Series E: General Alphabetical Files. 1960-1992
Box 86, Folder 10, NBC "Holocaust" - Denmark, 1970.
DENMARK

In Denmark Holocaust was aired in early March, 1970, and it was met with widespread coverage in the news and the popular media, as well as with record viewing audiences. A Gallup poll commissioned by the Berlinske Tidende, a leading Danish newspaper, produced the following data: 83% of those questioned considered it a good idea to show Holocaust; only 10% of all Danes under 25 years old did not see the series; and of those over 50 years old only 30 to 40% did not see Holocaust.

These figures indicated not only that a majority of the population viewed the series, but also that Holocaust reached nearly all those Danes without first-hand knowledge of World War II and the Nazi occupation. Recognizing this, the Danish press concentrated much of its attention on the effect Holocaust had on children and young people.

Politiken, a major Danish daily, contended that the film may have opened some eyes and created a better understanding of the Jewish people; but it also noted that children do not perceive film as well as they do reality. But the Ikive Folkebald reminded its readers that "children know more about evil than adults believe." The Berlinske Tidende emphasized the importance of seeing the film for young people because it is they who are responsible, it pointed out, for resisting war.

One newspaper article, headlined "Holocaust Should Not Stand Alone," stressed the need for background material, especially in the form of a follow-up documentary. And teachers at one junior high school, it was reported, felt the film did not give sufficient consideration to the political background of pre-War Germany. But the series clearly reached the great majority of young Danes, and strong student identification with the characters in the film prompted a great interest
in the historical holocaust. This was evidenced, according to
World War II. Both school and community libraries reported they had
been emptied of material on the subject after the airing.

Various other comments, often widely divergent, also emerged in
the discussion about the series. One article raised the issue of
over-sentimentalization, while another worried that people can become
cold and apathetic upon seeing too much horror. A third contradicted
both by arguing that the reality went much further than the film.

Of the numerous responses elicited by Holocaust, the most frequently
articulated one was: "Why didn't the Jews resist?", "Why didn't
we protest?", "Why didn't other foreign countries react when they had
knowledge of Nazi atrocities?", "Why did it happen?"

The Horsversa's Folkeblad, a regional journal, claimed that the weak­
ness of the film was its unconcern with just such questions.

Speculated on the lack of opposition by the German population
during the war and criticized the film because it did not include
facts on how and why Nazism grew.

Other articles spawned by Holocaust discussed Danish awareness of
Nazi actions during the war. Most of these were were critical of the
Danish actions during that era, as was one found in
which insinuated that the Danish press did not reveal all of the Nazi
atrocities it was aware of until the Nazis were defeated. An article
in a major Copenhagen daily, Extrabladet, contended that the European
nations which were Nazi-occupied were competitive in their ignorance
of what was happening while it happened.

This sharply self-critical stance was particularly unusual because
the Danes were, in fact, a very integral part of the underground net­
work during the war which aided Jews and other potential Nazi victims
to escape to neutral lands.
Few articles appeared expressing the right-wing reaction. One, in the regional newspaper Aarhus Schrift, stated that "...one should not be seduced by a film such as Holocaust," and claimed the series was "...speculation in feeling." It intimated that Holocaust was a propagandistic tool designed to arouse support for Israel. The reaction from the right in Denmark was generally, however, far less visible and more subtly stated than it had been in most nations where Holocaust was shown.

Extrabladet acknowledged that there are "crazy people" who contend it never happened. "The TV series," it continued, "because of its fictive nature didn't change their minds--but they are an insignificant, marginal group."

This newspaper also considered Holocaust in light of its television vehicle. The significance of the film, it thought, was that it "mobilizes an opinion." The strength of its ability to do so, Extrabladet wrote, "surprised Danes in that it forced them to take a position on the blackest point in the modern history of our civilization." In this context, the artistic merit of the series is irrelevant, it felt--but the courage required to make it was not. Despite the overriding approbation, the article concluded, "there was nothing new in Holocaust. We all knew about it before and we will continue to know about it when we have forgotten the film."

The Jytlands Post, while it agreed with many of the points made by Extrabladet, explicitly stated that "as truth it did happen," and concluded that the film "made reality real to us. If it can't open our eyes--not only to Nazism but to misuse of power in general--nothing can."

Thus the articles represented a divergence on a key issue, the
lasting effect of Holocaust. Extrabladet pointed out that the film acted as a litmus test for public opinion, but that nothing was essentially changed by it. But the Jytland Post spoke of its "opening our eyes" and the long term effect it would have on human rights. And there was ample evidence that, to such extent as a nation's youth, when it reaches adulthood, creates a nation's future, the future understanding in Denmark of the Nazi era was markedly affected and enhanced by the series.

Indeed, many of the reactions stimulated by the film included a new perspective on the importance of guarding human rights. Politiken claimed that "the whole population is incredibly interested in how to avoid a new holocaust in Europe."

