

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:32,229

2
00:00:32,229 --> 00:00:34,560
OK, rolling transcript.

3
00:00:34,560 --> 00:00:39,510

4
00:00:39,510 --> 00:00:43,404
So, let me just fix
his shirt a little bit.

5
00:00:43,404 --> 00:00:49,260
It's a little-

6
00:00:49,260 --> 00:00:52,230
Did you have to do a
lot of negotiations

7
00:00:52,230 --> 00:00:57,660
on behalf of these refugees
with the Japanese authorities

8
00:00:57,660 --> 00:01:01,200
for permits and visas?

9
00:01:01,200 --> 00:01:04,959
I know that our president,
Mr. [? Ponvi ?],,

10
00:01:04,959 --> 00:01:07,500
had to travel a
few times to Tokyo.

11
00:01:07,500 --> 00:01:10,440
He was called over there to--

12
00:01:10,440 --> 00:01:13,830
he never told me what was
the conversation about.

13
00:01:13,830 --> 00:01:15,270
He said it was confidential.

14
00:01:15,270 --> 00:01:19,350
So, with respect to him, I
didn't ask him any questions.

15
00:01:19,350 --> 00:01:24,440
I personally was involved
a couple of times

16
00:01:24,440 --> 00:01:29,420
with Japanese authorities
asking permission for extension

17
00:01:29,420 --> 00:01:31,310
of visas for certain people.

18
00:01:31,310 --> 00:01:37,240
And there was a Japanese
customs in connection

19
00:01:37,240 --> 00:01:38,740
with some religious matters.

20
00:01:38,740 --> 00:01:41,920
I had to go and
negotiate with them

21
00:01:41,920 --> 00:01:44,620
to get certain
permissions to allow

22
00:01:44,620 --> 00:01:48,430
to import some food for Passover
for the religious people.

23
00:01:48,430 --> 00:01:51,430
Remember, out of a few
thousand people we had there--

24

00:01:51,430 --> 00:01:55,810
We have to cut because
of the helicopter.

25
00:01:55,810 --> 00:01:58,720
We can hear that and we
don't have it on anything--

26
00:01:58,720 --> 00:02:01,700

27
00:02:01,700 --> 00:02:04,460
OK, so unfortunately, I have
to ask you the question again.

28
00:02:04,460 --> 00:02:06,590
But did you have to
negotiate with the Japanese

29
00:02:06,590 --> 00:02:08,570
on behalf of the
refugees for visas?

30
00:02:08,570 --> 00:02:11,039
I personally did not have
to negotiate with them.

31
00:02:11,039 --> 00:02:14,300
I know that our president did.

32
00:02:14,300 --> 00:02:15,695
As I told you, he went to--

33
00:02:15,695 --> 00:02:19,790
he was called to Tokyo a
few times by the government.

34
00:02:19,790 --> 00:02:22,430
Which department of the
government, I don't know.

35
00:02:22,430 --> 00:02:26,360
And he would come back and

say the negotiations were

36
00:02:26,360 --> 00:02:27,340
pretty serious.

37
00:02:27,340 --> 00:02:31,550
And they were always
very accommodating.

38
00:02:31,550 --> 00:02:34,010
Whatever we-- what did we
need from these people,

39
00:02:34,010 --> 00:02:37,700
from the Japanese police,
mainly extensions of their visas

40
00:02:37,700 --> 00:02:39,350
to stay in Japan.

41
00:02:39,350 --> 00:02:43,160
And some of the religious
problems that the rabbis--

42
00:02:43,160 --> 00:02:49,250
there were over 1,500 rabbis and
yeshiva-- and the students that

43
00:02:49,250 --> 00:02:52,410
had some difficulties
in the food problems,

44
00:02:52,410 --> 00:02:54,290
especially when it
came to Passover.

45
00:02:54,290 --> 00:02:57,090
And I had to go and negotiate
with the authorities.

46
00:02:57,090 --> 00:02:58,320
And it was very simple.

47

00:02:58,320 --> 00:03:01,720

It was very-- they were
very understanding.

48

00:03:01,720 --> 00:03:03,380

Could you tell me
the matzah story?

49

00:03:03,380 --> 00:03:06,830

The matzah story--
in 1941, I believe

50

00:03:06,830 --> 00:03:12,510

it was, in February, three
rabbis came to see me.

51

00:03:12,510 --> 00:03:16,330

Why I was involved in these
negotiations was because I was

52

00:03:16,330 --> 00:03:18,840

the only one of our
eight or nine people

53

00:03:18,840 --> 00:03:22,050

in the [? Jew-Com ?] that could
speak Yiddish, and English,

54

00:03:22,050 --> 00:03:22,920

and Russian.

55

00:03:22,920 --> 00:03:25,230

So they would come to
me with their problem.

56

00:03:25,230 --> 00:03:26,850

They could only speak Yiddish.

57

00:03:26,850 --> 00:03:31,680

And they came to me in
February and they said,

58

00:03:31,680 --> 00:03:33,150
Passover is coming in April.

59
00:03:33,150 --> 00:03:34,260
I said, yes.

60
00:03:34,260 --> 00:03:35,520
Well, what about matzah?

61
00:03:35,520 --> 00:03:37,740
What about the
wine for Passover?

62
00:03:37,740 --> 00:03:39,910
I said, well, don't
worry about it.

63
00:03:39,910 --> 00:03:40,980
We are also Jewish.

64
00:03:40,980 --> 00:03:44,860
We will require matzah
and wine for Passover.

65
00:03:44,860 --> 00:03:50,370
And we will get it from the
Jewish communities in Shanghai

66
00:03:50,370 --> 00:03:52,650
or in Harbin, where they
were very well organized

67
00:03:52,650 --> 00:03:55,450
baking matzahs and providing
the necessary food.

68
00:03:55,450 --> 00:03:57,450
They said, no, that's
not good enough for us.

69
00:03:57,450 --> 00:03:58,750
I said, what do you mean?

70

00:03:58,750 --> 00:04:02,850

We need only matzahs, and
wine, and other products

71

00:04:02,850 --> 00:04:06,130

that will be sent
to us from New York,

72

00:04:06,130 --> 00:04:09,390

from the Organization of
Jewish Rabbis over there.

73

00:04:09,390 --> 00:04:12,600

I said, well, what do you
want me to do about it?

74

00:04:12,600 --> 00:04:14,880

They said, well, we
prepared a telegram which

75

00:04:14,880 --> 00:04:16,501

they asked me to send.

76

00:04:16,501 --> 00:04:18,209

And I'm reading the
telegram and it says,

77

00:04:18,209 --> 00:04:23,310

we, 1,380 or something
rabbis and yeshiva students

78

00:04:23,310 --> 00:04:25,920

in Japan, Passover
is coming, please

79

00:04:25,920 --> 00:04:30,510

provide us with the
necessary food, matzah

80

00:04:30,510 --> 00:04:32,760

and wine for Passover.

