

C-7409 to C-7410 Transcriptions

Friedman, Herbert A. "A Half Century of Fire and Glory, Part 2:

1945 to 1948." 4 July 1989.

Herbert A. Friedman:

That's correct. January...30th...'33. Who else came into office that day? Who?

Audience member:

FDR.

Herbert A. Friedman:

You got it. You were here yesterday, you...

Audience member:

But I knew that before yesterday.

Herbert A. Friedman:

Alright, kiddo.

Audience member:

That's January 20th...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Yeah, January 20th was the inauguration, uh but January 30th was his birthday, and uh, he counts that, and historians count that, as the day Roosevelt started to run the country.

Audience member:

The Hundred Days began on January the 30th...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Yup, that's correct. And this is an incredible coincidence that Hitler and Roosevelt, who, both of whom dominated the century, both countries dominated the world. So that's a pretty good starting date. And, uh, a half century, you know roughly fifty years, [1:00] so you're down in 19 uh, '83. Eh 1985, '87, '89, where we are today. This is an approximation, when you say a half a century. We take it from the time of the beginning of the Depression and all the problems that brought in America and the accession of Hitler to power in Berlin, and you start from there, and you talk about fire and glory, and what happened in those fifty years. So the first thing in these five days, uh,

yesterday, we dealt with the first thing, was the Holocaust, and we finished with that.

The war ended when?

Audience member:

1945.

Herbert A. Friedman:

Date.

Audience member:

April, April the 29th...

Audience member:

VE Day or VJ Day?

Herbert A. Friedman:

How 'bout trying May 8 [laughter]. April 29th, [2:00] Hitler committed suicide, in the bunker in Berlin. Shot her, shot the dog...uh, took the cyanide pill, and, and shot himself, after writing his last will and testament, the last sentence of which says, that the German people have re- and the world have to

remember that the important thing to do is to get rid of the "virus of international Jewry." The last five minutes of his life, he was still beating that drum. And a few days later, uh, Admiral Doenitz and a few other Germans signed a, uh...a ceasefire with the Americans, and the war came to an end.

When was the State of Israel established?

Audience member [several voices, indistinct]:

1948... [3:00]

May 15th...

Herbert A. Friedman:

So almost exactly three years later. And today, we're doing those three years...between the death, the fire of the Holocaust, and the beginning of the glory. And some very special things happened in that period. That's tomorrow, that's Wednesday. Thursday, we're doing the birth and the growth of Israel, from here to, oh, take it to today, what's the difference, it's 41 years. So, we'll talk about the birth and growth of the country, 41 years. [clears throat] This first lecture was Holocaust, the second lecture was the three [4:00] crucial years...uh, the fourth lecture is not, well, call it 41

years, and it's entitled "One War" [writing with marker]. One war, you can say the '67 war, you can say the '73 war, you can say the '82 war in Lebanon...I don't care what you wanna say, that's all arbitrary, it's one war, and I'm gonna describe how old that war is. That war began in 1871. And today it's 1989. So how old, old is that war? That war is a 108 years old. 118, 118 years old. [5:00] And if you think that's a long war...eh, was there ever a hundred years war before in history? Yeah. Was there ever a two hundred years war before in history? Yeah. [indistinct voice from audience]. Who? No, no. The longest so-called designated war was the Hundred Years War, but the Arabs have a two-hundred year war. Which was it? Crusades. The Arabs say, it only took them two hundred years to drive the Christians back to Europe. What the hell do these white Christians, with their popes and their kings, and I don't know what the hell they think they're gonna come and take this territory in the Middle East where they don't belong! So, it only took us two hundred years to kick 'em out with the tail...I mean, our great general was Salahadin, Saladin, and he beat Richard the Lionhearted, and he sent Richard the Lionhearted back to England with this tail between his legs, didn't he? [6:00] Heh. So, they say, the Arabs, what's the big rush? What we gotta make peace with the

Jews for? Why? We only been at this thing 118 years! No rush. We'll get 'em out. We get rid of 'em. You guys haven't got the patience to hang in, you haven't got the ability to hang in. You're not united among yourselves, you fight. You don't know how to, how to spend money. You haven't got the manpower any which way to handle us! So, you know, relax fellas, so you won the first couple of rounds. I mean, that is exactly how they think. And I had that conversation with one of the leading Arab families in Jerusalem, named Nashashibi, if you've heard that, read that name in any of the writings about the Middle East. [7:00] Nashashibi families is one of the great families, they own a lot of hotels in Jerusalem, they're rich, they're well-educated, this guy went to Harvard, wore a gold watch chain, across a nice belly. You look at him, he go, eh plays uh, in the casinos in London...International guy, easy, eh, wouldn't think that he's your enemy. But he's your enemy! So, be careful. Gotta understand this war. Don't get impatient.

So, that was Monday. Today's Tuesday. This is Wednesday. Then Thursday we're gonna do...growth. Growth. That's the 41 years of growth. And the last one, we're gonna do growth, but in the US. 'Cause that's also a piece of glory [8:00] that took place in these last fifty years. The US Jewish community of

today, compared to what it was fifty years ago is totally unrecognizable. So, we got a good one going, in Israel, and we got a good one going in the US, and we got a lot of nonsense going among us, where we better get our own act together. So that was the, the we-, the, the, outline I made for myself for the whole week. And so today, let's get into these three crucial years.

Before we do, let me ask you if you have any questions about any items, any subjects, and let's put 'em on the board, and I'll, that'll remind me to keep ticking 'em off as we go through this morning's session. During this three year period, from the end of World War II, May the 8th, to the creation of the State on May 15th, those three years, are there any things that have happened that you've wondered [9:00] about, any items that you're not clear about, and just, I'll just make a list of 'em. Yes, Mark?

Mark:

Talking about British [paper shuffling]...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Talking about what?

Mark:

The British, to a great extent... 'cause the British were in charge... and we don't hear a word about the British Jewish community, those were...

Herbert A. Friedman:

British Jewish community, no, that's off base for today, we're not gonna be able to do that...

Mark:

Well, between '45 and '48... during the time when they were trying to...

Herbert A. Friedman:

If you wanna know about the role of the British in Europe and Palestine, sure...

Mark:

Not the British. How did the Jews...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Oh, because you said, what fooled me was you said the British Jewish community, so I start...

Mark:

...the Jewish community in England, work against the...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Not interested. Not interested. That's not...unimportant, unimportant. Like the Americans! What'd the American Jewish community do? So, that's, that's a peripheral matter. This is not really central to anything.

Audience member:

I'm a little unclear on the background and structure of the Jewish Agency...[Friedman laughs][10:00]...the organization itself...

Herbert A. Friedman:

[writing with marker] Jewish Agency. Okay. That's a key question, that's a central one. Bob?

Bob:

...how to determine the [unclear]...

Herbert A. Friedman:

[writing with marker] D...P...

Bob:

...why did, why did we have, you know...why were they there for so many years...the Haganah.

Herbert A. Friedman:

DP Camps. I'll come around this way, go ahead. Jeffrey?

Jeffrey:

Uh, how easy was it for people um, getting out of the concentration camps, the survivors, getting to the United States, um, after the war...[unclear]...problems of getting into what was then Palestine...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Well you just said two things: refu- Pale, uh, United States or Palestine.

Jeffrey:

The United States. We know about Palestine.

Herbert A. Friedman:

[writing with marker] Refugees to US. Yeah?

Audience member:

Uh, Aliyah Bet...role of the allied, [11:00] the Jewish members of the Allied forces, as well as Jewish brigades.

Herbert A. Friedman:

Aliyah Bet. You know what that means, Aliyah Bet? Aliyah means what?

Audience member:

Going up.

Herbert A. Friedman:

Going up where? Palestine. Israel doesn't exist yet. Aliyah means 'immigration to Isr- eh to Palestine,' getting in to Palestine. There were two ways to get into Palestine...[indistinct comment from audience] Exactly. Aliyah

alef, alef, was the official way. The official way, an immigrant, a refugee in a camp in Europe, DP camp could get a British certificate admitting him to Palestine, quite legally, and the number of such certificates was [writing] fifteen hundred per [12:00] month. Fifteen hundred per month. In the DP camps...how many camps were there, and how many people did we have in the camps? Anybody got any idea?

Audience member:

...says here at one point there were a quarter of a million Jews and more were coming out of ...

Herbert A. Friedman:

A million Jews in DP camps?

Audience member:

Quarter of a million.

Herbert A. Friedman:

Quarter of a million. That's the correct number. In the DP camps, 250,000, and there were 64 camps, with 250, containing 250,000 people. So, if you're gonna count on legal certificates

at the rate of fifteen hundred per month [laughs], how the hell long is gonna take you to empty out a quarter of a million people? Just do the division, the long division... [13:00] It's gonna take you decades and decades and decades...a lot of these people are gonna die, of despair and disease and frustration, sitting in camps. They're no, eh, not Nazi camps, but they're camps! So, um, Aliyah Alef, really wasn't going to be the solution, was it? So you go, you found a different solution, which is Aliyah Bet. Illegal immigration, or the second way...Alef is the first letter, B is the second letter. And this was illegal immigration [writing with marker], illegal because it didn't involve certificates and it didn't ask the British for anything...Who ran it?

Audience member:

Haganah.

