after we -- I searched and couldn't find it, so the
4 other fellow took over, and he searched. So when he
5 searched, finally he comes up with this scream. So he
6 said "I got it; I found it" -- the one who said -- who was
7 very smart. He said "I have it." So the other fellow
8 from whom he found the money says "Sixty are mine" -- meaning
9 "Sixty thousand francs are mine." So he quietly replied
10 "Let me count. Let me see how much we have" -- so that
11 they divide it. So he himself --

12 Q Yes. Admitted.

13 A -- admitted, because he got so frightened that his
14 money will be lost he said "Sixty are mine." So, you know,
15 he cried and said "Let me look; let me check how much there
16 is."

17 So he was holding the money, he said "Where is the
18 ration book?" He said "I'll tear this out." So he slapped
19 him right away. He said "In today's day, a Jewish man, you
20 destroy his provision book?" Anyways. That man had also
21 two hundred dollars, in dollars.

22 So then we locked him in the room, and said "You're
23 not going out from that room." He said "If I want to go
24 to the toilet?" We said "You're going to do it through
25 the window."

1 And at one o'clock I took a bike to make the twenty-
2 two kilometers, to that man, to let him know, because at
3 that time the telephone was not as popular as here today.
4 So I came about six o'clock in the morning and told him
5 "We found the money; we know who did it. We want you to
6 come back to the city."

7 Now, the temporary paper -- what you got for the
8 residency -- the guy took away and gave it to my hands.
9 So finally we came back to the city about eight or nine
10 o'clock in the morning.

11 And he was a businessman, from whom the money was
12 taken. He said like this -- So when we sat down at the
13 table, everybody, he said "I'll tell you what: I'm a
14 businessman. You wanted to" -- No, he said "I'll tell
15 you what: We're going to open the door, and the first
16 three Jews we see passing by here, we'll call them in and
17 make them as judges, because we cannot hand you over to
18 the police in today's condition. Normally we would hand
19 you over to the police and let them do whatever they want,
20 but because the circumstances of Jewish life is such, we
21 cannot hand you over, so we'll pick three Jews who pass by
22 on the street and make them as judges." He said "No, no,
23 no. I don't want anybody to know. I appoint you as my
24 judge. So you will be the judge -- whatever you decide."

25 So then, OK, we started the trial, going over how it



1 happened. So anyway, then he said like this -- this busi-
2 nessman said -- "I'm a businessman. You wanted to make
3 twenty-five thousand francs the easy way. So, you were
4 not successful. So it will cost you twenty-five thousand
5 dollars -- francs. You were not successful; it will cost
6 you twenty-five thousand francs. Now, these twenty-five
7 thousand francs, I decide like this: What Mr. Slucki
8 arranged for you, normally people take money for this. He
9 didn't take money from you; he just wanted to help you.
10 That cost ten thousand francs. I decide. Five thousand
11 francs to three people who were innocently accused of being
12 the robbers who got the money."

13 Q For damages.

14 A For damages.

15 "And the paper -- Mr. Slucki will decide what he
16 wants to do, because he gave his name for you. So you're
17 not worthy of that."

18 So I tear up the paper in his presence. "I don't want
19 you in this city. Today Jewish life is all complicated,
20 but we must behave. And if we have somebody who didn't
21 behave among ourselves, we cannot trust him -- if we have
22 something to say. You leave the town; I'll buy you a
23 ticket; and go on wherever you want. You didn't appre-
24 ciate what we did. Go on."

25 And to the Spanish girl we gave five thousand francs.

1 She was crying; she didn't want that money. She felt that
2 we must have accused her at the first one. And she was
3 a very honest girl. She had nothing to do with it.