81

00:04:32,760 --> 00:04:35,160
And I looked at
the telegram and I

82
00:04:35,160 --> 00:04:38,040
said, what do you mean you
say you're only 1,380 people?

83
00:04:38,040 --> 00:04:39,960
There are 3,000 of us here.

84
00:04:39,960 --> 00:04:41,640
Oh, yes, yes, yes--

85
00:04:41,640 --> 00:04:43,020
they apologized.

86
00:04:43,020 --> 00:04:45,030
I said, I tell you what,
I'll send the telegram

87
00:04:45,030 --> 00:04:46,170
and I'll change it.

88
00:04:46,170 --> 00:04:49,230
Instead of 1,380,
I'll put down 3,000.

89
00:04:49,230 --> 00:04:55,020
And I also put 3,035, because
we 35 people who live in Kobe

90
00:04:55,020 --> 00:04:56,490
also want to have it.

91
00:04:56,490 --> 00:04:58,640
Oh, yes, yes, yes-- and
I sent the telegram.

92
00:04:58,640 --> 00:05:00,000
It was in February.

93

00:05:00,000 --> 00:05:02,520

In April-- I forgot
all about it, frankly.

94

00:05:02,520 --> 00:05:05,560

In February, I came to my
office in the community.

95

00:05:05,560 --> 00:05:09,090

And there was a document, an
envelope full of documents.

96

00:05:09,090 --> 00:05:11,620

I opened it up and
there were bills

97

00:05:11,620 --> 00:05:16,680

of lading on various
projects, like matzahs,

98

00:05:16,680 --> 00:05:21,170

five caskets of wine, and
many other products, fish et

99

00:05:21,170 --> 00:05:25,350

cetera, et cetera, that were
shipped from San Francisco,

100

00:05:25,350 --> 00:05:27,097

by way--

101

00:05:27,097 --> 00:05:28,680

the Organization of
Rabbis in New York

102

00:05:28,680 --> 00:05:31,240

probably instructed
somebody in San Francisco.

103

00:05:31,240 --> 00:05:34,860

And they-- these products
were arriving about a week

104

00:05:34,860 --> 00:05:36,030
before Passover.

105
00:05:36,030 --> 00:05:38,050
The ship was arriving a week.

106
00:05:38,050 --> 00:05:40,710
So, I knew that
importation of anything

107
00:05:40,710 --> 00:05:44,130
into Japan in those days
was strictly forbidden.

108
00:05:44,130 --> 00:05:46,980
You had to have
an import license.

109
00:05:46,980 --> 00:05:49,200
So, I ran to the
Ministry of Finance.

110
00:05:49,200 --> 00:05:50,970
And I introduced myself.

111
00:05:50,970 --> 00:05:52,500
I told him what it is.

112
00:05:52,500 --> 00:05:56,010
They said, well, write us
a letter from the community

113
00:05:56,010 --> 00:05:59,580
that these products
are not for resale,

114
00:05:59,580 --> 00:06:03,810
that they're for special
purpose only, for you people,

115
00:06:03,810 --> 00:06:06,600
and that you don't
require any money

116
00:06:06,600 --> 00:06:08,310
to pay for these products.

117
00:06:08,310 --> 00:06:09,630
I said, no, the money--

118
00:06:09,630 --> 00:06:12,850
it's all donated, it's
all free of charge.

119
00:06:12,850 --> 00:06:14,130
I ran back to the community.

120
00:06:14,130 --> 00:06:15,755
I wrote the letter,
brought it to them.

121
00:06:15,755 --> 00:06:17,310
And it was accepted.

122
00:06:17,310 --> 00:06:19,200
I was extremely
pleased and happy.

123
00:06:19,200 --> 00:06:22,590
And I spread the news, the
ship is arriving in two days,

124
00:06:22,590 --> 00:06:26,190
the Passover is in four days,
you will have everything.

125
00:06:26,190 --> 00:06:27,240
And it was good.

126
00:06:27,240 --> 00:06:32,130
But another rabbi delegation
came to me the next day

127
00:06:32,130 --> 00:06:33,540
and said, we have a big problem.

128
00:06:33,540 --> 00:06:35,190
I say, what's the problem now?

129
00:06:35,190 --> 00:06:36,870
Everything is coming.

130
00:06:36,870 --> 00:06:42,260
They said, the wine, the
five caskets of wine,

131
00:06:42,260 --> 00:06:46,910
if it is not touched by a
religious Jew they cannot have

132
00:06:46,910 --> 00:06:47,870
it for Passover.

133
00:06:47,870 --> 00:06:49,820
I said, what are
you talking about?

134
00:06:49,820 --> 00:06:51,800
The Japanese customs
people will have

135
00:06:51,800 --> 00:06:55,970
to open them, and take a
sample, and check it out,

136
00:06:55,970 --> 00:06:57,015
what's in those caskets.

137
00:06:57,015 --> 00:06:59,390
I cannot tell them that they
are not allowed to touch it.

138
00:06:59,390 --> 00:07:01,550
It's discrimination,
I cannot tell them.

139
00:07:01,550 --> 00:07:03,500

Well, you have to
think of something.

140
00:07:03,500 --> 00:07:06,170
The question was-- I'll never
forget as long as I live--

141
00:07:06,170 --> 00:07:09,140
do you want us to have
Passover without wine?

142
00:07:09,140 --> 00:07:11,990
I said no, I want
you to have wine.

143
00:07:11,990 --> 00:07:16,280
So, I called up a chief
of the customs in Kobe.

144
00:07:16,280 --> 00:07:19,250
He was a very, very
interesting man.

145
00:07:19,250 --> 00:07:23,450
I asked permission to
have an audience with him.

146
00:07:23,450 --> 00:07:25,670
And my idea was--

147
00:07:25,670 --> 00:07:27,590
I asked the rabbis first--

148
00:07:27,590 --> 00:07:30,740
would be all right if the
customs will allow you--

149
00:07:30,740 --> 00:07:33,140
two rabbis that
I'll bring with me--

150
00:07:33,140 --> 00:07:37,740
to go to the dock to open

the casket themselves?

151

00:07:37,740 --> 00:07:40,230

And I brought two empty bottles.

152

00:07:40,230 --> 00:07:41,985

We'll fill those
bottles with wine

153

00:07:41,985 --> 00:07:43,610

and they should be
the samples for them

154

00:07:43,610 --> 00:07:45,142

to see what's coming in.

155

00:07:45,142 --> 00:07:46,100

Will that be all right?

156

00:07:46,100 --> 00:07:47,450

Yeah, that will be all right.

157

00:07:47,450 --> 00:07:49,040

That'll be kosher.

158

00:07:49,040 --> 00:07:51,410

Anyway, I said that
they should send me

159

00:07:51,410 --> 00:07:55,670

two rabbis, the most
distinguished older looking men

160

00:07:55,670 --> 00:07:57,500

with white beards,
et cetera, et cetera.

161

00:07:57,500 --> 00:07:58,700

They came.