Herbert A. Friedman:

Haganah ran it. Haganah ran it. [writing] [14:00] Okay. And that's where yours truly comes into the picture, because I served as a Haganah officer from 1945 to 1948 while wearing an American Army uniform. Lovely cover! So I went tootlin' around,

and Aliyah Bet, which was to remove illegal immigrants to Israel, or to Palestine...uh, had to go by ships, and once we were out there looking for ships, what else can you put on a ship beside people? Guns. So while we collected people, we collected guns. Big ones, little ones, medium ones, mortars, um...Howitzers, uh, fifty calibers, water cooled, air cooled. I mean, it was just laying around by the bucket load. [15:00]

Audience member:

You were in the chaplaincy at the time?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Yeah. I was the chaplain of the 9th Infantry Division, why do you think, why do you think Wexner [laughs] put me next to General Patton last night? That was so funny. I was a chaplain in the 9th Infantry Division, 3rd Army, uh, which uh, whose commanded was General Patton. Um....and the 3rd Army went across southern Germany, and I went with 'em, and I used to go looking for the Jewish guys in the 9th Division, and I had a very vigorous, enthusiastic Italian driver, and we had a big command car, and I had all the necessaries in the back of it, toilet paper, and cigarettes, and booze, and eh, you know, all the

important things, some prayer books in between everything else. And we'd go riding across, uh, and, he'd put the lights on full blast...roll the command car [16:00] off the road, across the fields, we'd see a fire some place, you know, some uh unit would be bunked in, some battalion or some company commander, and uh this guy, Joe was the name, he'd drive up...barreling, fifty, sixty miles an hour, across open field...And uh, come right up to the camp fire and uh, start to yell, "any Jews here?"

[laughter]

Audience member:

That was subtle!

Herbert A. Friedman:

Hoo boy, you know, everybody divin' down in the fox hole, for cover, beating- you wouldn't see a human being...I mean...And I said, "Joe, you don't, we don't do it that way. Turn the lights off, turn 'em down to uh, black out lights, little slit over the, eh, eh, on the headlight. Covered with blue paper and little slit this wide, and that's the only light you had. And, um, "you don't have to yell...You and I, we'll get out of the Jeep, [17:00] we'll walk up to the fire, the guys'll

see the *Magen David* on my uniform. So, you know, you don't have to scare 'em to death, you don't have to look as if we're the damn Nazis coming in to, uh [laughs]...And it took me a long time to quiet him down. Well, the Division was always spread over a large front, and uh, you know, Division's got 15,000 men in it, uh, so how many Jewish guys you gonna find among the 15,000 men? Few hundred, but they're scattered, in regiments and battalions, and they could be twenty miles apart. And so, looking for 'em all the time, and trying to get 'em together to hold a service...And a Catholic chaplain, he could never understand, he never could understand, why in the hell I needed ten men... 'Cause what he used to do, he comes up, he wants to run service anywhere, rolls up in his Jeep, put the cloth over the hood of the Jeep, take out the, the chalice and the paten and all of his stuff, and set it up, and he wants to say Mass. He says Mass. [18:00] He says, "There's nobody here but me an' Jesus. And it's Jesus' business to get God to listen..." And I said, "That's the difference between us. You run a religion. I run a people. I can't pray without people. There isn't any Judaism without people. We're not a religion in the abstract. Hitler understood it. Hitler had to kill every Jew on Earth, in order to kill Judaism... So, you know, I used to give lessons to

all these guys, and show 'em that the difference was not that we simply had a different set of religious ideals...The difference was a fundamental one! They are a God, and heaven, and afterlife oriented religion, and we are a people on this Earth oriented religion. [19:00] And, eh, you know, these guys were smart guys, they finally got it. He said, "Boy, you have a tougher time than I do. If I had to try to round, round up ten Catholics every time I wanted to say mass...*pblbumm!*"

Anyhow, that's it. All the years that I was a chaplain in the United States Army I was an officer in the Haganah. Okay. What else goes up on the board? And I'll tell you about all the relationship, and what I did in the camps and all that...

Audience member:

Uh, this might go under the first topic of Jewish Agency...but at the time of the establishment, uh, in '48, supposedly Jewish sovereignty was transferred at that point from the Jewish Agency to the Israeli government...uh, my, I've always been puzzled, why did the Jewish Agency continue to exist after that point, why it was necessary to...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Join the club, Peter. [laughs] Um, the Jewish Agency...well, uh, okay, let me get to it and tackle it, [20:00] and then we'll get off it. Uh, we don't have to take a lot of time with it.

During all the years that the British were in charge of Palestine...operating the administration of the country under a mandate from the League of Nations which was given to them in 1922, so the British were in Palestine from 1922 to 1948, right, so they were there 26 years. They ran the country, but Jews, knowing Jews as you do, the Jews also set up an underground, shadow, parallel, government. They called it the Jewish Agency. The Jewish Agency was created in 1929, seven years after the British started to administer the country, the Jews started to administer the country, [21:00] by themselves, for themselves. And, the, when I say a shadow government, they set up all the departments. The chairman of the Jewish Agency was to become, if, if we ever got independence, the Prime Minister of the country. So, the chairman of the Jewish Agency was Mr. David Ben-Gurion, and he became the Prime Minister. There was a Foreign Department of the Jewish Agency, and the Foreign Department head would later on become the Foreign Minister of the government, and that was a man by the name of Moshe Shertok,

but later on his name, Moshe Sharett, I'm sorry, he changed his name, Moshe Sharett. There was a Labor Department, who would later on become the Minister of Labor. That was a lady by the name of Golda Meir, or her name then was Gold Meyerson, Golda Meyerson, [22:00] eh and she was the head of the Department of Labor of the Jewish...so you, you got it. There was an army...Well, it was not called an army, it was called a *haganah*, which means in Hebrew *lahagain* means to defend, it was a defense, and the name later on become the Israel Defense Forces.

So everything was set up, therefore your question is a 100% right. When the transfer took place and all this came up from out of underground and came up above ground, and all these guys took on the new titles of Ministers and running a government, the Jewish Agency should have faded. Okay, it didn't fade, didn't want to fade. It had hundr- it had thousands of employees! Heh, did you ever see any Jewish organization commit suicide and go out of business?

Audience members:

Why didn't those employees automatically become employees of different government...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Some of 'em, [23:00] some of 'em did, some of did, they became, moved, blended, they, they became the Israel civil servants. But the leaders of the Jewish Agency wanted to keep the Jewish Agency alive, as its own separate functioning organization. Now they had to have a rationale. So what was their rationale: fundraising. What was their rationale? Listen carefully. The rationale was, that all the Jews in the diaspora, in the rest of the world, were all citizens of other governments, all over the world, you're a citizen of America, somebody else is a citizen of England, et cetera, and if you are a citizen of a foreign country how are you gonna have a relationship to the government of Israel? You're not gonna become a citizen of Israel, and back in the country in which you live, somebody's gonna say to you, "Hey, what are you? Are you an American or are you an Israeli? What are you?" [24:00] So, they began with a rationale that the diaspora Jews couldn't have any direct relationship to the government of Israel, that there had to be an agent in between, linking, you Jews in the diaspora to the new State of Israel. That was the rationale for keeping the Jewish Agency in existence, to serve as the link. Okay. Now let me ask you a question. How many people in this room really,

you know, love Israel, and work for it, and believe in it and think it's important, or whatever words you wanna use? Hands up. It's everybody! Everybody. B: Do you feel this great loyalty to the Jewish Agency, which is your link to Israel? Anybody feel passionate about, and loyal to the Jewish Agency? Hands up. Well, there you have the, exactly a demonstration [25:00] of the nonsense of the whole business, forty years later. Damn thing should have long since gone out of business! Now, you said the fundraising. You don't need any link to the government of Israel. You can get an Israel government airplane, called El Al, you wanna go to a Swiss plane, I don't care, it's...better. And you get on a plane, and you go there, and you get your American passport stamped. Do you get it stamped by the Jewish Agency when you come into the airp- you get it stamped by the government, uh, customs, uh, immigration, police. Police stamps your passport. Bingo, you go get your luggage if you, and, and somebody takes you to uh, the Caesarea Hotel and you go for a swim...

Audience member:

So what are they doing?

Herbert A. Friedman:

So they have this rationale for their existence, that they're supposed to be the link. So what they're supposed to be doing then is, any Jews from the diaspora who want to come into Israel, they're supposed to take 'em in. In order to...in order to...absorption. [26:00] In order to do that, they need money. So then they have a further rationale. They say to you, "You wanna give money to help with this? Can you give your money to a foreign government and have that be tax deductible?" If you wanna give money to France, can you take it off your income tax? No you can't! So that's where the fundraising comes in. We need the Jewish Agency, A: to be the link of connection; B: to take in the immigrants from around the world; and C: to accept the money from those Jews in America who want to get a deduction on their taxes.

Audience member:

Sort of like a financial laundering conduit...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Now, you just said the dirtiest word in existence, as far as the IRS is concerned. And that word is 'conduit.' Conduit is

a pipeline...conduit. You cannot [27:00] let the uh Jewish Agency be, and the UJA, be only a conduit, to take money in, send it through the pipeline to the Jewish Agency. IRS says that's a no-no. What's the opposite of just sending money through a pipeline? What's the opposite word? Instead of sending it somebody else and let them spend it...[indistinct comment from audience]. Gimme a word, one word. Control. [writing] You have to have control over it. So the Jewish Agency says to the UJA, "Hey, UJA, tell you what you do. You raise the dough, you get a meeting of your board, your vote how you wanna spend the dough, then you send it to us, and we're your agent, so you tell us how you want us to spend it." So that's control. Control [28:00] is in the hands of the Americans. So, all that took place in a big fight that I had with Senator Fulbright in 1960. 'Cause the Arabs pushed us to the ropes. They wanted to get, take away tax deductibility, and this was the way they tried to do it, and they had Fulbright on their side. So, well we fought 'em hard, and won the fight, by creating what satisfied the IRS, of a control mechanism, and that's called by a different name, not United Jewish Appeal, we changed one word in it, United Israel Appeal. So we had to create another organization called the UIA, which is like the post office. UJA to UIA, UIA board of

directors votes how to spend it, UIA to Jewish Agency. All kosher.