4 And the twenty thousand francs we gave to the Jewish
5 underground.

6 I took him to the station and bought him a ticket, and
7 he left town.

8 Q Home fried justice.

9 A No, Jewish moral. Jewish moral. It was not the
10 question of the money for us.

11 Q No, no.

12 A But he should feel how wrong he was, what he did --
13 in particular in that period. So now, again, it's a story
14 only Jews can understand it. Non-Jewish people may turn
15 this story to a negative value.

16 Q No, I don't think so, because he has a responsibility.

17 A Yeah.

18 Q And you showed him through what's most important to
19 him, which is money.

20 A Yeah. No, it's very worthwhile to show how a Jewish
21 collective thinking goes, against individual criminal
22 behavior.

23 So my wife feels that that story is not of big value,
24 and I feel it's very valuable, especially in time of stress.

25 Q Yeah, when you have to be able to trust your own people.

1 A More than that. When every behavior of a Jewish per-
2 son is valuable for your survival.

3 Q Right. That's right.

4 A Because our survival dominated our daily thinking.
5 When people think of survival they think only of camps,
6 but to go to the right side or to the left meant life or
7 death.

8 Q And you can't be betrayed by your own people.

9 A No, no, absolutely not. Especially when you give
10 a hand, and (inaudible) and you go in to a lawyer and get
11 these papers fixed.

12 Q Everybody taking risks for you.

13 A That's right.

14 And after that, what happened, my sister-in-law came,
15 I should go and do for something else. Because I was a
16 tailor I had contacts to the administration in the city.
17 So I said to myself "After that fellow I don't want any-
18 body." So I locked myself in a room and pulled my hair.
19 "All right, that one was no good, but here comes my friend
20 that her husband is going to be sent to Germany, so she
21 wants him out." So I went up -- OK, I decided -- OK, I
22 went up to one of the chiefs there, he came in once and
23 asked me I should make him a coat. I said "I can give
24 you this and that." He said "No, when you find something
25 good of the pre-war material, I want you to make it." So

1 at that time I used it, and I took some simple material up
2 to him, and he says to me "Look, you didn't come for the
3 coat. You need some help from me." I said "Yes." But
4 they paid me the official price. I never overcharged them.
5 I gave them good quality, good work, for the official
6 price. But, again, I had a contact to him.

7 Q Yes.

8 A So he said "You came up for some other reason. Let's
9 hear it."

10 Q He knew better.

11 A So, you know, I found out when you're open with a
12 non-Jewish person you are more successful than you go be-
13 hind his back. Go say to him, "Look, I need your help,
14 if you can help, if you want to help." And most of the
15 time I was never refused.

16 Q Well, that shows a sign of respect.

17 A That's right. So, when I came -- So he said to
18 me -- So I told him, so I said "What can I do?" He
19 said "I think that camp is near the border"; said "Nothing
20 I can do." So I said to him "Look, if I would come up to
21 you and tell you that he robbed me" -- that thinking came
22 just at the time there -- "I would make accusation that
23 he stole things from me, what would you do?" He said "Why
24 don't you sit down here on my side of the desk." He said
25 "Send me up the woman." The woman came up, and he took

1 the information, sent a cable "The man is being looked
2 for robbery." The next morning he was there. When he
3 came, signed the paper "No evidence," and let him go.

4 This -- I can tell you many stories, because remember
5 one thing: there's one thing in life, in all circumstances:
6 as long as you don't have a gun or a knife in the front
7 of you, honest behavior will always pay off. When you are
8 in danger of a gun or of a knife, what can you do? But
9 as long as you can get an ear to listen, if you go in the
10 proper way, without any conniving, you can be successful.

11 Q There was a little bit of conniving, though. You gave
12 him a way to act, is what you did. You made a suggestion,
13 how he could do it.

14 A That's right. But that's not conniving. It was sav-
15 ing that Jew out of the --

16 Q Yes. Right.

17 A It was not conniving for any egoist or individual
18 or event other than survival. Again, survival dominated
19 that conniving.

