

RG: There you go, well I'll start by asking both of you for your name and date of birth please

BV: Wait

RG: Yes

BV: Can't we do it, because she is going to leave, you are going to leave in ...

AV: Well listen, one hour, that will be enough or not, we'll see

BV: It's not better to question her first and then me after, right?

RG: Uh, wait, I'm going to ask ...

BV: To win the ...

RG: So here I am going to ask you ...

AV: To both our date and our place of birth

RG: Your date and place of birth please

AV: So I, who am the youngest, was born on May 4, 1949 in Paris, in the 15th

RG: In which neighborhood?

AV: In the 15th

RG: The 15th

BV: And I was born on October 9, 1946 in Béni-Saf, BENI-SAF, in Algeria

RG: Okay, and can you tell me something about your, your original families

AV: I come from a family, through my father, a French petty bourgeoisie, a French petty middle class. Through my mother, my mother was Danish and they have, they were in the Communist Party after the war, they were what we call leftist intellectuals

RG: Yes

AV: My father was deported resistance fighter and joined the Communist Party after the war - and my mother too - and they were very militant all my early childhood until 57. Here is my father

RG: What happened in '57?

AV: In 57 like, it was 56 or 57, it was not so much compared to Budapest. In fact it was also essentially on the well the rupture that there was at that time but on the thesis of the PC, proliferation finally a disagreement. Well, I don't really want to dwell on this

RG: Okay

AV: My father wrote in *Economique et Politique* which was therefore this French review of the PC and so they left like a lot of their ... well they left the PC at that time like a lot of their relatives

RG: Okay, and what was he doing?

AV: What were they doing? That's it, my father was, my father was a normalien, so he had done the ENA, he had done two major French schools. He was at the Quai d'Orsay for a while, he founded the Communist Party cell at the Quai d'Orsay with people like Claude Alphandery and in fact he left the Quai d'Orsay in the 1950s because we the, we put them in the closet in fact. And he came back, he worked at Renault for ten years and then in a bank that belonged to, to people on the left in fact, there you are, who had been at the PC, I'm sorry I didn't ...

RG: And your mother?

AV: And my mother worked relatively, briefly as a social worker

RG: Yes

AV: between 50 and 58 approximately. Then afterwards she worked a little in publishing and for a longer period as a CNRS technician. It's a bit of an interruption to raise children for a few years

RG: Okay. And you sir ?

BV: So my father and my mother so they are both originally, finally French from North Africa

RG: Yes

BV: of Spanish origin

RG: Yes

BV: Both in the Oran region... Well my mother... my father studied until a law degree. He became a teacher, then a school principal. And he was also a left-wing activist so in Algeria and so he was a trade unionist, and then mayor of his village, where he actually took over from his father, his own father who was already mayor of the village.

RG: Okay

BV: and then at the time of the Algerian war so it is, distinguished himself by a political attitude of the Camus type

RG: Yes

BV: which was neither for the independence of Algeria nor for the status quo. And he found himself very quickly so - he was general counsel at that time as well -

RG: Yes

BV: therefore very quickly in point as one of the opponents of the OAS. And so he was sentenced to death by the OAS - he had several attacks against him. So after independence, he stayed in Algeria

RG: Yes

BV: And he continued to run a school, an agricultural college, well he helped to rebuild things. And then, they ended up returning to France, between two. So they had us, his three children, they had sent us to France to continue our studies.

RG: So when did you arrive in France?

BV: In '61, so I was 15 at the time. It was a year before, before independence, in full ... at the worst moment for us, for my parents because they were threatened

RG: Okay

BV: By OAS

RG: And what did you do for your studies?

BV: Uh me?

RG: Yes

BV: Don't you want me to tell you about my mother first?

RG: Yes go ahead, your mother, no, no your mother ... your mother too

BV: My mother was a postman, then also a teacher and she is with my father so stayed in the village, she also became a school principal and then a home education college. So here she is, she followed my father in this trajectory... I left at the age of 15, therefore from Algeria, and I finished, I passed my baccalaureate in France

RG: Yes

BV: And then I did preparatory tests and became a normalien in maths

RG: And you were in high school in Paris or in...

BV: In Paris, at Lycée Lakanal, then at Lycée Louis-le-Grand

RG: Yes, okay, and so you are at the Normal School in which year?