Audience member:

And Jewish Agency presumably to Israel, if there's any left...Is that right? [29:00]

Friedman:

There isn't...there's no skim. There's not much, uh, wasted in this trans- in this transition. What's wrong about the whole thing is that, when it gets to Israel it's in the hands of an agent, a Jewish Agency, and my contention always is, we really don't need the Jewish Agency for any purpose, including, including the transfer purpose.

Audience members:

'Cause you have the UIA...

Once you have the UIA...

Herbert A. Friedman:

You spend it yourself! You don't need an agent to spend it. The UIA could say, "Well, we will vote 55 million dollars for

taking in Russian immigrants this year, and we will appoint one hundred absorption officers and take 'em in! We will set up the housing foundation, tax deductible, and we will build 83 million dollars' worth of housing this year, and we'll parcel it out to Russian immigrants." You don't need a Jewish Agency in between. [several audience members, indistinct]. Sure would! Would cut the bureaucracy of four thousand people [30:00] down to about four hundred people! Did you ever hear of an organization called the JDC? Joint Distribution Committee, okay? UJA gives to the Joint about fifty million dollars a year to spend in different countries around the world. Does the Joint have a, a, an agent in Morocco? No! Joint sends in one of its men, with one secretary, and sits there, and has connection with all the local, the orphan asylum, and the school, and the Lubavitchers there, and the ORT School is there...eeeh, sit there, and you got a budget from New York of a million two hundred thousand dollars that you're gonna spend on the Jews in Morocco this year, and you spend it, yourself, with the help of the recipient who's right there. Direct! Don't need a damn agent. [31:00] But I'm a rebel, I'm ...I have to tell you this, I have to admit it honestly, I'm the only man in America who talks this way, all the rest of you all play the game and you go along with the

whole business in your federations and to, and you go to the Jewish Agency meetings four times a year, and you're nice little people and you don't revolt...and I can't get you to revolt! So, anyway...

Audience member:

Oh, if you start...if you lead, I'll follow.

Herbert A. Friedman:

You'll follow? [laughs] Yeah, okay. So, that's the Jewish Agency. I am sort of downgrading it now. Its day of glory was before the State of Israel was established. Then it was magnificent, it was indispensable, it was...heroic! And now it's just, pfff, redundant, stupid! Riddled with politics.

Audience members:

What's the government, Israeli government's attitude toward the Agency?

Herbert A. Friedman:

They hate it, and they haven't got the guts to blow it up!
[32:00] They're just as guilty as you are. What? [indistinct]

comment from audience member] Yeah [indistinct], not bad! Haha!
Okay, enough of the Jewish Agency? Anything else?

Now let's go to this business of the DP camps and let's try to understand it, 'cause that's what it was really all about. The war ended, and I have brought you a map here, which I'd like you to look at very carefully. This is a, an authentic, historic relic. This map is exactly, a fifty-four years old. This map was uh drawn in nineteen-hundred and forty-four, in the month of July, and it's marked Top Secret. The map is a result of the agreement made by President Roosevelt and Premier Stalin at the meeting of, at Yalta, if that word strikes any echo in your mind, in 1944. A year before the end of the war, America [33:00] and Russia, Roosevelt and Stalin, cut up Germany. They cut up Europe, too, but the main thing was Germany. And they said, "When we have defeated Germany, Germany shall be divided into zones among the Allies, and this is the British zone, and this is the Russian zone, and this is the French zone, they got a little piece, and this is the US zone, of Germany." And they did the same thing to Austria, cut up into four zones. The Russian zone up here, this thing that's marked in red around here, that's the city of Berlin. Berlin is an island, buried deep inside the Russian zone. So it means, any time the Russians

want to control it, they control it, and there's no traffic in or out, and that's why in 1948, when the Russians closed it off, the Americans had to supply it [34:00] by air, and you will remember that famous phrase, the Berlin Air Lift. Did you ever hear that? Well, the Berlin Air Lift was flying aircraft from the US zone up into Berlin and the Russians couldn't control the air, at 25,000 feet, unless they wanted to send in fighter planes to shoot down all the American transport planes, which they decided not to do. [clears throat] When the war was over, on German soil, in uh, May 1945, oh, that's off...there were alive, there were found, alive, in the various German camps, 35,000 Jews. That's the beginning number. And slowly but surely, American chaplains like myself, there were a d- half a dozen in, working in Germany in different divisions, and most of 'em were good guys, [35:00] and they cared, and they wanted to help. American chaplains. JDC relief officers who were sent in from America. UNRA, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Organization, the director of it, then, was Senator Leman, Herbert Leman, he was the director in charge. Ever hear that name? And coming over from the Jewish Agency in Palestine, were secret officers of the Haganah, who were called social workers, teachers, anything to help inside the camp, get the camp

stabilized, organized, talk Hebrew and Yiddish to the inmates, help them, bring them back to life, give them a little hope, show that the Jews in the outside world cared. So you had American Jew- Jewish chaplains, and American Jewish social workers, [36:00] and you had British coming in offering personnel, and you had the Palestinian Jews coming to help, and you had the gathering together of a small band of people who started to work among these DPs.

And now we come to the initials DP, which stood for Displaced Person. Now why were the Jews displaced? There were no other kinds of DPs. Within a matter of a few months...on German soil, were about ten million slave laborers, whom Germany had brought in. Belgians and Dutch and French, and from all the conquered, Denmark, all the conquered countries, Poland, and Russia...whom the Germans brought in to work in their underground factories. The Germans had a very advanced military [37:00] machine, based on a very technologically advanced manufacturing capability...

Did you know that the Germans in World War II had jet aircraft? Americans didn't! British didn't. The Germans had Messerschmitt ME-109s. Later on in the story, I will tell you about how another guy and I stole eleven of those aircraft out

of an airfield near Prague, in Czechoslovakia, over here, and got 'em to Palestine, and they became the first planes in the Israel Air Force. The Israel Air Force fought with Messerschmitt jets against British Spitfires. The Egyptians had British Spitfires. Iron- irony! The Germans were on the verge of discovering the [38:00] atom bomb. The Germans had missiles! They called 'em V-1 and V-2; they called 'em by another name, buzz bombs. They were unguided, no guidance system in 'em. So they would zzzup, shot 'em up, off of a place here right up on this peninsula in the Baltic called Peenemunde, and from Peenemunde, bingo!, over to London. And then London's a big area, so it doesn't matter what the hell you hit! Hit your house, or hit your house! You're terrorizing the British population, starting fires, disrupting transportation, everything. You saw all the pictures like that. Germans were very developed! With a, because they had a huge supply of slave labor!

Okay, now, ten million of these people had to be sent back home. And nine and three quarters million went back home, went back to Holland, went back to Poland, went back to France, da-da da-da da-da, all the displaced [39:00] persons got sent back home. They had a home to go to. The displaced Jews, who came

originally, most of them, from Poland and Russia, didn't want to go back, there was no home. Poland was one huge cemetery! Nobody wanted to go back to Poland. Nobody wanted to go back to Russia. So that's why we began to build camps. Now, who's the we? Who's in control of Germany? Well, let's say the zone we operated. The American Army, the American Army is in control of the US zone of Germany. And we were, most of these sixty-four camps were in the US zone. One big one up in the British zone, Bergen-Belsen was up here. There were no camps, really, in the French zone. French meant- yeah?

Audience member:

But the death camps, the larger...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Death camps are different.

Audience member:

...the larger concentration camps were over in Poland,
[40:00] so how did...how did the people come over...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Oh! So...I'll start, I'll tell you. How did this Aliyah Bet work? How did we increase the population of the DP camps in Germany from 35,000, whom we found alive when the war was over, to two hundred and fifty thousand. How did we do it? We brought them in. We smuggled them in, across borders. From where?

Audience member:

Russian zone?

Herbert A. Friedman:

From the east, from the east. The whole movement of the Haganah was movement from the east over here. This is Poland, over here is Russia, up here is Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, uh, where were, many of us came from. Here's the border, you see this line right here? That's the border of the Russian zone of Germany. This is today called East Germany, it's not called Russian zone. This is East Germany [41:00] today. And over here, what is the British and the French and the US zone is called West Germany. Okay? I was stationed, I was recruited into the Haganah and I was told to go get myself stationed in Berlin. I'll just give you an example of how the movement worked. Okay?

So I go to Berlin, the man, person who recruited me was, uh, a lady. I get a telephone call. I'm working down here in Munich, south of Munich, near Garmisch, uh, and this woman calls up and says, "Are you Friedman, so and so [mumbles]." I say, "Yeah." She, I was picking up Jewish kids in the forest, I, bunch of trucks and I got some good sergeants to drive 'em, and we were cruising and, seats with little kids, you know, holding hands, and they're shell-shocked and they don't know their name, and they don't know where they came from, and...eh, throw 'em in a truck, that's all. Drop the boy's trousers, make sure he's circumcised, he's one of yours, he's got the little one with him, the girl was, so, maybe she's a friend, [42:00] he picked her up on the way...Load the truck, get fifteen hundred people in the truck, all Jews, take 'em some place, put 'em in a garage, put 'em in a hangar, put 'em in a warehouse, and begin to clean 'em up, give 'em a little DDT power, and a little soap, and a little food, and...you couldn't give 'em too much, or they'd die right in, right in your arms, 'cause you had to go...And we're not doctors! I mean, we're truck drivers for God's sake! So, I was working there, and she heard about it, and she calls me and, you know, I was, I don't know what the hell I was, 25, 26 years old, not married, and...Lady says, meet me in

room 203 of the Royal Monceau Hotel on Avenue Hoche in Paris, and uh, why should I say no?! [laughs] You know, but when I got to the door, and I knock on the door, and I see there's a flag outside, and it's the British flag is flying from this hotel, and I say, "Where the hell am I?" And when I looked, she opens the door, and I say, "Oh boy it's a wasted trip..." [laughs] And she, and uh, she, I have to, I have to identify myself to her, [43:00] and uh, she says, "Will you work for us?" And I say, "Well, who's us?!"