162

00:07:58,700 --> 00:08:01,040

I took them to the customs man.

163
00:08:01,040 --> 00:08:04,040
And he was very,
very interesting.

164
00:08:04,040 --> 00:08:06,860
He was a younger man, about 40s.

165
00:08:06,860 --> 00:08:09,200
I came up, gave him my card.

166
00:08:09,200 --> 00:08:10,160
And I spoke to him.

167
00:08:10,160 --> 00:08:11,990
I said, do you see
these two people?

168
00:08:11,990 --> 00:08:13,841
He said, yes.

169
00:08:13,841 --> 00:08:16,010
Did you ever see such
people in your life?

170
00:08:16,010 --> 00:08:17,690
He says, no.

171
00:08:17,690 --> 00:08:20,470
I said, they are Jews.

172
00:08:20,470 --> 00:08:22,060
I am also a Jew.

173
00:08:22,060 --> 00:08:23,290
But you see the difference?

174
00:08:23,290 --> 00:08:27,116
I have no beard, I have no
clothing, I have no hat.

175

00:08:27,116 --> 00:08:28,450
And he says, what is it?

176
00:08:28,450 --> 00:08:31,120
I said, they are our
teachers, our rabbis.

177
00:08:31,120 --> 00:08:32,169
They're holy men.

178
00:08:32,169 --> 00:08:33,429
Oh, is that right?

179
00:08:33,429 --> 00:08:35,110
Very, very nice.

180
00:08:35,110 --> 00:08:38,650
I said, the wine that's
coming in is also holy.

181
00:08:38,650 --> 00:08:40,990
Only they can touch and
only they can drink.

182
00:08:40,990 --> 00:08:42,970
Even I cannot touch it.

183
00:08:42,970 --> 00:08:44,480
He said, well, how
can I help you?

184
00:08:44,480 --> 00:08:46,450
I said, well, here
are two empty bottles.

185
00:08:46,450 --> 00:08:49,710
Please allow us
to go to the dock.

186
00:08:49,710 --> 00:08:50,800
I'll go with them.

187

00:08:50,800 --> 00:08:51,980
They'll open the caskets.

188
00:08:51,980 --> 00:08:53,890
They'll take the
samples of wine.

189
00:08:53,890 --> 00:08:57,190
And then everything
will be all right.

190
00:08:57,190 --> 00:08:59,562
He called up, in front of
me, he called up the dock.

191
00:08:59,562 --> 00:09:01,520
I gave him the name of
the ship and which dock,

192
00:09:01,520 --> 00:09:02,800
et cetera, et cetera.

193
00:09:02,800 --> 00:09:05,590
He says two very unusual
people are coming.

194
00:09:05,590 --> 00:09:09,310
Allow them to do what they're
asking to do, open the caskets.

195
00:09:09,310 --> 00:09:10,310
OK.

196
00:09:10,310 --> 00:09:12,955
We went there and they were
very polite, very nice.

197
00:09:12,955 --> 00:09:14,080
We did what had to be done.

198
00:09:14,080 --> 00:09:17,260
Just before we left his
office, he called me back

199
00:09:17,260 --> 00:09:18,860
and he says, come
back, come back.

200
00:09:18,860 --> 00:09:20,050
I came back to him.

201
00:09:20,050 --> 00:09:23,470
He says, look, I want
to try this holy wine.

202
00:09:23,470 --> 00:09:25,810
I've never drank holy wine.

203
00:09:25,810 --> 00:09:28,180
I said, don't worry,
you'll get it.

204
00:09:28,180 --> 00:09:30,910
So anyway, everything
has arrived.

205
00:09:30,910 --> 00:09:34,390
And it was a relief,
because for thousands

206
00:09:34,390 --> 00:09:36,820
of people that
were waiting there,

207
00:09:36,820 --> 00:09:39,730
we had to organize trucks to
deliver all these products

208
00:09:39,730 --> 00:09:40,580
to their homes.

209
00:09:40,580 --> 00:09:42,370
It was a big job to do.

210
00:09:42,370 --> 00:09:43,600

It was that.

211

00:09:43,600 --> 00:09:49,060

And I took a big basket and put
their wine, and gefilte fish,

212

00:09:49,060 --> 00:09:51,370

and matzahs and everything
that we received

213

00:09:51,370 --> 00:09:53,240

and they brought it to him.

214

00:09:53,240 --> 00:09:54,670

He was very grateful.

215

00:09:54,670 --> 00:09:56,530

I say, historically
speaking, this

216

00:09:56,530 --> 00:10:01,690

is the only time in the world
I think that a Japanese man has

217

00:10:01,690 --> 00:10:06,400

a kosher Pesach holy day.

218

00:10:06,400 --> 00:10:08,200

Anyway, that's
one of the things.

219

00:10:08,200 --> 00:10:09,010

It was pleasant.

220

00:10:09,010 --> 00:10:10,100

It was not hard.

221

00:10:10,100 --> 00:10:13,680

222

00:10:13,680 --> 00:10:17,055

Also, I had to do

some negotiations--

223

00:10:17,055 --> 00:10:19,538

they were not with
the Japanese police,

224

00:10:19,538 --> 00:10:21,330

but some of the fellows,
the young fellows,

225

00:10:21,330 --> 00:10:25,740

the Polish immigrants came to
me and said they would like

226

00:10:25,740 --> 00:10:27,090

to volunteer--

227

00:10:27,090 --> 00:10:29,130

the war was raging in Europe--

228

00:10:29,130 --> 00:10:30,750

to volunteer to
the British army.

229

00:10:30,750 --> 00:10:32,580

They were Polish citizens.

230

00:10:32,580 --> 00:10:35,850

And Poland was an
ally of England.

231

00:10:35,850 --> 00:10:40,260

And they asked me to
go and talk for them

232

00:10:40,260 --> 00:10:43,530

to the British consulate,
very confidentially,

233

00:10:43,530 --> 00:10:47,220

that they want to volunteer
to the British army.

234

00:10:47,220 --> 00:10:48,110

So, I went there.

235

00:10:48,110 --> 00:10:50,300

And when I started to talk
to the British consul--

236

00:10:50,300 --> 00:10:52,700

Mr. Thomson was his
name, I believe--

237

00:10:52,700 --> 00:10:54,530

he stopped me right away.

238

00:10:54,530 --> 00:10:56,990

He says, don't ever
come and talk to me

239

00:10:56,990 --> 00:10:59,900

about getting your people
into the British army

240

00:10:59,900 --> 00:11:01,160

in this consulate.

241

00:11:01,160 --> 00:11:04,170

Japan is an ally of Germany.

242

00:11:04,170 --> 00:11:06,410

And I don't want my
Japanese employees even

243

00:11:06,410 --> 00:11:09,980

to suspect that we
are getting volunteers

244

00:11:09,980 --> 00:11:11,690

into the British army.

245

00:11:11,690 --> 00:11:14,930

I said, but don't you want
these people to volunteer

246
00:11:14,930 --> 00:11:15,860
into the British army?