"The message of Holocaust," thought , "is that we should be ready to say no to all violations of human rights."
9:30 - Gunda
Mo. Hane
14th Fl.
204 Park Ave.
Boston, Mass. 02116-8320

Page 1

1. Shock, spilling, resistance, refugees
2. Dream a reality land of people
3. Why didn’t we protest, why protect for Viet Nam. Should protest aganist all atrocities.
4. Did I open eye about atrocities. History, film, flexes, didn’t answer.
5. Why - (regard personal) firemen Folkstedt

Page 2

Children & Holocaust. Politically
positive side - little understanding for tragedy. History in a new light. Two as many children running around invisible guns.
2. Grade, before school arts and crafts.
3. Grade, tried to shoot teacher using finger black toy.
4. Film - children don’t perceive it as well as reality. Opened eyes, but didn’t bring image to story. The advertising satisfied. New many hours. To get little. Not on brain. Away from the
I'm ashamed -
Ostensibly of the Pope -

Page 3: "Threat must take revenge."
Why didn't foreign countries react when they had the knowledge? Perhaps in 40 years we will be a Howard life sharing children.

Page 4:
Comments from Eron (Bob)
- While pop was incredibly interested, how can we avoid a war in Europe. What could be the role of the Euro community help? (I made people think, but Eron)
The real Holocaust idea is a stimulus for creation of Eu. Common market.

Page 5: Letters - not close to reality. Talk to Joel about this.

Talk to W.B. for...
Page 60, Vorlagenstudie, newspaper
How you forgotten
Judaic vast agreement in Munich

Page 70, How Reznor grew on 6
Wonders about lack of reaction by the people

Page 8, "Eternal Damnation, Eterabludet of Jew"—
A media event, not a politically neutral word.

Page 8, Have Press—did not
Feel ill about it. They were aware of moderate opinion did not
the film this man of an attempt various nations to wash their hands everyone guilty.

Message of A - We should be ready to say die to saving human.

Page 10 West Jylland (local paper in Denmark) 
A true picture of Nazi time father of 1942 1 yr. old child.
Not much violence in the movie.

Page 11 Extraladedet "We knew about it before Raid"

Hard to show true TV reality some things Mobilize an opinion. Proof of the force of the TV medium.

TV can do something that on other medium could not. Can today. It can determine what people will become talented in.
speaking about. This proof of the existence of the TV medium was misinterpreted because people were surprised that the medium forced them to take a position to the blackest part in modern history of our civilization. People were bewildered. That goes before it occurred. Gradually about who knew the least of what happened when it happened.

Children. People began being isolated in areas of children knew about. Acknowledged by people who control it at the happened. TV could have changed minds but they are very marginal groups. Drove away because they are so close geographically. But still we shall be reminded. It really cheating that just because it was TV are reacted so strongly. Artistic quality irrelevant - attribute, marketing and producers. Success also.

Cited from Xunyi "Roots. Once it was modern..."
They knew that many of the people would see it. It's a lie. The general knew about it. Why are you surprised? There was nothing new in it. We all knew about it before. We will continue to know about it when we have forgotten the film.

Page 13

"In the wake of..." Fyland Borup

The TV series - High School Teacher - author of article

Summary - incredibly ghastly scenes from US TV series. Notwithstanding could happen again. Suggest to avoidASHINGTON. If we cannot, we should prepare ourselves - some demons in a form of life in constant fight for it, our existence.

Page 15

War can start again unless the young want it.

B I - Berlinske Tidende - Major Copenhagen
Important for young people to see the film & be aware that atrocities are still going on. Cannot forget the history. We don't want to forget. Some may see it as exaggerated—but no way to portray true horror of Nazi sites.

Page 150: "Empire Schrages" - Future increased demand for info about War. Explosion in interest.

Page 160: "The Children knew more about evil & war than adults believe."

Debate—Film hides give enough background. Teachers believe Children very interested in the film. Discuss plan to discuss with students about background on Germany. Teachers felt students were very interested & identified with characters. Very moved by the scenes.
Page 10 Execution - Darfur Report

The killing of Jews is hardly of consequence. One shouldn't be reduced by a film such as "Schindler's List" at a time when Israel is being more of a friend because of its unconditional policies. We shouldn't put Zionism, Semitism, and the same bucket. It is a speculation in feeling. I want to be a believer we have a moral obligation to recognize being only because it is inhabited by people who are once people.

Thwaites: Reaction Correct - "H" will become an arrow. 83% of those questions got the correct one.

Page 13 "Reminder" was "H" art. We actually prevented the film from being shown on TV. Widescreen things in film made impression. I am correct. "H" can be seen as a reminder of how dictator ship can produce mind.
I lead people acting

Page 190 It "should not stand alone" at all, if we all have
guarding eyes about peace
of Jews. Reality get further
Under the "No follow-up"
Documentaries.

E D Status

Some people complained about too
much victim mentality. Certain
seems more powerful than others.
I said that people wondered if
we doesn't become cold of
appetite. If we seek to much
Shame, it is subject of
Debate all over Europe at
home, work, school - into news.

Follow-up.

Page 00 Jyllands Post
July 1st part
30 April

But as Truth at It happened.
We knew before hand that it
was true - purdahas we lead
it. Made reality real to u.
If the cast opalescent eyes—not only to Nazism but measurable by purely in general—nothing for Art criticism irrelevant.

Page 210 End of the World on TV

Try to prevent its being shown at West Berlin.