Now just think to yourselves. Standing in a hotel corridor, and you're on the threshold, and you're not invited in the room, and you're all bundled up, it's winter, cold that winter of '45, after the war finished, and uh, "Will you work for us?" And I...and, and, she doesn't tell you. She just says, "Haganah." You got no data! You don't know what they are. You don't know what she wants. You don't know what you have to do. Well, how do you answer it? Your gut has to tell you something. Just your gut. So I said, "Yeah, I'll work for you." She goes across the room, uh hotel room, and opens the door from the bedroom and a little guy walks out, this big white hair, you know. And he comes across, she says to him, "Friedman says he'll work for us." [44:00] He says, "Thank you very much." He goes, he walks

away. I never saw him again for a year. I said, I said, "Tho is it?" She says, "That's Mr. Ben-Gurion." I said, "Who's he?!" [laughs] So she says, "He's the chairman of the Jewish agency." I said, "Ah, I'm listening to some kind of bureaucratic bullshit," and "what's this all about." Um, and she says, "No, he is the head of the Haganah, and he wants, uh, he needs help. And I'll tell you what it's all about." Okay! So then she invited me in, sits me down, gives me a cup of coffee, and you know, one, two, three, boom, boom, no nonsense. We gotta move, we gotta move Jews out of the east, we gotta bring him in here, westward, into the, under the American flag. We're gonna pack 'em in, accumulate 'em. We're gonna save their lives. And then we gotta figure out how to get 'em south, down to the Mediterranean, uh where the ships are, and uh get 'em over to Palestine." I said, "That sounds good to me." And uh, she says, [45:00] "Fine, you go up to Berlin, get yourself transferred up to Berlin. Get yourself a house, four walls a roof." Heh, [laughs], you know what Berlin looked like?! Four walls and a roof. That's like saying go find a million dollars in the street. Uh, I found one with two walls a roof! Which was pretty good. "And, go steal yourself some trucks and some gas tickets, enough for a year, and uh, uh, I'll send you twelve drivers from

Belgium where the Palestine brigade," uh that was a fighting unit, they were bivouacked in Belgium. "And uh, they'll drive for you. And you drive from Berlin through the Russian zone up here to the border of Poland, at the uh, town of Szczecin," that's where this guy Wallenza, Lec- uh the Polish guy comes from, uh up there near Gdansk where the ship, Polish shipyards are, "Pick up your load, and come back through, into uh, [46:00] Berlin, and go out every night at dawn- at, at dusk! Dusk! You'll get up there by midnight, you'll load, and you'll get back in by dawn. The whole operation's a night operation. And you move out three hundred people a night. Take six trucks, fifty people on a truck. That's three hundred a night." And damn if we didn't pull a hundred thousand people through that route in the course of almost a year's time.

Audience member:

Did you have to worry about being detected while going through the Russian zone?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Are you kiddin'? Are you kiddin'? One guy drove, one guy rode shotgun, one guy rode up on the top of the cab, uh, and uh,

you know...well armed. I used to, uh, take a ride with them about once a week, uh, and you shot your way through a lot of situations, and uh, you bribed your way through a lot of situations. We always had a big, uh, couple cases of vodka in the back. [47:00] And, basically, and we had the, and we had the, the pay, the payment money! We had to pay one carton of cigarettes for each Jew. Now [end of Side A; gap in recording]

...hundred cartons of cigarettes, times a hundred and fifty bucks a carton, is forty-five thousand dollars, a night, every night! How 'bout that?! Talk about fundraising! I mean, we're talking about nineteen-hundred and forty-five! [indistinct question from audience]. What? Uh, well...

Audience member:

That's the value on the black market...

Herbert A. Friedman:

It depended on how many cigarettes you could get. I had two thousand uh, Jewish soldiers in the city of Berlin. Two thousand. [48:00] French, Russian, Americans, British, uh, everybody. I used to sch- I used to spend all my days schnorring cigarettes. But you were rationed. The GI could buy one carton a

week; cost him seventy cents, they were seven cents a pack.

Okay? So a guy smokes, he smokes a pack a day...so seven of 'em, he's gonna consume. For a pack of cigarettes, you get a bottle of schnapps. For one pack of cigarettes, you get a woman for the night. So, he's got ten packs of cigarettes for the mon- for the week. Right? Well, you know, so what's he gonna give you? You gonna get, you get ten percent of a man's uh, gross income in the form of a contribution from anybody, every week? [indistinct comment from audience] What? [audience member repeats] Yeah, right [same indistinct phrase]. Um, so some of 'em I used to get from the GIs. I used to trade names of Jewish girls [49:00] in Berlin for a carton of cigarettes. In the house, I called the house the Jewish Chaplain Center, I mean, I had a big sign out in the front. I had the stolen trucks in the back yard, I had the Haganah guys sleeping in the cellar, I had a printing press for false papers. I mean, this, we built on to this joint. We took a lot of rubble, and, it got to be a very powerful headquarters. And, um, so, you know, I would get a whole carton of cigarettes if I would get a guy some girl's phone number, uh...So certain amount, um number I schnorred. Certain number, my father used to send to me in big mail bags, and the Army post office inspectors used to show up about every week, and saying,

"hey, you got about seventy-five thousand dollars' worth of stuff there on the front porch, Chaplain, what's that for? Is that part of your religious services?" I'd say, "yeah, right. Right. We use 'em. We smoke 'em in secret down in the cellar." [laughter] What am I gonna tell 'em? [50:00] And the main bulk of it, uh I used to have to get from uh relief agencies, the JDC...After a while, when we got a, when a port going, the port of Antwerp, up here [taps on map], in, in Belgium opened up, and then they began to get me in shiploads of cigarettes, and then I used to get 'em in by train, across here to me. And, uh, after a while it stabilized, and I used to have enough. But at the beginning, it was, it was hell. But it was glory! I mean, it was for real!

Now, this was called the northern route. So we brought 'em in through here, through Berlin. The southern route, that we brought 'em in, was here in Vienna, and we call that, we used to collect 'em here in Sile- lower Silesia, and bring 'em in through Prague, and down here through Prespor, Bratislava, over here to Vienna. And once we had 'em in Vienna, in the Am- in the Am- uh, uh Austria, it was a quick run [51:00] right over here to Munich, and Munich, down in the south, became the center of the southern operation, and Berlin was the center of the

northern operation, and between these two places, uh, we accumulated over a period of about a year and a half, that full camp population. Yeah?

Audience member:

Yesterday you touched on it, and you said that you'd discuss it further today. How were you able to prompt the Jews from the eastern zones, to mobilize them to get uh, into your hands, follow you...

Herbert A. Friedman:

We didn't have to prompt them at all. An episode happened, that's the one that I was starting to tell about yesterday. Over here in Poland...here it is, right here. In a little town called Kielce, put it down, K-I-E-L-C-E, Kiel-ce, there was a pogrom, today [52:00] is the anniversary, it was on the 4th of July, nineteen-hundred and forty-six. So, that was, forty-three years ago, today, amazing coincidence. [indistinct comment from audience] 4th of July, correct, all good things happen, you know, clustered together. Forty-two Jews were killed in Kielce that day. That set up a wave of panic, all the way through Eastern Europe. I mean, you're not a year and a couple of months after

Hitler's dead and the war's over, and it can still happen? Oh, my God, that throws the fear of God into everybody!

Audience member:

What kind of action...

Herbert A. Friedman:

The Poles in the town of Kielce killed forty-two people, boom, tchum, tchum, tchum, laid 'em out like um, [53:00] uh cordwood in the center of the town, around the fountain. Little medieval town, you know, the fountain's in the middle of it, you've seen it anyplace you've gone in Europe. Forty-two dead bodies, I saw them myself!

Audience member:

...Jews were living in that town?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Yeah!

Audience member:

...had returned...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Or had returned to that town. I don't know if it was their native town, but at the moment they were living in that town.

Audience member:

That wasn't the only case, though?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Only case of what?