247
00:11:15,860 --> 00:11:17,300
He says, yes.

248
00:11:17,300 --> 00:11:18,690
This story we're going to do it.

249
00:11:18,690 --> 00:11:23,090
You bring to me a
list of their names.

250
00:11:23,090 --> 00:11:25,010
We will meet-- by
telephone we would

251
00:11:25,010 --> 00:11:26,750
arrange a meeting
at a bar somewhere

252
00:11:26,750 --> 00:11:27,980
over a bottle of beer.

253
00:11:27,980 --> 00:11:30,170
Give me the names
and their addresses

254
00:11:30,170 --> 00:11:32,540
and leave everything to me.

255
00:11:32,540 --> 00:11:33,830
I said, OK.

256
00:11:33,830 --> 00:11:35,450
And we did it for
a couple of weeks.

257
00:11:35,450 --> 00:11:38,120
About 30 boys volunteered.

258

00:11:38,120 --> 00:11:39,710

I used to call them up.

259

00:11:39,710 --> 00:11:41,300

We would meet over
a bottle of beer.

260

00:11:41,300 --> 00:11:43,050

And I'll give him the
names and addresses.

261

00:11:43,050 --> 00:11:43,940

And they were gone.

262

00:11:43,940 --> 00:11:46,860

I found out later
that the British--

263

00:11:46,860 --> 00:11:51,200

the British ships were still
sailing between Japan, and Hong

264

00:11:51,200 --> 00:11:54,530

Kong, Singapore, India.

265

00:11:54,530 --> 00:11:58,640

And he would place these
people on those British ships

266

00:11:58,640 --> 00:12:01,160

as cooks, as
assistants, as workers.

267

00:12:01,160 --> 00:12:04,160

And that's how they were
transferred into Singapore,

268

00:12:04,160 --> 00:12:05,670

further on to Italy.

269

00:12:05,670 --> 00:12:07,745

Some of the boys, I

found out after the war,

270

00:12:07,745 --> 00:12:10,440
were killed over there
on the Italian front

271

00:12:10,440 --> 00:12:12,080
in the British army.

272

00:12:12,080 --> 00:12:16,450
And that's how it was.

273

00:12:16,450 --> 00:12:22,400
Until one day this famous old
man, the rabbi, came to see me.

274

00:12:22,400 --> 00:12:23,558
I was very concerned.

275

00:12:23,558 --> 00:12:25,850
It was in the evening, about
10 o'clock in the evening.

276

00:12:25,850 --> 00:12:28,140
He came and he
wants to talk to me.

277

00:12:28,140 --> 00:12:30,510
So, I thought maybe he
was sick or something.

278

00:12:30,510 --> 00:12:31,040
I came down.

279

00:12:31,040 --> 00:12:33,410
And he was sitting
there they calmly.

280

00:12:33,410 --> 00:12:35,390
And he says, I came
here at 10 o'clock

281

00:12:35,390 --> 00:12:37,530
at night to ask you a question.

282
00:12:37,530 --> 00:12:39,500
I said, what is the question?

283
00:12:39,500 --> 00:12:42,080
He said, you see, we
are Polish citizens.

284
00:12:42,080 --> 00:12:43,280
Yes.

285
00:12:43,280 --> 00:12:45,410
We are allies with the British.

286
00:12:45,410 --> 00:12:46,550
Yes.

287
00:12:46,550 --> 00:12:49,730
What if we were not Polish?

288
00:12:49,730 --> 00:12:51,800
What if we were British?

289
00:12:51,800 --> 00:12:54,290
What would have happened to us?

290
00:12:54,290 --> 00:12:56,300
I said, well I think
if we were British,

291
00:12:56,300 --> 00:12:59,060
the British government
would arrange

292
00:12:59,060 --> 00:13:02,390
to send ships off after
you and take you to some

293
00:13:02,390 --> 00:13:03,620
of the British colonies.

294
00:13:03,620 --> 00:13:06,800
Canada was still a
British colony, Australia,

295
00:13:06,800 --> 00:13:08,690
many British colonies,
and they would

296
00:13:08,690 --> 00:13:10,220
take-- he says, that's right.

297
00:13:10,220 --> 00:13:12,510
That's why I came
to talk to you.

298
00:13:12,510 --> 00:13:15,710
We went for the
British government,

299
00:13:15,710 --> 00:13:19,250
since we are their allies,
to send ships after us

300
00:13:19,250 --> 00:13:21,710
and to take us out of here.

301
00:13:21,710 --> 00:13:26,070
I said, I cannot go
and talk about this.

302
00:13:26,070 --> 00:13:29,030
Who am I to talk the British
government, the British consul.

303
00:13:29,030 --> 00:13:30,320
He says, well, he says--

304
00:13:30,320 --> 00:13:31,310
he knew everything.

305
00:13:31,310 --> 00:13:33,320

He says, I know you're
arranging things

306
00:13:33,320 --> 00:13:36,810
for our boys to join
the British army,

307
00:13:36,810 --> 00:13:38,930
so you can do
something about it.

308
00:13:38,930 --> 00:13:41,150
How he knew about
it, I don't know.

309
00:13:41,150 --> 00:13:44,880
Anyway, I called up the
British consul and I said,

310
00:13:44,880 --> 00:13:46,820
look, do me a favor.

311
00:13:46,820 --> 00:13:52,640
I will bring tomorrow a man
who is from the 18th century,

312
00:13:52,640 --> 00:13:55,010
the way he's dressed,
the way he looks.

313
00:13:55,010 --> 00:14:00,240
And please do me a
favor, listen to him.

314
00:14:00,240 --> 00:14:01,520
He was very upset, you see.

315
00:14:01,520 --> 00:14:04,820
He says, I'm a British
consul, I know how to do my--

316
00:14:04,820 --> 00:14:06,380
to do what I have to do.

317
00:14:06,380 --> 00:14:08,030
I said, look, I'm
just warning you.

318
00:14:08,030 --> 00:14:10,550
And I'm asking you to have
a due respect for this man.

319
00:14:10,550 --> 00:14:11,900
He's an old man.

320
00:14:11,900 --> 00:14:14,270
He said, just tell
me when you're coming

321
00:14:14,270 --> 00:14:15,760
and that's all there is to it.

322
00:14:15,760 --> 00:14:19,370
The next day, the rabbi,
with his son, came to see me.

323
00:14:19,370 --> 00:14:22,340
We took a taxi to go to the
British consulate, which

324
00:14:22,340 --> 00:14:24,440
is on the sixth floor in Kobe.

325
00:14:24,440 --> 00:14:26,330
I called him up and
I said, we're coming.

326
00:14:26,330 --> 00:14:27,410
He says, OK.

327
00:14:27,410 --> 00:14:28,160
We arrived there.

328
00:14:28,160 --> 00:14:29,570
And I was very, very surprised.