BV: In sixty ...

FW: six

BV: In 66

RG: So what about your studies, madam?

AV: I did a preparatory class in 67-68, and then it was the month of May so it completely interrupted my university studies

RG: Yes

AV: So I was getting ready to return to khâgne, I had also wanted to prepare for the École Normale Supérieure, and in fact I left at that time. I was 19 it was 68 and we actually left. Finally, we found ourselves in the North, we will perhaps talk about it later. And so in terms of studies, I had, I did a little philosophy but really very, very little, and after I resumed studies in the science of education, ten years later in a rather dilettante way we will say. Here it is, me it is really, I have a trajectory completely interrupted by 68

RG: Okay, but before 68 you were in high school ...

AV: I was at Lakanal high school after high school for another year. Good in these classes, a little, good here, the classes to prepare for the grandes écoles

RG: Was it a, Lakanal, was it a mixed high school?

AV: It was a boys' high school where exceptionally in preparation, some girls were accepted after the bac

BV: The classes that were after the baccalaureate were mixed

RG: Alright, alright

AV: There were very, very few girls... hence the choice. I actually studied at the Lycée de filles Victor Duruy before

RG: Okay

AV: who was one of the high schools of the 7th arrondissement, very bourgeois where I was in class with Françoise de Panafieux and this kind of people

RG: Alright, alright

AV: Many children of ministers in this high school

BV: There was Servan-Schreiber

AV: Yes among others, many others

RG: So we come to your political engagement together. How did that happen ?

AV: So, I actually joined the Youth Communists at 15 years old. I was very, how to say, very passionate, very, in a strong desire for commitment

RG: Yes

AV: Whereas my parents were not anymore. But I was immersed in a leftist intellectual environment where ideas, finally political debates were the prerogative of all meals, almost, family

RG: At your place?

AV: With us, yes with me yes... with me but also, finally my mother, my parents were very friends with, the brother of my mother and the sister of my mother, they were all in this same political movement

RG: Yes

AV: So first to the PC. My uncle stayed there, and in any case all their friends were in there. I joined the Jeunesses Communistes where I founded the - with two friends - the Communist Youth cell of this very, very, very, bourgeois high school.

RG: Yes

AV: and where I have, pfff I don't know how far to detail because (laughs) it takes us back so much. Here it was, so it was in 64

RG: In 64 already

AV: Yes

RG: And so it was more the family environment that brought you, that pushed you

AV: It was the family environment and at the same time a kind of takeover of the torch if you will.

RG: yes ok

AV: because my family environment was very far from, at that time, the Communist Party where I chose to join. Why in the Communist Party? Because I think that I was all the same yes very bathed in a literature ... At the same time my parents, I was going to say my children, my parents had given me a lot of books to read like A real man who was a sort of book of Soviet man, of Soviet man. I was very, very, very bathed in it

RG: is it a Soviet book?

AV: Yes, among other things, I have read a lot. I read Les Communistes d'Aragon when I was 14 years old. I have, I read Sartre, Les Chemins de la Liberté and all that. I was always on the side of those who had to ... I had a strong desire to put into practice what, what I thought and what I experienced. And I think it's all a lot more psychoanalysis than history (laughs)

RG: Okay, no but why not?

AV: So here we are getting into things that would be really complicated between the look I have now on it and the look of the time, it's very ...

RG: We will come back to the end of the look at...

AV: very complex obviously, but let's say I had that, this thirst for commitment. I was an extraordinarily shy, withdrawn girl. Here I could just as well have gone into one, to be very, very Catholic, for example. It was enough, it also came under a lot of, I was always absolutely an atheist but I made a kind of workhorse out of it. I could also have been, here if I had been a Catholic I would have been, here I would have joined ... with the same

RG: Alright, alright

AV: the same virulence. So it lasted two, three years and then after what happened in France is that, well there was the Vietnam war

RG: Yes

AV: So there was opposition around, what to think of the Vietnam War, the slogans 'peace in Vietnam', 'FLN will win'. So there I found myself very, very ... I was in contact with, in high school, with a young person, a classmate who was, was already pro-Chinese so it was in 66-67, which induced doubt in my mind. I did not make the penny to return to the PC - the Communist Youth and the PC were not quite the same thing

RG: No

AV: I did internships in the summer, I learned to make leaflets, there was the link with the great leaders of the Party who came to us, to talk to us about Vietnam and I ...