Audience member:

Uh, of Jews being killed when they returned...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Well, that was the dramatic one. That was the super dramatic, that was the one that drew world attention. Back here, back here, eh, in Frankfurt, down in the US zone, here, right here is Frankfurt. There was a building right here, called the IG Farben building, and that building was left intact, that building was not bombed from the air by the Americans or the British, 'cause that building was pre-selected as the future

American headquarters. [54:00] Not a window was broken...And that's where General Eisenhower came in and set up American headquarters, when the war was over, and later on it was General McNarney and later on it was General Clay, whoever was the commanding general of the theater. In that building, there was an office, right next to, this is crucial, right next to the commanding general, four-star general, whoever he was. And the office, with the sign on the door, said, Advisor to the Commanding General on Jewish Affairs. There was an official advisor on Jewish affairs appointed by the army, by the Department of War it was called in those days. Because the commanding general, beginning with Eisenhower, said, "hey, hey, hey, I don't know anything about this Jewish stuff. It's obviously, this is the most [55:00] sensitive civilian problem I have to deal with. Military problems, how to handle the defeated Germans, how to handle the Russians, I got no problem. How to handle these Jews, who've been through this Hell, I mean, everybody in the world woke up and it became known how bad the whole Holocaust had been. And, uh, he hollered for help, "Send me somebody who can be my advisor on Jewish problems. 'Cause he knew, vaguely, in the background, there was some kind of fight going on between the Jews and British about Palestine, and from,

from his point of view, he would love to have them go to Palestine and get the hell out of his territory of responsibility. It's not that he's anti-Semitic. What does he need this problem of a quarter of a million civilian Jews on his hands, he's gotta worry about feeding them, first of all. The basic rations of two-thousand calories a day were provided by the Army, [56:00] not by anybody else. I mean, the story of the army in Germany after the war, is the most wonderful humanitarian story that has never been told, but I'm a living witness to what its reality was. These *goyische* officers from little towns in South Carolina and, and, and Utah...what do they know? Kill the Nazis and go home! But they can't go home, and they're stuck there, and they got another six months to go, or whatever it is, and, what do they know about this Jewish business? But there's something in the heart of the American, the true, friendly, simple, genuine American, not super sophisticated like today, that responds in a humanitarian sense. And I used to be able to get non-Jewish guys, I mean by the droves! To drive trucks, steal supplies for me, do anything. [57:00] Take 'em out to the nearest DP camp. It was beautiful. On the other hand, it would be very nice to be rid of the damn problem! Wouldn't it? So that was the tension.

So the army used to send a civilian advisor over, and the best one they ever sent, was a rabbi from Rochester, New York, called Phillip Bernstein. He's now dead, he died recently. And he and I were good friends, and he called me, um...in Berlin, and said, "Hey, listen, I, I need help. I got the right to have a military aide, uh, you be my military aide, you steer me through this military bureaucracy," um, and I said, "Sure, let's get a good house to live in." So we found a house outside of Frankfurt, uh, occupied by the wife and two daughters of a German general who was in jail, so we threw them out and we took the house, and it was nice, and we used to invite army, uh a, US army generals over there, [58:00] we had two cases a month of liquor ration, and we used to uh spend long nights, drinking, talking about Zionism. [laughs; mumbles]...weird! And we taught them what it meant, what the, what the Jews wanted, what they believed in, what they hoped for, and they all responded, it was beautiful.

So...the buildup of the camp population, and the feeding of the camp population, and the servicing of it, became a fixed matter, and it lasted for three solid years. During that period of time, with the army sympathetic, and with a lot of uh, social welfare officers working under the surface, and with the JDC

giving a supplement to what the army provided, and giving the cigarettes in for the transport of immigrants, of DPs from the east, [59:00] everything is going along except the political. And the political is the problem that was the most urgent, because the political had to be solved, and we couldn't solve it any other way, except by the Aliyah Bet. And so as we packed everybody into the camps by moving them from east to west, so we drained them out of the camps by moving them south, and we sent sixty-seven ships, from little ports down here in France and in Italy, of which sixty-one were caught on the Mediterranean by the British, and the people were sent to the island of Cyprus...by the British. And that population began to build up and it got real huge, it got up to somewhere around a hundred thousand on that island, and um...when finally, when May 15th came, within eight hours after independence, [1:00:00] the first ships began to come in from Cyprus. Cyprus is only eight hours off the Palestine coast, and it was wonderful that on the 15th of May, which was a Shabbat, so really the declaration of independence was read on Friday, the 14th of May, at four o'clock in the afternoon, before Shabbat. By the end of the next day, Saturday, by Saturday evening, the ships were coming in from Cyprus. Beautiful sight! Um, I, uh, had the honor of loading one

of those ships down in a small port near Marseilles, called Port-de-Bouc, B-O-U-C, and the name of the ship was *Exodus*, and she took forty-four hundred people, and it was a flat-bottomed ferry boat that used to go across the Chesapeake Bay from Baltimore to Wilmington, [1:01:00] if you know the geography. And that thing sailed across the ocean, almost foundered twice, didn't have a keel. Flat-bottom! Ferry boat! Never think of facing Atlantic storms. And we gutted it, and put the planks in, and then just laid down forty-four hundred people, four thousand four hundred...and outside the three mile limit, was waiting the British cruiser, the *Ajax*. The *Ajax* was the biggest battle cruiser the British had. It had sunk the Nazi ship the *Graf Spee* off the coast of Montevideo in South America earlier in the war. And that's the ship that they sent against the *Exodus*. [mumbled] ...joke, you know! It was a damn steel battleship nine stories high, and you have a dinky little wooden ferry boat down here. And, the *Ajax* tailed it for nine days across [1:02:00] the Mediterranean, and when they were fifty miles offshore of Haifa, uh, it rammed, she rammed her, boom, and she just coulda cut right through her, didn't quite. And then the British marines jumped down, and uh, fight took place, and a kid got killed, uh Bill Bernstein from Syracuse, and a lot of other kids got

wounded, the Haganah kids. And um, the British towed the thing into port, took the people off, it took three British prison ships to hold 'em, and the British prison ships sailed right out of Haifa harbor, came all the way back across the Mediterranean, to the French coast, where they intended to disembark the people and dump 'em off where they'd started from. The French [1:03:00] played their usual game, um, and uh what they did in the end, was tell the British, "Listen, uh, no speak English, not your, it's not our problem. Do what you want with these people." The Jews went on a hunger strike. I don't know if you remember the whole story about the, the book about the *Exodus*, and they wouldn't get off. And so the British said, "You won't get off? Fine. Very good." And they took 'em out through Gibraltar, up through the English channel, back up to the port of Bremerhaven up here, and put them back in a British camp in Bergen-Belsen.

And that did it. I mean, you cannot, a year and a half after Hitler's dead, take and put Jews back in a concentration camp! The world won't stand for it! And we had a hundred reporters waiting up there, at uh, at Bremerhaven. It was in every paper in the world! And that was in, uh, [sighs] [1:04:00] September, 1947. September. Who remembers when the vote took place in the United Nations, for the uh, uh, partition of

Palestine. [several voices from audience, indistinct] November 29. [writing with marker] November 29, 1947. And that, bringing that, those prison ships back and putting 'em in Bergen-Belsen was in September. I forget which exact date. But it was enough, with the newspaper publicity building up, and the world getting sensitized, and the Jews at last opening their mouths in the United States and in England, um...that the vote took place which said partition the, yeah, you got it, partition the uh, country into a Jewish piece and an Arab piece. [1:05:00] Okay? How'd that vote go? Anybody know the numbers? I gave 'em to you in the reading here. 'Come on, let's find the numbers!

[shuffling paper] Okay, let me put 'em up on the board for you. This is a terribly crucial thing, to know the numbers, I'll tell you why 'cause it's a, it's a clue, [1:06:00] it's a clue to history. Everything that happened in the past is a clue to what might happen in the future. That's why you gotta know. For partition. [writing with marker] For partition, against partition, and abstain. Those are the three uh, permissible categories when the, when the vote is called. And the vote was thirty-three for partition, thirteen against partition, and ten abstaining. That's the number of countries that were in the United Nations at that time, fifty-six countries were members of

the UN. [1:07:00] You know what the number is today? One fifty-nine. Island of Fiji, got 300,000 people, that's a member. Anybody get to be a member...One, one nation, one vote. Fiji got the same vote as China. Okay, now what are the voting rules? In order for something to pass, what do you need? You need a two-thirds majority [writing with marker] of those present and voting. Present and voting. [writing] So how many countries did you have, present and voting? [1:08:00] Forty-six, ten were abstaining, they weren't at the...Forty-six. So what's a two-thirds majority of forty-six?

Audience member:

Thirty-one?

Herbert A. Friedman:

No. Ah, thirty-one! Correct. A two-thirds majority is thirty-one. And how many people- uh voted for? So, we had this incredible margin of two! We got the damn thing by a majority of two. That's how close it was! With everything the Jews had been through! When you finally got down and the chips were on the table, we won by two! Who were the two? [indistinct answer from audience] No! As they were counting noses, and the fellow was in

charge of the delegation at that time, of Israel, [1:09:00]
'cause Israel is...uh, of, of Palestine! Wasn't Israel yet, it's
'47, um, was uh [clears throat] Moshe Sharret, the future
foreign minister, and a young deputy of his by the name of
Aubrey Eban, the young South African-educated, Cambridge, uh
genius of a kid, um...thirty-something years old. And he and
Shertok, shepherded the thing through, and counted the votes,
and saw who was clearly in our pocket and who wasn't in our
pocket, and whom we could never persuade and don't waste any
time on it. And it finally boiled down that there were two
countries that they figured if they could get those two
countries, then that would push it off, push it over. You'll
never guess. Guatemala. Somebody I, whispered it, I heard.
[1:10:00] [writing with marker]. And the other one? Philippines.
Two marvelous exemplars of strong, powerful democracies,
believing in social justice and Jewish, eh...with big powerful
consciences about trying to pay back Hitler. I mean, it's a
joke! This is really a joke.

Audience member:

[indistinct]...as much of a joke as [indistinct] nowadays?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Well nowadays, there isn't anything this crucial! Nothing this crucial. I mean, this was life and death, man! This was, you're going to be born, you're not gonna be born! Uh, and the, the two people involved both wrote books about it. Um, the guy from Guatemala was named Garcia-Granados, and he wrote a book, *The Birth of Israel as I Saw it*. And the other guy was a, uh, army general by the name of Carlos Romulo, [1:11:00] just died recently, uh, eighty-something years old, and he wrote a book about it. And you know who got those two votes? It wasn't Sharret and it wasn't Eban...