329
00:14:29,570 --> 00:14:32,360
The British consul
himself was waiting

330
00:14:32,360 --> 00:14:35,750
at the bottom of the building.

331
00:14:35,750 --> 00:14:39,200
They opened the door of the taxi
for us, which was very unusual.

332
00:14:39,200 --> 00:14:41,760
You know the British,
they way they were.

333
00:14:41,760 --> 00:14:43,170
And we went upstairs.

334
00:14:43,170 --> 00:14:44,910
He listened to him.

335
00:14:44,910 --> 00:14:47,790
And the rabbi said, we
are the Polish citizens,

336
00:14:47,790 --> 00:14:49,350
allies of Britain.

337
00:14:49,350 --> 00:14:51,200
And that was a very bad time.

338
00:14:51,200 --> 00:14:54,080
That was the time of
the Dunkirk evacuation

339
00:14:54,080 --> 00:14:57,530
when the British were
having a very difficult time

340
00:14:57,530 --> 00:14:58,940
against the war

with the Germans.

341

00:14:58,940 --> 00:15:03,860

And anyway, he listened to them.

342

00:15:03,860 --> 00:15:06,810

And he said, well, I
can't make this decision.

343

00:15:06,810 --> 00:15:08,360

I understand your problem.

344

00:15:08,360 --> 00:15:12,110

I'll have to refer this matter
to the his Majesty's ambassador

345

00:15:12,110 --> 00:15:13,250

in Tokyo--

346

00:15:13,250 --> 00:15:17,050

Sir Robert Craigie was his
name, if I remember correctly.

347

00:15:17,050 --> 00:15:19,330

And I'll let you know.

348

00:15:19,330 --> 00:15:20,040

We thank him.

349

00:15:20,040 --> 00:15:20,590

We went out.

350

00:15:20,590 --> 00:15:22,298

As we were going out,
I asked the rabbi--

351

00:15:22,298 --> 00:15:25,030

I said, rabbi, if--

352

00:15:25,030 --> 00:15:28,100

by any chance, if there
will be such a thing,

353
00:15:28,100 --> 00:15:29,920
if they will send
ships after you,

354
00:15:29,920 --> 00:15:35,370
which is highly problematic,
where would you like to go?

355
00:15:35,370 --> 00:15:38,200
He said, we want
to go to Jamaica.

356
00:15:38,200 --> 00:15:39,850
I said, Jamaica?

357
00:15:39,850 --> 00:15:42,820
I, myself, didn't know at
that time where Jamaica was.

358
00:15:42,820 --> 00:15:44,080
I said, why Jamaica?

359
00:15:44,080 --> 00:15:44,890
Why not Canada?

360
00:15:44,890 --> 00:15:46,100
Why not Australia?

361
00:15:46,100 --> 00:15:49,720
Well, he says the climate
over there is a very good one.

362
00:15:49,720 --> 00:15:51,730
I knew there was something
fishy over there.

363
00:15:51,730 --> 00:15:52,270
I went home.

364
00:15:52,270 --> 00:15:53,710
I opened my atlas.

365
00:15:53,710 --> 00:15:55,525
And I looked where Jamaica was.

366
00:15:55,525 --> 00:15:58,510
It's very close to
New York, you know.

367
00:15:58,510 --> 00:16:03,190
So they thought maybe if they
went to Jamaica, eventually

368
00:16:03,190 --> 00:16:05,440
they'll be brought by
the Jewish organization

369
00:16:05,440 --> 00:16:07,840
to the United States.

370
00:16:07,840 --> 00:16:10,550
And that was the end
of the Jamaica story.

371
00:16:10,550 --> 00:16:11,890
They never went to Jamaica?

372
00:16:11,890 --> 00:16:15,230
Oh, no, the British never
sent ships after them.

373
00:16:15,230 --> 00:16:17,092
It was all forgotten.

374
00:16:17,092 --> 00:16:18,550
And then things
started to develop.

375
00:16:18,550 --> 00:16:21,220
It was, I think, in June--

376
00:16:21,220 --> 00:16:24,856
in September, three months

before Pearl Harbor,

377

00:16:24,856 --> 00:16:28,600
the Japanese military took
over the jurisdiction over them

378

00:16:28,600 --> 00:16:30,190
from the police.

379

00:16:30,190 --> 00:16:32,620
And we were instructed,
the Jewish community,

380

00:16:32,620 --> 00:16:35,950
to send them all out
of Japan to Shanghai.

381

00:16:35,950 --> 00:16:38,590
It's the only place they
could go without visas,

382

00:16:38,590 --> 00:16:40,250
without documents.

383

00:16:40,250 --> 00:16:42,490
And we had to send
them all to Shanghai.

384

00:16:42,490 --> 00:16:45,060

385

00:16:45,060 --> 00:16:49,230
Did you realize how
important your work was?

386

00:16:49,230 --> 00:16:53,120
Did you realize
how much hope you

387

00:16:53,120 --> 00:16:54,500
were supplying these people?

388

00:16:54,500 --> 00:16:57,530
No, I just knew that I had
to do what I had to do.

389
00:16:57,530 --> 00:16:59,630
I was there in the right
place and the right time.

390
00:16:59,630 --> 00:17:02,930
And not only I. I
was the youngest one.

391
00:17:02,930 --> 00:17:04,730
All my friends
that were helping--

392
00:17:04,730 --> 00:17:07,450
this one was doing that and
that one was doing this.

393
00:17:07,450 --> 00:17:08,990
And I knew I had to do it.

394
00:17:08,990 --> 00:17:13,220
My wife was very active in this,
looking after the children.

395
00:17:13,220 --> 00:17:16,740
And we had to help.

396
00:17:16,740 --> 00:17:20,220
What was going on in Europe at
that time, we had a vague idea.

397
00:17:20,220 --> 00:17:23,225
But remember, this was
before the Holocaust.

398
00:17:23,225 --> 00:17:25,140
The Holocaust came much later.

399
00:17:25,140 --> 00:17:27,849
And what happened, the

tragedy, the millions of people

400

00:17:27,849 --> 00:17:30,820

that were destroyed,
that's another tragedy

401

00:17:30,820 --> 00:17:33,930

that we didn't
know at that time.

402

00:17:33,930 --> 00:17:38,400

They were very, very worried
and scared to go to Shanghai.

403

00:17:38,400 --> 00:17:41,580

Because there were, already
at that time in Shanghai

404

00:17:41,580 --> 00:17:45,000

were about 20,000
Jewish, refugees

405

00:17:45,000 --> 00:17:46,620

from Germany and
Austria that were

406

00:17:46,620 --> 00:17:50,490

allowed to come to Shanghai
over five, six years time.

407

00:17:50,490 --> 00:17:53,820

And they knew that they will
not be looked after like we

408

00:17:53,820 --> 00:17:55,870

were looking after them.

409

00:17:55,870 --> 00:17:57,480

And the climate was--

410

00:17:57,480 --> 00:18:00,150

they heard the climate was not
good in Shanghai and the food

411
00:18:00,150 --> 00:18:01,230
problems.