20 Q Right.

21 A So if survival has to dominate that conniving, is it
22 my fault when you force me to connive for my survival?

23 Q No.

24 A So that's what -- we always have to remember these
25 things.

1 Q And maybe conniving is the wrong word. You were very
2 clever.

3 A Well, we had the war. And there was times when I
4 wasn't that loyal. Some people said "You know, you have
5 some Jews that bring harm to you?" I said "Do you know
6 them?" She said "Yeah, I think." I said "No, you don't
7 know them. We know them." Because the Jew who takes you
8 out for a good dinner, he's a good Jew; but the Jew who
9 cannot afford a good dinner so this one is a bad guy; huh?
10 So she felt like (inaudible) -- if some Jew will give you
11 a good treat. But that's the way of life we live in, so
12 don't make any conclusion.

13 And at that point I said "Look, if you want to blame
14 Jews for black market, who gives the pork to the black
15 market? the rabbi? or the priest? Huh?" That's the way
16 I put it to her. Because you can only get pork on the
17 black market. The rabbi don't deliver this to the black
18 market, but the priest can. I mean, we always have to
19 not be accepting excuses for criminal behavior, but because
20 that guy is poor. Like today, ninety percent of crimes
21 are not for hunger.

22 Q Yeah. For want of something else.

23 A That's right. So let's forget the approach that
24 hunger makes out of your kind a criminal.

25 I lost my father in 1916. The Germans killed him in

1 1916 -- beat him to death.
2 Q In 1916?
3 A '16.
4 Q During the war?
5 A Yeah. First World.
6 Q Yeah.
7 A Do you want to know how old I am?
8 Q How old are you? What year were you born?
9 A 1906.
10 Q Oh, my. Do you bleach your hair? Do you color your
11 hair?
12 A Ask my wife; she knows.
13 INTERVIEWER: Does he color his hair?
14 Q You weren't born in 1906?
15 MRS. SLUCKI: Yeah, yeah.
16 A When was she born?
17 INTERVIEWER: You don't have to tell me
18 if you don't want to.
19 MRS. SLUCKI: '07. 1907.
20 INTERVIEWER: That makes you seventy --
21 MRS. SLUCKI: Seventy-five. Yeah, next
22 month seventy-six.
23 INTERVIEWER: Wonderful. And you don't have --
24 a little gray hair.
25 MR. SLUCKI: Just as a forty-years-old.

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INTERVIEWER: It's a race as to whether it gets gray or falls out?

MR. SLUCKI: We have a friend, she has the same color hair as I do. She thinks I'm coloring my hair. No. Why should I? What for?

One thing I can assure you: that my son will be very happy that I talked to you.

INTERVIEWER: I'm very happy; never mind your son.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. SLUCKI CONTINUED

Q Tell me more. What happened to your father in 1916? Who shot him?

A The Germans beat him. It was like this: We had a store -- my father was a shoemaker.

Q This is in Poland?

A In Warsaw. He had a shoe repair store across from a city store used to sell potatoes -- I mean food, from the city. But that was curfew time, so people couldn't work from ten to six o'clock in the morning. So what happened, at six o'clock -- at ten o'clock people used to come and stay overnight in order at six o'clock in the morning to be the first one -- to stay in line and be sure



1 that they get some food. So my mother said "I'm going to
2 close the store today." We had an apartment a few houses
3 down the street, and she says "I'm closing; no one is going
4 to stay." The Germans came by and gave orders no stranger
5 at the place should stay. So what she did, she started
6 to close. She couldn't, so she gave to my father the keys,
7 "You lock it," and she went up in the house. And I stayed
8 with my father. We were five kids. So I stayed with my
9 father.