Audience member:

Herb Friedman.

Herbert A. Friedman:

No. President Harry Truman, God bless his soul! He muscled, he threatened, he pleaded, he twisted arms. He called both these guys into the White House; he laid the law down to 'em, he did everything he could do. He finally got their vote. And that's the story of how the State of Israel won the partition plan.

Now, what did the partition plan say? It was a map, divided...Yeah? Yes, Bob?

Bob:

Yeah. One time I was calling uh a meeting with the Brazilian ambassador...

Herbert A. Friedman:

Brazilian?

Bob:

Brazilian ambassador, in Washington several years ago, it might have been a [unclear word] conference or [1:12:00] something like that, and, and he told us a story, that he was Marrano Jew and that his father voted on the partition, at the UN, for Brazil.

Herbert A. Friedman:

That's correct. The, uh, the South Americans were all pretty solid, part of the thirty-three, and were taking their orders from the Vatican, as much as from anyplace else. They were not part of the American bloc or part of the Russian bloc,

and there was no uh, geo-political influence on 'em, and their Catholic religion plays a big part with them, and the Pope [coughs], excuse me, apparently came down on the right side on that matter, and that opened up permission for six or seven of those South American countries, of which one was Brazil.

Audience member:

Which Pope was it?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Uh...would be, wouldn't Pius...Twelve. [1:13:00] No, we had had a, we had had...you know, let's go back to that story about Kielce. I got sidetracked from it, um...We had, I had a meeting with that Pope, Pius the Twelfth, with Rabbi Bernstein. Now, let's get to the end of that, it's really fascinating. We, he and I, the two of us, flew in from Berlin to Warsaw, on the plane of General Lucius Clay, who was the commanding general in the European theater at that time, Eisenhower had gone home. Does the name mean anything to you? General Lucius Clay? So, he said, "Go into Poland and find out what the hell is happening, and come back out and tell me, because what I want to know, and here's the key question, am I gonna get a flood of those Jews

coming from the east who are gonna pour into Germany? And if so, I better begin to figure out how to prepare to receive them, because it's every damn thing from blankets [1:14:00] to uh, to jail cells. So, would you go to Poland and investigate for me, uh, and bring me back report as to what you predict is gonna happen, how it'll affect us here in Germany." Very logical. And we went to see several people, using uh, his um, a letter of introduction from him. We went first to the American ambassador, of course, in Warsaw, and in, in Warsaw, and his name was Arthur Bliss Lane, I'll never forget the man's name because he was so hateful! He had gout, or something was bothering his foot, he had his foot up on a footstool, a hassock, and he's sitting back in an arm chair, and he's got a sour face, and says, "What d'you want?" "Sir, would you please read General Clay's letter...." Clay laid out the thing. So, he looks up from reading the letter [1:15:00] and says, "What's that got to do with me?!" Very nice greeting. And he gave us a short, swift, description of the fact that the Department of State of the United States government, which he represented, wouldn't have a damn thing to do with getting mixed up in this internal matter of Jews and the Polish government and uh, refugee movements and all that, it's not the business of the State Department. Out! And that took, you know,

like about thirty minutes and we were finished, out the door. Second fellow we were told to go to see was the Catholic cardinal, and I remember his name, for the same reason. His name was Augustus Hlond, H-L-O-N-D, big man, heavy, no neck, German style, chopped hair, you know, uh cropped, [1:16:00] uh...pig like face, and uh, long black ecclesiastical...

Audience member:

You didn't like him much...

Herbert A. Friedman:

What?

Audience member:

You didn't like him much, did you?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Didn't like him [indistinct comment from audience member]. Right. And the whole, the whole thing was conducted standing up, he didn't even say, "Sit down." And uh, he said, very straightforwardly, and very simply, "Yes, the fires of the pogroms," I'll never forget it, "are burning in Poland once

again, and the Jews will get what they deserve!" Yeah! Oh my God! And we said, "Well, why are the fires burning? We heard that a priest in a parish near the city of Kielce had read a letter, passed a letter from the church, from the pulpit to, in, on Sunday morning, that uh the Jews are the devil and the Jews um, uh, are to be uh persecuted. [1:17:00] Was there such a pastoral letter? He says, "Yes there was. I wrote it!" [laughs] Heh heh heh, okay. So, we're at the right address, right? And uh [indistinct comment from audience], yeah...and he said, and, we said, "What is the point of all this? We have to report back to the commanding general and uh, in Germany, uh what to expect here..." and he said, "The point of all this is, that the Jews got and are getting what they deserve because they brought Communism to this country. They're like filthy vermin, Hitler was right! They brought Communism to this country, and we do not want Communism, this is a Catholic country!"

Now, the name of the Communist leader in Poland in nineteen-hundred and forty-six, was Jacob Berman. So, the Cardinal ain't lying that the, that the, that the Jews are running the Communist Party, and well, [1:18:00] and that was true in every country in Europe. Ana Pauker, a Jewish woman, was the Communist chief in Romania, and Slansky was the Com- Rudolf

Slansky was the Communist chief in Czechoslovakia, and in every country in Eastern Europe that was coming under Russian domination, the Communist leader was a Jew, who had during the war been kept in Moscow and had gone through the Marxist Leninist institute for foreign leaders, and had been brainwashed and had then gone back to his own country with the instructions to bring Communism...and, and they were doing their job in every country in Eastern Europe! Yeah?

Audience member:

Was this before or, this meeting you just described, was this before, during or after the Nuremberg trials? Do you recall?

Herbert A. Friedman:

July...July '46...the Nuremberg trials were on, by the middle of '46...well, maybe not. I don't know. Uh, but, well...either, were, within a month or two. [1:19:00] Either they were already on, or they're all fully in preparation and their gonna start...

Audience member:

This Hlond was not at all afraid of being accused of being a war criminal, or uh...

Herbert A. Friedman:

He's in Poland. How does the...how is the Nuremberg trial gonna get him? They couldn't get him. A Polish citizen, civilian, he's not a military man. An anti-Semitic Cardinal! So, they wouldn't have any jurisdiction over him. Um, Yakov Berman was the best of all! Yakov Berman, this dedicated Communist, um...says, "Well, if he said that I brought Communism to Poland, he's giving me more credit than I'm due, but yes! We are going to build a Communist motherland here. And by the way, these Jews that you're talking about, if they're nervous about a little pogrom that kills a few of them, then they'll have to get over that, because they are going to have to help build this, [1:20:00] this Communist motherland! This is their land, this is where they're citizens, this is the language they speak...And if you, Zionists, and you Americans, think that you're gonna come here and agitate them and help them to get out, then I'm telling you, [speaking Yiddish?], they'll go out of here, if you're gonna take 'em out, naked and barefoot! I won't, I'll strip 'em down to the last shirt! They have to stay *here* and build this

country up!" I mean, it's the classical anti-Zionist position of the traditional Communist uh, theology. Heh, so from the American ambassador we're gonna get no help, and from the Cardinal we're gonna get no help, and from the uh, Jewish Communist leader we're gonna get opposition. So, that's a, a [1:21:00] pretty clear picture, isn't it, that we got one hell of a job on our hands if we're gonna smuggle out any very large numbers of them.

And so Bernstein and I debated as to how we should write that report, and we decided that the best favor we could do everybody, was to make an assumption that we would succeed. And, so we wrote the report to General Clay, saying that uh, he should anticipate that by the end of the year, December, uh, a 150,000 Jews would cross the border and pour into Germany and for the coming winter of 1946, 7, he had better prepare food, fuel, blankets, medicines, and so forth, for an increase in the population in the DP camps of another 150,000 people. And, if we were wrong, and it didn't happen, so he'd have a heck of a lot of extra soap on his hands, that's all, [1:22:00] the worst of it...Yes, Bob?

Bob:

How many Jews were there, still left in uh eastern areas?

Herbert A. Friedman:

That was about it. We just figured a 100%, that's where we got that number from.

Bob:

You mean, out of all the Jews in Europe, after the war there were only a quarter of a million?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Yes, dear boy. That's it...So we brought that report back. Clay look at it...Clay said, "Well the implications of this thing are that, uh, are too big for me." Then uh, this is the end of the story is, that uh, next day he sent Bernstein to Washington on his plane to see Truman, to get permission from Truman to keep a green line open on that border to the east, so that these Jews could just flood in, and not [1:23:00] have American constabulary troops stopping them on the border and shooting at 'em and keeping 'em back. And Bernstein was back in four days, with a letter from Truman to General Clay, authorizing him to keep a green border, green means open, in

contrast to red, and uh, uh give all possible assistance to any incoming refugees, and at the same time Truman wrote a second letter, saying he wanted the Army to prepare the logistical support to move a hundred thousand of the Jews out of the camps, 'cause to keep a population of two-fifty was a very tough job, move a hundred out to Palestine, and that the army should prepare the logistical support for such a move, and he, the President, would have to arrange the political support from the British, to let these hundred thousand in [1:24:00] to Palestine. And that became a cause celebre, Truman's letter regarding the hundred thousand refugees to Palestine.