412
00:18:01,230 --> 00:18:04,160
But we had to tell them,
listen, you have to go.

413
00:18:04,160 --> 00:18:07,200
And they went.

414
00:18:07,200 --> 00:18:11,700
What was the atmosphere
like in Japan right

415
00:18:11,700 --> 00:18:16,090
before they dropped the
bombs on Pearl Harbor?

416
00:18:16,090 --> 00:18:17,140
It was gradually--

417
00:18:17,140 --> 00:18:22,900
So tell me-- in Japan,
before they attacked the US.

418
00:18:22,900 --> 00:18:26,020
I was in Japan in 19--

419
00:18:26,020 --> 00:18:28,630
at that time, I had a new job.

420
00:18:28,630 --> 00:18:29,560
I had a job.

421
00:18:29,560 --> 00:18:32,560
I was running an office.

422
00:18:32,560 --> 00:18:35,410
I was hired by women
who came from Panama,

423

00:18:35,410 --> 00:18:38,140

a Panamanian citizen

when I met him.

424

00:18:38,140 --> 00:18:40,690

He hired me to be the

manager of his office.

425

00:18:40,690 --> 00:18:43,240

It was very unusual

circumstantial evidence,

426

00:18:43,240 --> 00:18:46,270

which was called Curacao

Panama Trading Company.

427

00:18:46,270 --> 00:18:48,580

Of all the names,

Curacao was there.

428

00:18:48,580 --> 00:18:50,995

At that time, of

course, it was way

429

00:18:50,995 --> 00:18:52,960

before the Curacao

visas were here.

430

00:18:52,960 --> 00:18:57,040

And it was a Panamanian

registered office.

431

00:18:57,040 --> 00:19:03,010

And my job was to

oversee about-- we had

432

00:19:03,010 --> 00:19:05,060

about 20 Japanese employees.

433

00:19:05,060 --> 00:19:10,360

We were doing a lot of buying of

Japanese products for shipment

434

00:19:10,360 --> 00:19:11,710
to South America--

435

00:19:11,710 --> 00:19:16,240
Panama, Chile,
Peru, and Curacao.

436

00:19:16,240 --> 00:19:22,450
At that time, Japan was not
as industrially oriented

437

00:19:22,450 --> 00:19:24,820
as it became later,
after the war.

438

00:19:24,820 --> 00:19:27,250
We were buying all
kind of sundry goods--

439

00:19:27,250 --> 00:19:34,660
toys, shirts, shoes, rubber
boots, [? bath ?] clothing,

440

00:19:34,660 --> 00:19:36,490
all simple things
that the Japanese

441

00:19:36,490 --> 00:19:38,470
were manufacturing right
now, with textiles,

442

00:19:38,470 --> 00:19:40,420
of course, cotton.

443

00:19:40,420 --> 00:19:48,460
And I was in charge
of that office.

444

00:19:48,460 --> 00:19:51,130
And then my boss, Mr.
Picker, Max Picker,

445

00:19:51,130 --> 00:19:53,710
was originally from Romania.

446
00:19:53,710 --> 00:19:55,870
He went to Panama when
he was 18 years old.

447
00:19:55,870 --> 00:19:58,870
And eventually, they established
a very interesting office.

448
00:19:58,870 --> 00:20:02,570
And he was leaving-- left
me in charge of the office.

449
00:20:02,570 --> 00:20:09,700
And at that time the refugees
started to come in, in 1940--

450
00:20:09,700 --> 00:20:11,830
in 1940 it was.

451
00:20:11,830 --> 00:20:14,860
I said to him, Max,
where are your parents?

452
00:20:14,860 --> 00:20:17,980
He says my parents are in
Bessarabia, in Romania.

453
00:20:17,980 --> 00:20:18,670
I said, what?

454
00:20:18,670 --> 00:20:21,946

455
00:20:21,946 --> 00:20:24,495
Look, this is burning
under their feet.

456
00:20:24,495 --> 00:20:25,370
Look what's going on.

457

00:20:25,370 --> 00:20:26,430

People are running away.

458

00:20:26,430 --> 00:20:28,940

Jews are being
arrested and et cetera.

459

00:20:28,940 --> 00:20:32,600

And Romania is an
ally of Germany.

460

00:20:32,600 --> 00:20:36,170

I said get them out of there--
his mother, his father,

461

00:20:36,170 --> 00:20:41,330

and two sisters, young girls.

462

00:20:41,330 --> 00:20:44,000

He says, look, I'm well-to-do.

463

00:20:44,000 --> 00:20:45,590

I am able to do it.

464

00:20:45,590 --> 00:20:48,140

I'm writing my
letters to my father

465

00:20:48,140 --> 00:20:52,123

asking him to leave
and to come to Japan.

466

00:20:52,123 --> 00:20:54,290

I said, just bring him to
Japan like all the others,

467

00:20:54,290 --> 00:20:55,640

via Moscow, via--

468

00:20:55,640 --> 00:20:58,410

I'll take care of them and
then we'll see what happens.

469
00:20:58,410 --> 00:20:59,625
He says to me--

470
00:20:59,625 --> 00:21:01,010
he shows me a letter.

471
00:21:01,010 --> 00:21:04,130
He says, I'm writing to my
father and this is his reply.

472
00:21:04,130 --> 00:21:06,140
He stayed with me about
three months so there

473
00:21:06,140 --> 00:21:08,750
was time to correspond.

474
00:21:08,750 --> 00:21:11,450
His father writes to
him, where will I go?

475
00:21:11,450 --> 00:21:15,410
I'm an orthodox man with
my wife, my children.

476
00:21:15,410 --> 00:21:16,480
I have my business.

477
00:21:16,480 --> 00:21:19,160
What kind of business,
I don't know.

478
00:21:19,160 --> 00:21:22,510
I'm not going to leave my
little place and go to Japan.

479
00:21:22,510 --> 00:21:23,522
What is Japan to me?

480
00:21:23,522 --> 00:21:24,480
What is-- I don't know.

481
00:21:24,480 --> 00:21:26,060
I'm staying here.

482
00:21:26,060 --> 00:21:27,920
I said, Max, write to him.

483
00:21:27,920 --> 00:21:30,380
The Earth is burning
under their feet.

484
00:21:30,380 --> 00:21:32,090
They must leave.

485
00:21:32,090 --> 00:21:34,182
Tell him to come here,
then we'll worry about it.

486
00:21:34,182 --> 00:21:36,140
He says, look, I'm going
to write him a letter.

487
00:21:36,140 --> 00:21:37,057
He showed me a letter.

488
00:21:37,057 --> 00:21:39,500
The correspondence
was all in Yiddish.

