

RG-50.647.0020

Summary of Oral History — Sylvain Moshe Fitoussi — ENGLISH

Sylvain Moshe Fitoussi, born on April 7, 1937 in Tunis, Tunisia; his family moving to Algiers for economic opportunity in 1939; his parents establishing professional contacts; being in Algiers from 1939 to Independence; his schooling, including studying for his doctorate in economics (MBA) in Paris; his military service in Algiers in 1960; speaking of his marriage in Algiers on March 29, 1962 at the town hall, then on April 1 in the synagogue; recalling the mayor of Algiers; leaving Algeria for France; speaking of difficult times; his work in Paris; speaking of his wife Danielle (née Abraham)—they were part of the same Jewish youth group in Algiers (U.G.F.); Sylvain living on rue Francs-Bourgeois Alger; his wife living on rue Milouz just across from the university; a European quarter; speaking of the rue Michelet in Algiers; speaking of his childhood and schooling; Albert Bensoussan (sp); speaking English fluently, which was rare at the time; his studies in Fontainebleau; speaking of the Pieds-noirs; recalling the many Jews; speaking of his business; speaking of Jews of Tunisia; always being a Zionist; speaking of Germans in Tunisia; his arrival in Israel; his trips to Israel; recalling a cousin living on a moshav in Israel; his impressions of Israel; the Six Day War in 1967; speaking of his son; his father was born in Tunis (1906-1990), his mother born in 1910—from a well known business family in Tunis; the Fitoussi name having roots in Ibis, Egypt, Constantine; he was an only child until a sister born in 1943; speaking of his primary school on rue Tiers monde; recalling anti-Semitism; the American arrival in Algiers; the Vichy government; José Aboulker; the villa of Maurice Benaim and the meetings; his father's work; going to synagogue mainly for Yom Kippur—the Temple Ben-Torah (sp) on the rue Sainte; his mother speaking Arabic fluently; having an Arabic housekeeper; vacations in Tunis with his grandmother; his school on the rue Clauzel; the lycée Bugeaud—many Jewish students; becoming naturalized French citizen in 1958; speaking of the creation of Israel; his house in Herzliya in 1977; speaking of his life and family in Israel...