Truman was marvelous, and Clay was marvelous, and the border was green and open, and we would run into a nasty uh captain or major somewhere down the line, and uh, uh, he would find reasons to keep the trucks or the trains out. See then the Haganah have easy sailing, but every once in a while some local commander would exercise jurisdiction, and then I used to get word about that, so I would go to Clay's adjutant and say, "Would you, uh, make sure that at the border crossing town of Hoff, on the Czechoslovak-Austrian border, uh, on Tuesday, September 14th, from twelve midnight to two AM, a film shall be shown to the [1:25:00] 176th Constabulary Unit, and make damn

sure that the film is shown indoors!" So, the twenty-five guys in the unit would be indoors looking at a movie at midnight, not understanding why, and we would have two hours of uh, open border, and we'd get all our trucks across in that time. And the next morning, everybody forgot about it. I mean, at the very apex of the United States army, we got that very specific cooperation, down to the tiniest border crossing point. Our intelligence had to be good. We had a very small number of guys working in this network. Our intelligence had to be good, we had to get to the top fast, with the data, we got a quick answer, always cooperative, and we knew we could count on it, and we had almost no major casualties. There were minor ones, and minor shootings, but nothing major, and uh, so she went. [1:26:00] The end of the story is that Truman's letter of a hundred thousand uh of the DPs to Palestine...Bernstein and I wound up in the Whitehall, uh, British Foreign Office, in January of uh, forty...seven now, we're into '47, and the Foreign Secretary of uh, His Majesty's Government is uh, Ernest Bevin, if that name is familiar to anybody, and uh, I'm, I'm sorry that uh, with the ladies in the room, I can't repeat uh the conversation, but it had, uh, 75% of the words were four-letters, and it was total rejection and refusal, and it ended with a very interesting

sentence. "You can tell you f-ing General Clay, and your f-ing President Truman, [1:27:00] that England has got a hundred thousand troops tied down in Palestine, and a hundred thousand troops tied down in India, and England has won the war, not lost the war, but Englishmen are hungry and English homes are cold, and England is sick and tired of fighting the whole world. We're going to throw this f-ing thing into the United Nations and you do what you want with your f-ing Jews. They're the cause of all the trouble in the world anyway!" I mean, a diatribe! But already in January 1947, he was telling us the policy decision for England to pull out and dump it onto the UN, and whatever the hell they decided, England goes off the hook. So from January '47 down to November '47, this whole thing was cooking. [1:28:00] And in between, in September '47, we cooked up that whole *Exodus* episode, and that did its little work also. That's major, major orchestration of history by a handful of people. And that's why I say that I am really so lucky that my life fitted in to that, that time table. So, uh, this, uh, was the end of the three year period, and uh, once we knew that the British were out, or would be out, it would take months to happen, but we saw an end, and once we knew that the route open into Germany was in, and we could keep that green border in and

we could bring in everybody, and once we knew that the army was equipped with logistical support so nobody would ever [1:29:00] be hungry or sick or anything, then it was only a question of waiting.

And so we used the remainder of the waiting time in order to prepare for the war, the war of independence, which we knew had to come, and we knew that nobody was going to give us anything on any silver platter, and we would have to fight for it. So, we worked harder than ever on the accumulation of weapons, and that's when uh, we got those eleven airplanes off that Prague airfield, the German jets, and we got ammunition, and we got all really cranked up for it. And the second thing we did was to finish off the Kielce episode, 'cause that required finishing off, and in September of '47, and at the same time...

Audience members:

'47

Herbert A. Friedman:

Er, '47, '47, the same time the *Exodus* was coming to a head, we went down to Castel Gandolfo, [1:30:00] in uh, outside of Rome about twenty miles, which was the Pope's summer uh

place, and that was the tw- Pius the Twelfth,, and he had this sort of castle on top of a big hill, I remember, and the green grass was sloping down the side of the hill. And he took us to the window and he said, "You see all these kids," and there looked like a couple hundred kids, playing on the grass, "Every one of them is a Jewish child," he said, "Saved in various monasteries and nunneries and by Christian families that then turned them over to the monk, and the monk turned 'em to the priest, and they all wound up here, and this is not the only place. We are very proud that we have saved thousands of Jewish children from the Nazis."

And, what he was doing was offering us an opening, to say, "Well, my God, if you're doing this, then what the hell are you letting the [1:31:00] fires burning in Poland for!" He gave us the opening! I mean, you can tell, after a lot of such diplomatic conversations, you know when you don't have to fight your way through the door. You gotta learn how to read between the lines. Uh, so, we said, "Well then, may we raise the question of what's going on in Poland." He said [affected deep voice], "Certainly."

"Well, here's the conversation we had with Cardinal Hlond," and we told him, word for word. And he listened.

"Well," he said, "uh, if that all started with a pastoral letter written in a church, and read to the flock of the faithful," the way he put it, "then I supposed what's required is another letter to put the fires out."

I said, "That's right." Bernstein said, "That would be perfect. If you would write a papal encyclical, or a papal document, [1:32:00] which will supersede his local pastoral letter..." And he agreed to it, he said he would. And three weeks later, we got a pastoral letter...there was read in Poland, in the first week in October, a pastoral letter, written by him, or I don't know by him, but you know, from his office, uh, uh, anticipating the papal encyclical which said that the Jews are, uh, are the children of God as everybody else, and that persecution and anti-Semitism were anti-Christian. That's that famous document. And, um, boy did that put the fire out. I mean, man, it's like you put a blanket on 'em! Smothered it.

So, that was the same Pope, Pius XII, that gave uh the green light to those South American countries, uh, when the chips were down on the UN vote. [1:33:00]

Audience member:

You didn't happen to ask the Pope why he couldn't have acted any sooner?

Herbert A. Friedman:

No.

Audience member:

It wasn't the right time.

Herbert A. Friedman:

No point in it. [unclear]

Audience member:

Did you ask for the kids back?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Uh, no. You take up one subject at a time. Later on, we, we...

Audience member:

What was the question?

Herbert A. Friedman:

Did we ask him would he give the kids back to the Jewish people. We got the kid...

Audience member:

Since you're there...

Herbert A. Friedman:

We got the... Since you're there... No, you don't do it that way. Uh, we turned the thing over to UNRA, Senator Herbert Leman is Jewish. The immediate, uh, um, officer in charge under him in Germany, was uh, uh, a man later on to become mayor of New York, by the name of Fiorello La Guardia, uh, who spoke Yiddish fluently, and uh by, getting La Guardia and Leman into the act, and the made a demarche to the Church, [1:34:00] and um, the kids were then turned over to the UNRA, and a Norwegian social worker, officer, by the name of Mathilde Oftedal, non-Jewish, uh, brought the kids into Germany. There were about three hundred and fifty of 'em, and we put on a ship for Palestine. That's how you do it. Sir?

Audience member:

Where, uh, was there any quid pro quo?

Herbert A. Friedman:

For what? For the letter? [end of Side B]

...he died, thank God. Hehehe. No, I never saw the man again, never heard from him again.

Audience member:

...change in Pius XII. I mean, this is the same guy who during the war was so enormously unhelpful, I mean...

Herbert A. Friedman:

His contention all the time is he was not [1:35:00] unhelpful. His contention all the time was that it was his duty to protect Catholics first, and that's what he had to do. And his contention was that he set up a rescue underground to help a lot of Jews get out. There's no way of knowing that the, there's no way of knowing the uh, how to weigh that whole business. Is he, was he telling the truth, was it a con game, was he saving a few hundred or a few thousand Jews, uh, when really on his guilty conscience should be that he is guilty of millions of Jewish deaths...Who knows? Who knows? There's no way of knowing.

All I know is, the first place I ever hit in Belgium was a, uh, replacement depot in a small town called Namur, N-A-M-U-R...And I went into the town from the army base out, and um, [1:36:00] I look around and I'm looking to see if there are any Jews left, and I suddenly stumble on a storefront thing, and I see that there's a mezuzah. So I knock, and I try to get in, I went around the back, and sure enough, there were a handful of Jews left, and they had set up a little tiny synagogue behind a store, and this was it, and I had stumbled on it. They had put the mezuzah up as a, as a symbol for anybody passing by, and um, I looked around the room, and I see there's a little sort of an ark, and uh, right over it there's a pic- there's the picture of a Catholic priest. Collar. And next to it there's a picture of President Roosevelt. So I said, "I can understand why Roosevelt's picture is up there, he liberated, [1:37:00] I mean American liberated Europe, uh defeated the Nazis. Why, what's the priest?" He says, "Oh, that's Father Andre. Father Andre is a local priest, here in Namur, who saved dozens and dozens of Jews." And um, the way he used to do it was...many of the Germans are Catholic, heavy percentage of them, and in town, little town like that, they would go to visit the Catholic priest. He would keep them in his kitchen, and he would give 'em

beer and bread, and in the bedroom, if he had three or four Jews hiding, right there in a bedroom, and the Nazi guys are in the living room. He would hide these Jews in his bed, pull up the covers, or put 'em in the wardrobe chest behind the clothes...And it was touch and go. And, uh, 'cause, you know, they'd have killed him, killed the Jews, and uh, that would have been the end of that. [1:38:00] He managed, it was, his was one station on a sort of an underground railroad, like the slaves getting out of the South during the, before the Civil War, you know, pass 'em on from house to another to another...um...and...when it was all over, the handful of Jews that were left wanted to give him a present of thanks for what he had done, and they thought and they thought, and then they decided that the proper thing to give him was a new bed. [laughter]. 'Cause he had saved so many Jews in his bed. So they get him a new bed, and they asked him for his picture, and they put his picture up over the Sefer Torah.

Okay, now, is that an ex- is that an uh, isolated episode? On that escape route, there were, they were passed from house to house, of a half a dozen priests before they got down to the south of France. Always, you gotta, you're getting down to the Mediterranean, 'cause that's where you try to get a boat.