10 When I stayed with my father, just before ten a friend
11 came over and said "I came to stay overnight here." So my
12 father said he couldn't -- "You couldn't stay." "Why?"
13 "The Germans don't allow." So he said "Look, who do you
14 want to listen to? My kids didn't eat for three days. If
15 you want to listen to the Germans, so don't let me in. I
16 came and I need a few potatoes." So he let him in, and as
17 soon as he let him in orders came, because before ten
18 o'clock everybody tried to watch him. And it became ten
19 o'clock -- couldn't even go home. So we stayed the night
20 there. And at one o'clock in the morning the police
21 came -- German police -- and asked my father -- and
22 asked "Who is the owner?" My father said "Me." So they
23 beat him up.

24 Q Your father?

25 A Yeah. With rubber sticks. And two weeks later he

1 died (inaudible), because they hit him in the head. That
2 was 1916. He was forty-one years old.

3 My mother died two years later.

4 And since 1919 I was my own boss until now. I never
5 spent five minutes in a police station. I suffered a lot
6 of hunger. It's hard to believe -- I slept in public parks.
7 I never run after the wrong crowd -- never. At that age I
8 knew what is the right crowd and what is the wrong crowd.

9 Q And then you emigrated to Paris in 1926?

10 A In '26 I went to Danzig for two years. She went to
11 Paris -- my wife went to Paris to her sister's -- she had
12 a sister in Paris -- to join her there -- and I went to
13 Danzig. I stayed in Danzig for two years.

14 Q But you weren't married then?

15 A Not yet. We got married in 1929.

16 Q In Paris?

17 A With that same person.

18 Q 1929. That's --

19 A Go back to school.

20 Q Thirty -- '83. Fifty-three years; almost fifty-four.

21 A That's right. Four years ago our son and daughter-in-
22 law made a beautiful fiftieth.

23 Q Where? In Santa Monica?

24 A In Los Angeles. For a hundred and ten people. It
25 was something unusual. If you ever come to Los Angeles

1 give us a ring, you'll meet our son and he'll show you what
2 he did for that celebration -- something exceptional.

3 Q What? What did he do?

4 A He did like "This is Your Life" -- in pictures.

5 MRS. SLUCKI: In slides.

6 Q Oh, he's been taking slides?

7 MRS. SLUCKI: Slides, yeah. In slides he
8 prepared the whole party, and showed when
9 I left Warsaw, and when he came and joined
10 me in Paris and we married, and all our
11 lives, and Jewish activities and Jewish
12 cultural activities -- and he showed all
13 this.

14 INTERVIEWER: Oh, he took pictures and made
15 slides out of them?

16 MRS. SLUCKI: Some slides he had, and some
17 slides he made from pictures.

18 MR. SLUCKI: And with the music -- with
19 the proper music. And when he finished
20 people were crying.

21 INTERVIEWER: Were you?

22 MR. SLUCKI: Sure.

23 MRS. SLUCKI: Yes.

24 INTERVIEWER: A complete surprise?

25 MRS. SLUCKI: A complete surprise.

1 No, the party we knew, but the program
2 we didn't know. His wedding -- and he
3 showed the trip, where we went, and getting
4 together with friends, and different occa-
5 sions. He classified it and he made it,
6 and it was unbelievable.

7 MR. SLUCKI: Whenever you come, don't
8 hesitate to call.

9 INTERVIEWER: Oh, I won't.

10 MR. SLUCKI: And he will show it to you.

11 INTERVIEWER: He could probably use the text --

12 MR. SLUCKI: He listens to KPFA.

13 INTERVIEWER: But I mean he could probably
14 use the text of this and add to some of
15 those slides.

16 Does he have some pictures of you
17 in Spain?

18 MRS. SLUCKI: Yes.

19 MR. SLUCKI: He has the slides, yeah.

20 INTERVIEWER: So he could add a story.

21 MR. SLUCKI: Yeah. If that will be heard
22 on KPFA I would like to know.

23 INTERVIEWER: Oh, well, if it's going to
24 be heard there we will let you know.

25 Do you want a copy of this tape?



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MR. SLUCKI: Why not? Yes.