489
00:21:39,500 --> 00:21:41,300
He writes to them
and says, look,

490
00:21:41,300 --> 00:21:43,800
I understand you don't want
to go, and this and that,

491
00:21:43,800 --> 00:21:50,010
but if you ever decide to
leave your place where you live

492
00:21:50,010 --> 00:21:53,010

and to come to Japan and then
we'll worry about what to do

493
00:21:53,010 --> 00:21:56,370
next, send a telegram or
a letter to this man--

494
00:21:56,370 --> 00:21:58,720
he gave my name and address--

495
00:21:58,720 --> 00:22:00,750
and then we'll see what happens.

496
00:22:00,750 --> 00:22:04,860
I said, Max, do you have on you
any photographs of your parents

497
00:22:04,860 --> 00:22:05,640
and your sister?

498
00:22:05,640 --> 00:22:06,880
He says, yes.

499
00:22:06,880 --> 00:22:09,420
He says-- I have it--
documentation, et cetera.

500
00:22:09,420 --> 00:22:12,270
And he left with
me his photographs.

501
00:22:12,270 --> 00:22:13,280
And he left.

502
00:22:13,280 --> 00:22:15,330
He went back to Panama.

503
00:22:15,330 --> 00:22:20,790
And when Russia, the Soviet
army occupied Bessarabia,

504
00:22:20,790 --> 00:22:23,850

part of Romania, that
was one of the cities

505
00:22:23,850 --> 00:22:26,550
they occupied, where
his parents lived.

506
00:22:26,550 --> 00:22:28,020
I got a telegram from him.

507
00:22:28,020 --> 00:22:29,820
I remember it so well.

508
00:22:29,820 --> 00:22:34,650
It says, the book that
Max wanted to send me,

509
00:22:34,650 --> 00:22:37,110
I need it very urgently.

510
00:22:37,110 --> 00:22:39,830
I understood.

511
00:22:39,830 --> 00:22:42,830
Russians, Soviet army
occupied that place.

512
00:22:42,830 --> 00:22:46,640
How am I going to
get him out of there?

513
00:22:46,640 --> 00:22:49,270
So, I found out--

514
00:22:49,270 --> 00:22:52,170
some of the refugees were very--

515
00:22:52,170 --> 00:22:53,860
they knew the ways
around things.

516
00:22:53,860 --> 00:23:00,920

And one of them told me that
the Chilean consulate in Kobe,

517
00:23:00,920 --> 00:23:04,190
you can buy from him
Chilean passports.

518
00:23:04,190 --> 00:23:06,080
And if you send those
Chilean passport

519
00:23:06,080 --> 00:23:09,860
to these people with their
photographs there, their names,

520
00:23:09,860 --> 00:23:13,250
they might be able to travel
to Moscow, from Moscow

521
00:23:13,250 --> 00:23:15,830
to Vladivostok, and then
you bring them to Japan.

522
00:23:15,830 --> 00:23:17,900
I want to see the consul.

523
00:23:17,900 --> 00:23:21,090
He was a very mean young fellow.

524
00:23:21,090 --> 00:23:23,540
I said to him, this
is the situation.

525
00:23:23,540 --> 00:23:24,260
We have to help.

526
00:23:24,260 --> 00:23:27,290
We have to find a way to
get the Jews from there.

527
00:23:27,290 --> 00:23:31,790
He says, you Jews, you think
you can do everything for money.

528
00:23:31,790 --> 00:23:36,490
I said, I'd like to
buy some passports.

529
00:23:36,490 --> 00:23:39,398
I know you're doing it.

530
00:23:39,398 --> 00:23:41,550
He says, it will
cost you \$5,000.

531
00:23:41,550 --> 00:23:44,340
I said, that's a lot
of money, \$5,000.

532
00:23:44,340 --> 00:23:47,722
He said, see you, Jews, you
say money is not important

533
00:23:47,722 --> 00:23:49,430
and when it comes to
the lives of people,

534
00:23:49,430 --> 00:23:50,945
you bargain with me for money.

535
00:23:50,945 --> 00:23:52,070
I said, I'm not bargaining.

536
00:23:52,070 --> 00:23:53,300
I said have a heart.

537
00:23:53,300 --> 00:23:54,950
Have a decent human heart.

538
00:23:54,950 --> 00:23:57,140
People have to get out of there.

539
00:23:57,140 --> 00:23:59,210
He said, all right,
\$4,000, and bring it

540
00:23:59,210 --> 00:24:00,770
to me in cash, American dollars.

541
00:24:00,770 --> 00:24:02,720
In those days, it
was not allowed

542
00:24:02,720 --> 00:24:03,860
to have American dollars.

543
00:24:03,860 --> 00:24:05,210
I'll find a way.

544
00:24:05,210 --> 00:24:08,180
I left to him the names
and the photographs.

545
00:24:08,180 --> 00:24:09,710
I came to him in a few days.

546
00:24:09,710 --> 00:24:11,345
He gave me three passports.

547
00:24:11,345 --> 00:24:13,700
I brought the \$4,000.

548
00:24:13,700 --> 00:24:16,460
He gave me three passports,
Chilean passports

549
00:24:16,460 --> 00:24:18,500
for these people.

550
00:24:18,500 --> 00:24:21,680
And he says, you must
promise me only one thing.

551
00:24:21,680 --> 00:24:26,830
If you ever bring him to Japan,
I want those passports back.

552

00:24:26,830 --> 00:24:29,390

I don't want them to
be left with them.

553

00:24:29,390 --> 00:24:31,410

I said to myself,
to hell with you.

554

00:24:31,410 --> 00:24:33,200

I said, yes, of course
I'll go and do it.

555

00:24:33,200 --> 00:24:37,490

For me, it's get
them out of there.

556

00:24:37,490 --> 00:24:39,180

Then I have a problem.

557

00:24:39,180 --> 00:24:42,800

I have three foreign
passports, Chilean passports

558

00:24:42,800 --> 00:24:46,820

for three people, father,
mother, and two girls.

559

00:24:46,820 --> 00:24:48,740

How am I going to
send it to them?

560

00:24:48,740 --> 00:24:50,940

The Russians will--

561

00:24:50,940 --> 00:24:53,760

I had a good friend
of mine in the police,

562

00:24:53,760 --> 00:24:56,432

a Japanese-- a Russian
speaking man, Mr. [? Kundo. ?]

563

00:24:56,432 --> 00:24:57,390
He was a very fine man.

564
00:24:57,390 --> 00:25:00,300
I said to him, look,
my boss was here.

565
00:25:00,300 --> 00:25:01,740
He's from Panama.

566
00:25:01,740 --> 00:25:05,490
He left me-- I couldn't say
what the passports-- that's

567
00:25:05,490 --> 00:25:07,020
not done, you know.

568
00:25:07,020 --> 00:25:08,790
I said, he left
me three passports

569
00:25:08,790 --> 00:25:12,450
for his family in Romania.

570
00:25:12,450 --> 00:25:14,790
How to send those
passports to him--

571
00:25:14,790 --> 00:25:15,340
to them?

572
00:25:15,340 --> 00:25:18,090
They should be able to
get out and come to Japan.