[1:39:00] I don't know, I'm not here to pass judgment. I know that the Church, uh, for centuries, has been what the Church is, and we know it. And the Inquisition we know. We know, we know, we know, we know, we know. I also know that twenty years ago, the Church came to grips with this thing and issued finally the, in the Vatican II council, which is a whole other story, and nothing to do with the war, um...they came to grips with it and they admitted that they were guilty, and they wrote that encyclical, um, Aitates...whatever the name, Aetern- Aeterna, that the Jews are not guilty of the Crucifixion of Christ. Okay! I mean, that's really having to face it, and to say, uh [beating chest] "Chatati, I sinned, I accused you of the wrong thing. I'm sorry. I apologize." They've done that. [1:40:00]

Um, I told you there was an episode where I had, which had nothing to do with the war...Must have been around 1961, '62, I don't know, I took a UJA delegation to Israel and on the way decided that I would stop and see the Pope, who was then John XXIII, big fat jolly guy...We arranged the thing through Cardinal Spellman in New York, and through a guy by the name of Ben Swig in San Francisco who owned the Fairmont Hotel, and who was a friend of Spellman, and a hundred uh, UJA-niks, uh, uh we come to the Vatican, um, and I speak to the Pope, I tell him I

wanted to talk in Hebrew, and he should talk in Latin, and uh, he's too smart for me. He says, "No, no, no." I said, "We'll, let us use the 'classical' languages, Hebrew, Latin..." So this guy, his uh aide, [1:41:00] says, "Yeah, but you know, if he talks Hebrew, then he's recognizing the State of Israel, which the Vatican doesn't do, because..." I said, "But Hebrew's the language of the Bible." So he says, "Yeah, but Hebrew's the language of the State of Israel." I said, "That's right! That's the beauty of the Jewish people. We're the only people in the whole world who are going back to the same place we started from, speak the same language! So what's wrong with that?" "No, politically, we have not recognized Israel, and we will not until you decide what you want to do about Jerusalem, and make it an international city, and so long as you don't do that, we're not gonna recognize Israel. But Jews? Jews are brothers. So we would like to welcome your delegation. You talk English, the Pope will talk Italian." Never mind this classical language bit, he wouldn't buy it, uh, and uh, "You talk to each other..." I said, "We wanna give him a uh scroll," thanking him for what he did when he was Papal Nuncio in Turkey in 1942, and he [1:42:00] persuaded the Nazis...'42 the war's on, to let two shiploads of Jews come through the Dardanelles, from Romania,

Black Sea, through the Dardanelles, down into the Mediterranean to Palestine. And he did indeed get two whole shiploads of Jewish kids out of the hands of the Nazis! And nobody ever thanked him for it, so we wanna thank him for it. And we wrote it out on a scroll, I told him what is a *megillah*. And then I made another mistake, and I said that this is on the, uh, we've done the scroll on a parchment, the way the ancient Torah scrolls are written, that he knew, and the roller are olive wood that comes from Jerusalem. Bingo! Up goes the red flag again. So I said, "Well then take 'em off the roll- the wooden rollers, that's all." And, so he says, "We will put it in the Vatican Museum."

Um, um, and so, you know...folderol, but the guts of the thing that happened, most strikingly, [1:43:00] when we were all thorough and were standing up to leave, he suddenly puts up his finger. And up to now everything's been rehearsed, I had to give him a paper what I was going to say, he gave me a paper what he's going to say, it's like a Chinese dance, it's all choreographed in advance. Now comes the unchoreographed part...says, "Just a moment, I would like to say something." Now, there's a doctrine in the Church which is called *Ex Cathedra*, which in Latin means, *cathedra* is a throne, it's not

cathedral. A big chair, throne. When he is speaking 'from the throne,' then there is the doctrine of papal infallibility, nothing that comes out of his mouth is infallible, it is...it is holy writ. Well boy, when he was gonna start with something, then the, the notebooks came out, and then they're starting to write down everything, and the editor of those the *L'Osservatore Romano*, the, the uh papal newspaper, [1:44:00] starts to get uh jittery...He said, "You know, I was trying to think of what I could really say to you that would be from the heart to the heart...Uh, my name is um, is um, John XXIII, well but John is not my name. My name is Giuseppe, Giuseppe Roncalli, that's my private name, personal, my mother gave me. Giuseppe is Joseph. Giuseppe translated is Joseph. You all remember the story of Joseph in the Bible?"

So, you know, half my people don't nod their heads [laughter]. If you guys had been there, you would have said, "Yeah, yeah we know that story...."

He said, do you remember what happened with Joseph? When Joseph got sold into slavery by his brothers, and then he came down to Egypt, [1:45:00] and then he became, he interpreted the dreams of the Pharaoh, and uh, he became the favorite, and he became in charge of all the food in Egypt because there was a

drought out in the other countries, and that's why these Jews were coming down from Palestine to get food...Well, they thought that, the brothers thought Joseph was dead. So when they came into this throne room, they see him sitting up there, they don't recognize him as their brother, who they never dreamed he was still alive. But when he, from his throne, looked at those eleven brothers, he, he recognized them. And he said to them, as it's written in the Bible, 'I am Joseph your brother,' and he revealed himself to them. Now I'm telling you something. I, me, Giuseppe Roncalli, [1:46:00] I am Joseph your brother." Oh boy, geez, a shiver went through that room! "And I am going to do something to bring us together as brothers, and I am going to make a bridge that we can cross over to each other."

And what he was saying there, in that episode, was, it came to pass two years later when he called all the Cardinals together, at that Vatican II, and they signed off on that document, in which they buried the hatchet, "You Jews are not guilty." It'll take a hundred years until it percolates down to every church and every uh, Sunday school and every small...but that's okay, that's okay. History moves and it's on the way.

Audience member:

The same time the war will be over....

Herbert A. Friedman:

Okay! So, all good things might happen. So you stick around about a hundred years. Now...let me tell you something. This has been a fan- fantastic and magical [1:47:00] life, but leave me out of it, as nev- as, as a player in this thing, which I was lucky enough to be. Anybody who would be telling you these stories in an ordinary classroom would not be telling you about himself, but he would be telling you the identical stories...And you have to understand, therefore, what kind of a century you're living through, and that puts an obligation on you as to how you have to handle every episode from now on in the future that will occur.

In conclusion, let me just say that I called it a half century of fire and glory...The fire's over, and we've moved into the period of glory. And Israel is in a mess, and it's her own fault and she's gotta get out of it, and she will. [1:48:00] But think of what it means, the Jewish people on the march again, whole, safe, powerful, with a sense of vision, and a sense of purpose, and a Jewish community in the United States that is not the way it was a half a century ago, powerless. If

you people, in, in that scenario yesterday if somebody suggested that you should bring a half a million Jews to Washington in 24 hours, you could do it. You could absolutely do it, if you were determined to do it. Half a century ago, your forefathers couldn't. They wouldn't think of it, and they wouldn't know how to do it.

Audience member:

Uh, I have one more historical question.

Herbert A. Friedman:

Yeah.

Audience member:

Uh, I heard, I gotta think primarily from right wing sources in Israel, that uh, at that time, in '48, [1:49:00] Ben-Gurion and the, the Haganah were not in favor of independence at that time, they were, they were more, their vision was independence at some later point down the road, and were it not for the activities of the Irgun and the Stern Gang et cetera uh there, were it left to them, independence would not have

occurred at that time. Do you think there's any merit to that uh point of view?

Herbert A. Friedman:

As in all these things, there are uh, half falsehoods and hints of truth. Uh, does anybody know when the first resolution was passed by the Zionist Organization which heads both the Irgun and the Haganah? When did the Zionist Organization pass a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish state? Not a Jewish homeland, a state. When? Anybody got an idea? It actually happened in 1948, right? [1:50:00] How does 1943 grab you? In a hundred years of Zionist history, there was never a declaration, a resolution, a decision, that we really want a state. Fully five years before it happened. So, if this guy wants to say to you that in the 1920s or the 1930s when Ben-Gurion was building up Palestine and building up the Haganah, he wasn't thinking about a Jewish state, no, he wasn't, but neither was Jabotinsky, or anybody else on the Irgun side. Nobody was! So that's why, I mean by this half-truth...[indistinct comment from audience member] Nooo! Come one! Nobody was! Those two people, those two organizations had a difference of opinion as to methodology. And the Zionist, labor Zionist, left wing,

Haganah, [1:51:00] part of the Zionist movement was always willing to compromise, compromise, compromise, build a strong army. The Haganah had 25,000 guys in it, the Irgun had 3,000 guys in it. Build a strong army and settle for half the cake. When the Peel Commission came in in '37, when the McGrady Morrison came in, mission came in in '45, whenever any commission came in to study the damn this, Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion and Abba Hillel Silver and everybody would stand up and say, "We're in favor of partition, we'll take a part of it. We'll take any part of it you wanna give us. We'll start with a part." 'Cause in the back of their minds, if you got a strong army, maybe you can cut a, lop off some more later. The other side, the Irgun side said, their slogan was, a picture, a hold- a fist holding up a rifle, and the rifle going through the fist, and one edge of the rifle hits the Mediterranean, and one edge of the rifle hits the Jordanian [1:52:00] desert, and in Hebrew it says [Hebrew] "Only thus!" We settle for all or nothing, just like the Arabs. So there was a major political difference, and tactical difference, and strategic difference, and these two, uh, uh, organizations shot at each other very often. And Ben-Gurion shot and sank a whole boatload of Irgun weapons, the *Altalena*, but as far at this

business that only the Irgun wa- wa- was uh, working toward a state and...nonsense. Thank you!

Audience:

Thank you. [applause]