INTERVIEWER: I'll send it to you. I have to make it. I mean, it's going to take me a little while.

MR. SLUCKI: OK.

INTERVIEWER: Because it takes a while.

MR. SLUCKI: All right.



1 INTERVIEW WITH: MRS. RACHEL SLUCKI

2 INTERVIEWER:

3 DATE:

4 PLACE: *San Francisco*

5 TRANSCRIBER: WANDA HOFFMAN

6

7

8 Q Can you add something? You didn't hear the story.

9 A I didn't hear what he said, so it's hard -- instead
10 not to repeat it's better not to --

11 Q Well, I want it from your angle.

12 A The main thing to me, the main troublesome thing was
13 in Barcelona when we had to say good-bye to Henry.

14 Q You mean when he left? Yes.

15 A That was very hard for us. Especially the time the
16 waters were mined, and we didn't know if we ever see him
17 again.

18 Q You know, I've been talking to so many people all week,
19 and the pain is right here.

20 A Yes.

21 Q And it's still the main thing.

22 A That's right.

23 Q You never get over it. Never.

24 A It covers up for a while, but how can it get over?

25 Q And even if your son has given you a party --



1 A Yes.

2 Q -- still --

3 A That's right. I'll tell you, we met a fellow who went
4 with the first group -- of the children's group -- here.

5 MR. SLUCKI: We met him yesterday.

6 A We met him yesterday.

7 MR. SLUCKI: Our son was supposed to go --

8 A With that same group, our son was supposed to go. So
9 when everything was ready we decided no, we wouldn't send
10 him; in the meantime we're not in danger, let's be
11 together. So the second group went, and we went to see
12 the group off, and I came home so heartbroken. I say "The
13 only time I'll come to that train again will be when he
14 will leave." But the others haven't gone again. So by
15 the third group it was the last children's group, and we
16 started talking about sending -- that will be sent to
17 Africa. At that time I said "It will be harder for us;
18 it will be harder for him; why don't we send him." So
19 we sent him away. And we met that fellow from the first
20 group which went, and he lived here in Washington.

21 Q What's his name?

22 MR. SLUCKI: Shaw-is-kiss.

23 Q You just recognized him?

24 MR. SLUCKI: No.

25 A We started talking, and I think --



1 MR. SLUCKI: That we are from Paris.

2 A -- that we are from Paris. So he said "From Paris?"

3 "I'm from Paris too." And that's the way we started talk-

4 ing -- "When did you come to America?" So he told us with

5 a children's group --

6 MR. SLUCKI: From Barcelona.

7 Q -- from Barcelona. That's the way we knew that's the

8 same groupings which our son went. But he went --

9 MR. SLUCKI: Our son went with the third

10 group.

11 A He was with the first and our son was with the third

12 group.

13 Q And then when you saw your son in New York, in '46,

14 when you came over?

15 A In '46. In April, '46. He left in --

16 MR. SLUCKI: September, '43.

17 A -- September, '43.

18 Yeah, he was grown up. He was very sick here --

19 nervous. He had inflammation of the central nerve --

20 because of being frightened what will happen to us. So

21 he was with my uncle. And he started wearing glasses,

22 adjustable shoes -- and the teeth. Everything went wrong,

23 and my uncle couldn't understand "How did you neglect

24 your child that way?" So by accident he (inaudible) met

25 a French-speaking conductor, and he started talking to

1 him, and he told him "You know that the Germans now are
2 losing; your parents are safe; there is nothing to worry."
3 And since then they say he was OK. He started -- his teeth
4 were better, everything got better. And he went to this
5 doctor several times -- not once.

6 Q Now, he stayed with -- it was your uncle?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Did he write to you in Barcelona?