573
00:25:18,090 --> 00:25:20,050
He says to me, give
me a couple of days,

574
00:25:20,050 --> 00:25:21,840
I'll talk to the
governor of the province.

575

00:25:21,840 --> 00:25:24,040
Maybe he'll give us some advice.

576

00:25:24,040 --> 00:25:25,660
He came back in two
days and he said,

577

00:25:25,660 --> 00:25:28,020
this is what the governor said.

578

00:25:28,020 --> 00:25:31,830
Send those three passports
to the Japanese ambassador

579

00:25:31,830 --> 00:25:37,470
in Moscow, asking him to
transmit those passports

580

00:25:37,470 --> 00:25:41,010
to these people in
the occupied city.

581

00:25:41,010 --> 00:25:43,650
Or write to them
they should come

582

00:25:43,650 --> 00:25:46,620
to Moscow to pick
up their passports

583

00:25:46,620 --> 00:25:48,990
at the Japanese embassy.

584

00:25:48,990 --> 00:25:50,910
Maybe that will do it.

585

00:25:50,910 --> 00:25:52,500
I said, OK.

586

00:25:52,500 --> 00:25:53,640
I sent those passports.

587

00:25:53,640 --> 00:26:00,750

That was about a month before
Germany attacked Russia.

588

00:26:00,750 --> 00:26:02,680

And that was the end of it.

589

00:26:02,680 --> 00:26:04,800

They died.

590

00:26:04,800 --> 00:26:09,030

They were destroyed in
Hitler's camps in Romania.

591

00:26:09,030 --> 00:26:13,120

I found it out about
20 years later.

592

00:26:13,120 --> 00:26:14,300

I was on my--

593

00:26:14,300 --> 00:26:15,370

already in America.

594

00:26:15,370 --> 00:26:17,260

I was travelling.

595

00:26:17,260 --> 00:26:20,650

I found out that Max was
in Caracas, Venezuela.

596

00:26:20,650 --> 00:26:23,650

That was the way he went,
from Panama to Caracas.

597

00:26:23,650 --> 00:26:25,540

I went there.

598

00:26:25,540 --> 00:26:26,560

I called him up.

599

00:26:26,560 --> 00:26:28,900

And it was a very
interesting reunion.

600

00:26:28,900 --> 00:26:30,520

And he said, where
are you staying?

601

00:26:30,520 --> 00:26:33,460

He came to my hotel
in Caracas, Venezuela.

602

00:26:33,460 --> 00:26:34,870

And with a young--

603

00:26:34,870 --> 00:26:38,590

he was not married when I knew
him in Japan, but at that time

604

00:26:38,590 --> 00:26:39,640

he was already married.

605

00:26:39,640 --> 00:26:41,480

And he had three children.

606

00:26:41,480 --> 00:26:42,430

He lived in Caracas.

607

00:26:42,430 --> 00:26:44,500

He was a very well man to do.

608

00:26:44,500 --> 00:26:47,050

And he came in a
car with the driver.

609

00:26:47,050 --> 00:26:51,000

And there was a boy next to him.

610

00:26:51,000 --> 00:26:53,310

And he said, my boy
will be barmitzvahed

611

00:26:53,310 --> 00:26:55,300
in about six months.

612
00:26:55,300 --> 00:26:56,520
Do you know what is his name?

613
00:26:56,520 --> 00:26:57,570
I said, no.

614
00:26:57,570 --> 00:27:00,320
He says I name him after you.

615
00:27:00,320 --> 00:27:01,880
I was so touched, you know.

616
00:27:01,880 --> 00:27:04,840
I said, look, Max, your
parents were destroyed.

617
00:27:04,840 --> 00:27:06,360
I know.

618
00:27:06,360 --> 00:27:09,930
I used his money to
buy the passports.

619
00:27:09,930 --> 00:27:11,500
He was very, very upset.

620
00:27:11,500 --> 00:27:12,750
He was very--

621
00:27:12,750 --> 00:27:16,080
I said, did you ever tell
your children what happened?

622
00:27:16,080 --> 00:27:18,120
How you tried to get
them out of there,

623
00:27:18,120 --> 00:27:20,970
and you couldn't, and

they were destroyed?

624

00:27:20,970 --> 00:27:23,610

He says, no, I haven't got
the heart to tell them.

625

00:27:23,610 --> 00:27:25,710

I said, I want to tell them.

626

00:27:25,710 --> 00:27:27,630

He invited me for
dinner to his house.

627

00:27:27,630 --> 00:27:30,690

And the beautiful woman
to whom he was married,

628

00:27:30,690 --> 00:27:36,030

had two grown up daughters, 16
and 14, and a little boy of 13.

629

00:27:36,030 --> 00:27:38,130

And I came to his house.

630

00:27:38,130 --> 00:27:43,200

And in the bedroom I
saw two big photographs

631

00:27:43,200 --> 00:27:47,200

of his father, his
mother, and his sisters.

632

00:27:47,200 --> 00:27:50,650

I said, did you ever tell
your children what happened?

633

00:27:50,650 --> 00:27:51,220

He said, no.

634

00:27:51,220 --> 00:27:52,390

I don't have the heart.

635

00:27:52,390 --> 00:27:54,410
I don't know if
they'll believe me.

636
00:27:54,410 --> 00:27:56,690
I said let me tell them.

637
00:27:56,690 --> 00:27:58,670
I took the photographs
to the dining room,

638
00:27:58,670 --> 00:27:59,700
put them on the table.

639
00:27:59,700 --> 00:28:02,120
I said, children-- they
spoke good English.

640
00:28:02,120 --> 00:28:04,190
I said, children, do you
know who these are here?

641
00:28:04,190 --> 00:28:07,070
Says, yes, it's our grandfather,
grandmother, and our aunts.

642
00:28:07,070 --> 00:28:10,640
They were destroyed in Hitler's
camps in the Holocaust.

643
00:28:10,640 --> 00:28:12,710
I said, let me tell
you, I was a witness.

644
00:28:12,710 --> 00:28:16,970
Your father tried his
best to bring them out

645
00:28:16,970 --> 00:28:19,080
of Romania through Japan.

646
00:28:19,080 --> 00:28:22,070
We don't know what would have

happened, but he did try.

647

00:28:22,070 --> 00:28:26,390

But your grandfather
for some reason or other

648

00:28:26,390 --> 00:28:29,810

didn't want to leave this
place where they lived.

649

00:28:29,810 --> 00:28:33,240

But I want you to remember
your father is not

650

00:28:33,240 --> 00:28:38,890

responsible in any way for
the destruction of his parents

651

00:28:38,890 --> 00:28:40,480

and your grandparents.

652

00:28:40,480 --> 00:28:41,372

Oh, they were upset.

653

00:28:41,372 --> 00:28:42,830

They were crying
and this and that.

654

00:28:42,830 --> 00:28:47,010

And that's the story,
one of the stories.

655

00:28:47,010 --> 00:28:48,560

Let's change tapes.

656

00:28:48,560 --> 00:30:49,000