

CLAUDE LANZMANN

39 rue Boulard
75014 Paris.

Paris, November 12th 1987.

The Honorable Morris LASKER
Federal District Court,
Southern District,
New York.

Your Honor,

I have been informed that you will soon pass sentence on Ivan Boesky. I am aware of the fact that what I have to say has no connection at all with the offences he may have committed, but I nevertheless consider it a moral duty to give my personal testimony about a man who showed a real generosity, a deep sense of solidarity and humanity in his dealings with me.

I am the author of the film "Shoah", the subject of which, as you may know, is the destruction of the European Jewry during World War Two. It is a long and difficult film, which took me eleven years to make at a very high cost in every respect, and which was released for the first time in the United States movie theatres in October 1985. My film was extraordinarily praised and acclaimed, but its very nature (the length: more than nine hours, the sadness and the austerity of the thema) made it difficult for it to reach a wide audience in the cinemas. The only way to attain such a goal was through the television media. Of course the commercial networks would not consider such a risky undertaking. PBS was the only channel willing to broadcast "Shoah". but PBS, as you surely know, has no money and is dependent on people committed to a cause to finance its programmes.

I never heard of Ivan Boesky, I did not even know of his existence. However he was aware of PBS's problems and he took the initiative to contact me, offering to raise the money necessary to make the television screening of "Shoah" possible. For one year he devoted his time and energy

CLAUDE LANZMANN

to this cause, gathering people, convincing them to help, without a thought for personal gain. He was relentless in his efforts and made a substantial financial donation to PBS himself.

You are certainly aware, your Honor, that the broadcasting of "Shoah" on PBS was an extraordinary success. More than six million American citizens watched the programme. All this would not have not been possible without Ivan Boesky. I in no way judge the acts for which he is to be brought to trial, but I wanted to state what I know about this side of his personality because it is the truth.

I hope, your Honor, that you will make allowances for my poor English.

With my deepest respect,

Claude LANZMANN.

C. Lanzmann