

From the Testimony of Leon Saper about the Role of the Judenrat

...Q: Were you aware of the "Judenrat" in the ghetto?

A: Oh yes, the "gemine", yes.

Q: What was it called?

A: I can't remember what they called it in Yiddish. "Gemine" or something like that. But that was German, "Judenrat", but we didn't use that term. "Gemine" in Polish and in Yiddish something like a "gemine" or something like that which I can't recall the exact term.

Q: Was it the "Judenrat" that was in command or the "Wehrmacht?"

A: No, no .It was always the "Judenrat". They were more or less in command, to the extent where the Nazis would say, "We want five thousand people." And so they had to pick the five thousand people, that's right. And so they would pick the old or the sick or this kind of thing and I remember once a meeting actually where...Monidmarin was his name. And a lot of people, of course, were just so angry with him, you know, he's a traitor and so on.

Q: So he was the head of the "Judenrat?"

A: Yes. And I remember what he said. It stuck in my mind, you know. And he said, "Yes, I am doing all these things. I am doing them so that perhaps some of us will survive and if some of us survive, those who survive - and I am still alive - you can judge me then." But he didn't survive. You know, he was sent like everybody else to, I believe, in Auschwitz. He and, there was a woman there as well. Fanny Charla. That was also, his secretary I think she was, so she was considered a powerful woman as well.

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