9 A Yes.

10 Q That the boy was all right?

11 A Yeah, we had letters from him. We had letters from
12 our son too. But the first letter, when we came to Cuba,
13 he wrote to us a letter that he's going to a birthday party
14 for a little girl which was born in France, and everybody
15 will speak English -- French. At that time it came to me,
16 and I said "We sent him away, he didn't speak English,
17 he didn't speak Yiddish. How did you communicate?" We
18 didn't even realize. We didn't have the time to think about
19 this. It didn't come to our mind. We were so busy with
20 the principal thing that --

21 Q That he should be safe.

22 A That's right. So the only -- all the side things,
23 the everyday survival, we didn't think it. But now he is
24 a family man, has two children -- wife, two children, senior
25 research man in psychology in USC.



1 Q He's done all right.

2 A Yeah. Yeah.

3 Q Tell me, when you were going up that mountain, I mean,
4 what did you have on your feet?

5 A I had like boots without zippers -- short boots --
6 they told us to have. But nothing special for mountain
7 climbing. But we entered in the same steps as the guide --
8 went one by one. In one place he almost fell down, all
9 the way.

10 Q Yeah. And the guide's steps must have been bigger
11 than you would take.

12 A Yeah.

13 MR. SLUCKI: When we landed in New York
14 in 1946 -- it was in April -- I think it
15 was tomorrow -- what's today? -- no, the
16 18th of April. Anyway, so I said to my
17 wife "We're not going to stay in New York;
18 we'll go to California." I didn't like
19 the tall buildings; I didn't like the gray
20 sky; I didn't like the cold weather. So
21 I said "We're going to California." Three
22 years later we moved to California.

23 INTERVIEWER: In April you didn't like?

24 MR. SLUCKI: No, in April I didn't like.

25 INTERVIEWER: The cold weather?

1 MR. SLUCKI: Yeah.
2 MRS. SLUCKI: In Cuba --
3 INTERVIEWER: Oh. Right.
4 MR. SLUCKI: Yeah, we were two years in
5 Cuba. But I'm not sad. We moved to
6 California in '49.
7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: You were two
8 years where? In New York?
9 MR. SLUCKI: In New York. No, in Cuba.
10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: In Cuba?
11 MR. SLUCKI: Yeah.
12 MRS. SLUCKI: Three years in New York.
13 MR. SLUCKI: Right.
14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: (Inaudible.)
15 MR. SLUCKI: Lotts. Lotts. Lotts. That's
16 right. No, (inaudible) I knew.

17
18 INTERVIEW WITH MRS. SLUCKI CONTINUED

19 Q So you are climbing the mountain with shoes. What
20 else? What kind of coats?

21 A Oh, winter coats, regular coats. Nothing special.
22 We'd been prepared to -- like mountain climbers. We just--
23 whatever we wore. And in one place the smugglers carried
24 the boy under their arm like a little package. He couldn't
25 walk.

1 Q Does he remember this stuff?

2 A Oh, yes.

3 MR. SLUCKI: Late at night we had to --
4 being in the mountain climbing, our son
5 couldn't walk anymore. He said "I cannot
6 anymore." He just dragged his feet. So
7 we had another few thousand francs with
8 us; we paid them extra money for carrying
9 another hour. But the hour was like
10 this: ten minutes walk and ten minutes
11 carry; otherwise he would be frozen to
12 death.

13 INTERVIEWER: Oh, he had to keep moving?

14 MR. SLUCKI: That's right.

15 INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

16 MR. SLUCKI: Now, you know who that lady
17 is?

18 INTERVIEWER: No.

19 MR. SLUCKI: Did you read the Post yester-
20 day -- the Washington Post? When was it? --
21 on Tuesday?

22 INTERVIEWER: No.

23 MR. SLUCKI: It was talking about her --
24 one of the leaders -- when she finished,
25 by the opening, saying "Let's hope that