BV: She took a trip to Yugoslavia

AV: I was going to, yes I was going on vacation with something called Les Fovéales, which was an organization like that of the Youth Communists and so it was not either - well we can not say - I I wasn't there like other people I know were there because their parents were still at the PC, and my parents weren't there at all so that was...

RG: Alright, alright

AV: here and then well this debate on Vietnam left me totally undecided until the moment when I returned to Lakanal where there indeed I met in high school one, a group of boys, because, in particular who were members of the UJC (ml) - so that was in 67-68 - and who were in the CVBs, therefore in the Vietnam Base Committees, and where I too ended up

going, by joining. And so in fact I did this whole movement during the year 67-68 and wanted to join the UJC (ml) in 68 as it was dissolving

RG: Okay, and the girl who brought you to ...

AV: Yes, the pro-Chinese

RG: the pro-Chinese, who were they?

AV: A classmate who was not particularly a friend elsewhere

RG: Okay

AV: from a rather modest background I remember

RG: Yes

AV: I remember her name - I never saw her again after - Annick Lemoine, and she had met a guy. Well, it's all the same here, her boyfriend was, had taken her there and ... But it was not just her, I think of her but I had another friend, who is now well, well far from all that, which also had been in contact by the university environment with this fringe of...

RG: Yes okay

AV: people who were more on the pro-Chinese side, on the side ...

RG: And among the types there was someone in particular

AV: No, I was in love throughout my, during all these years with a fervent catho

RG: Oh good

AV: who was he, yes, who did not live in Paris and who was active in the JEC. So actually I got some correspondence from there, terrible, or, about the existence of God, that might make (laugh) where our undeclared feelings would come through.

RG: No, but there is, there was nevertheless a, a convergence between certain left-wing Catholics and certain leftists, right?

AV: Yes, but it was mainly about positions, and even, even on the subject of the Vietnam War where he was defending the Americans for example, I still have entire letters. So there was no convergence of views, there was, it was lived in pain, but also it was very platonic so finally here it is.

RG: And you sir, your political commitment?

BV: Yes, so I have, was studying maths and all that at the Lycée Louis-le-Grand at that time

RG: Yes

BV: I didn't have a lot of time to think about anything else but still, I ... my first political engagement - well obviously I had all the background of what my father was doing in Algeria who remained and everything that - but my first commitment was to fight with the UEC at the time

RG: Yes

BV: Sorry with not the UEC, the UNEF - therefore the student union - on the slogan 'a study allowance for all'. That is to say, the idea was what UNEF was defending at the time, is that students should all have an allowance whether they come from rich or poor families because that this is the way for young people to be independent and ...

RG: Yes

BV: And so I was an activist. I took to this game of activism so here it is to try to convince my high school friends and all that it was necessary to go to the demonstrations and all that on that slogan. And so as soon as I returned to the Normal School, my first gesture was to go and join the UEC since I had discovered UEC activists there, whom I found it very good to militate like that. And when I went to see the cell of UEC, therefore of the Normal School, asking them to join, they said to me 'ah, no luck we are leaving the UEC'

RG: Yes, yes that's it, oh yes

BV: It was there, the split between the Maoists at the School. And so I said 'well I'm going with you, I don't care (laughs at BV and RG)... wherever you go'. Voila, and so I am an activist of the UJC (ml) without really knowing where I was going what

RG: Yes and the UJC comrades (ml) at the time who were you?

BV: Ah well it was the whole gang, pff finally the names, it was who, it was Betrema, it was ...

AV: hey he's in Toulouse

BV: what's his name ...

AV: Vesbuche

BV: no ben Vesbuche he was not there

AV: ben Sam, Samuel Des ..

BV: who was, who was

AV: Well there was Robert Linhart anyway, there were all these people

BV: Yes, there were, there were the great chefs, but I hardly saw the great chefs

RG: Yes okay

BV: So I saw the little chefs of the Normal School

RG: This is where you got....

AV: The little chefs ...

RG: Is that where you met Olivier Roland, Rolin?

BV: No, oddly Olivier Rolin, he wasn't there yet, right?

AV: Yes, he entered 67 but first there was a year difference and then he entered letters and you, you were in maths

BV: He returned a year, a year after me, he was in letters, me a year later, it's true that I was already almost ...