1 we find some friends -- some family." She
2 comes over and says "Do you remember me?"
3 And here she didn't know that she was
4 alive, that she is here, and they got to
5 know. So the Post has written about her.
6 They changed a little the name -- her name --
7 the second name. Now, she didn't talk
8 about it but, you know who she is? Did
9 you see the movie "Somewhere in Time"?
10 INTERVIEWER: Some what?
11 MR. SLUCKI: "Somewhere in Time. Jaws II."
12 INTERVIEWER: Yes?
13 MR. SLUCKI: Her son is the director.
14 Jana Schwarz.
15 INTERVIEWER: What?
16 MR. SLUCKI: Jana Schwarz.
17 INTERVIEWER: That's her name?
18 MRS. SLUCKI: Jana Schwarz, is
19 her son.
20 MR. SLUCKI: Son.
21 INTERVIEWER: Oh. That's wonderful.
22 MR. SLUCKI: He's a director.
23 (Inaudible) Enigma?
24 INTERVIEWER: Yes.
25 MR. SLUCKI: Her son made that movie.

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INTERVIEWER: Oh. Wonderful.

MR. SLUCKI: She doesn't talk about it.

INTERVIEWER: Well, the other thing about your trip is that money paved the way for you. If you didn't have money --

MR. SLUCKI: Naturally. But we didn't have really -- at that time it was not money. Because with all what it cost, we manipulated so we got to the point where it didn't really cost as much as other people paid. Because as much as money was the important thing, but we were not considered rich.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, I know that. But you couldn't have gotten anyplace without the money.

MR. SLUCKI: I had a tailor shop, and in the two years between the mobilization from the army and leaving the city, we made all right. And I felt comfortable, because we didn't live the hardship what people had to have in the occupied area.

MRS. SLUCKI: We arrived in Barcelona with less than a dollar.

INTERVIEWER: But with that note for that



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woman.

MRS. SLUCKI: Yeah, that's right. That saved our life. On the way, Henry stopped and looked in a bakery, at pastry, and I called him, "Henry, come." He said "Mother, I'm not asking you to buy something for me, but please let me look."

INTERVIEWER: Can you imagine the women who couldn't give their children food?

MRS. SLUCKI: Oh, yeah, that's right. In the camps it was terrible.

CONTINUATION OF INTERVIEW WITH MRS. SLUCKI

Q And when did you find out about the camps, and all that was happening?

A Oh, we knew right away. We were in the non-occupied zone -- we know about Pitch-a-vee -- when they took all the people to Pitch-a-vee to camp we knew about it. By the way, when they took them to Pitch-a-vee I was in Paris to pack our machines -- sewing machines -- to be able to work. And I was just called, and people were called to come to that famous raffle. They called all the men -- only men they called at that time -- saying that it's for work.

Q Yeah.



1 A So we knew. We didn't know the extent of those
2 extermination camps. Even from Spain I wrote to my parents
3 in the Warsaw ghetto.

4 Q Oh, your parents stayed in Warsaw?

5 A Warsaw ghetto, yes. And the younger sister, with her
6 child and her husband.

7 Q And you lost them?

8 A Lost them. All the uncles and aunts and everybody.
9 The whole family from Poland I lost. Even from Paris I
10 lost two sisters of my father, with their family.

11 Q What happened to them?

12 A They were deported from Paris.

13 Q To?

14 A To Auschwitz. So we knew. We didn't know how far
15 the Germans went -- crematoriums and all this -- but we
16 knew that it --

17 MR. SLUCKI: What I want to say -- that
18 I said to you before -- when we said we
19 were going to go to Spain we went even to
20 a church at the border to ask the priest
21 to help us, to give us some farmers at
22 the border to take us to Spain. He said
23 "Where are you going? To Franco? He
24 doesn't like you." But that we knew.

25 INTERVIEWER: Oh, yes.

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MR. SLUCKI: But on the other hand we have to take advantage of every chance and loophole, occasion, when it comes to survival. Lifesaving counts above any other behavior. As I said before: we should do the utmost to survive, but we are not supposed to survive at somebody else's expense. That's all.