AV: gone

BV: almost gone yes

AV: We met him later, Olivier, we really met him at the Proletarian Left

RG: Alright, alright ... so how was it, May 68, for both of them?

AV: So I was in this Lakanal high school and, well, I don't know how far you want it, how did it go, that is to say?

RG: No, but that is to say that, in terms of either your activities or contacts, or your trajectory through ...

AV: So already we were finally we were broadcasting a newspaper called - what was it called? - The People's Cause already. I had started going door to door in the slums of Massy. That I think is an absolutely ... in fact when I, when I returned to high school, one of the

reasons that I have, which makes me very, very hesitant is that this that we said to the Communist Youth, it was 'stay in your middle school'. So I had when I spoke of the aspirations that could have been Catholic, it is that I had an aspiration to live like the poor we will say

RG: Yes

AV: know the poor. I felt like I was locked in an environment, despite my parents' intellectual commitment. I was navigating between the 7th arrondissement and the 14th arrondissement, I was nourished by a whole literature that, that including a social vision when I was very small, which made me aspire very deeply to know the world and its, also miserable it was

RG: Yes

AV: And that, well here for me it was nevertheless one of the sources of my commitment this story there

RG: Okay

AV: And when I said I think I was deeply disturbed that my parents were actually gargling - that's my point of view now, it wasn't my point of view then - boasting great ideas and, great feelings, good feelings

RG: Yes

AV: but at the same time in their daily life, there you have it, they really lived quite apart from all that and I wanted to go ... I think that's, it's one of the things that, that melted, which I found at UJC (ml)

RG: Okay

AV: going in particular where I was in the southern region, Chatenay-Malabry, Massy etc. When the May movement broke out, well that I actually remember as if it was yesterday, eh, May 3, we were - when we are in Lakanal we are a little far from Paris, I was not at the Sorbonne but we were still students at the Sorbonne at the same time so

RG: Yes

AV: It erupted like a thunderclap even though we had seen the demonstrations of March 22 and all that came before during the winter and, and I was ... we got busy very quickly it seems to me. he high school

RG: Yes

AV: I went to Paris, to the Sorbonne but not ... In any case I was very, very in agreement with the, the position of the UJC (ml) which was so contested, which was ' all in the factories '. For me indeed I was not at all on the position, well, I thought that the students were all privileged anyway.

RG: Yes

AV: and which didn't interest me much in the slightest. What interested me was really the working class world and this idea that you had to go to factories and that ... that was what mattered. Well, I shared that completely and that's why I wanted to go to UJC (ml) at that time, that's it.

RG: Okay

AV: After all happened very, very quickly so

RG: So your contact with the suburbs was through the, the sale of this newspaper or what, because there were also established at that time?

AV: So the establishment line was discussed that winter. There were a few established from actually I think it was 66-67, we got to know them later. At the time it was something that appealed to me enormously but I was not at all ready to take the step and I ...

RG: No

AV: and I, I didn't know much about it since it was all the same, since it was very clandestine eh. That is to say that the workbenches had to be totally protected by a big secret so I didn't really know but in any case that's what could seduce me in this movement yes

RG: Okay, how about you?

BV: Well me so after when I got back to the UJC (ml), it was a really straight route for me

RG: Yes

BV: I, I felt like it was as simple as math theorems. We started shouting 'FLN will win' based on a whole analysis of the balance of power between imperialism and the rest of the world and all that

RG: Yes

BV: and then, and then indeed there was the victory, the victory of Tet, etc. That is to say what was declared to be a kind of, yes of a slogan that few people in France ultimately believed

RG: Yes, yes

BV: well, the FLN was going to win, that's why people were rather shouting 'Peace in Vietnam'. So we were shouting this on the basis of a, rational thinking

AV: from a scientific alley

BV: scientist, of the world, and then what works. And then then, I went to China that is to say in 67 so

RG: Oh yes?

AV: Yes 67

RG: With the whole team of ...

BV: with Franco-Chinese associations ...

AV: The first trip

BV: That is to say, there was a leader's trip, and a trip of about twenty grassroots activists

RG: Oh yes

BV: who should ...

AV: Basic and less basic

BV: and so it was a lot of normaliens indeed (laughs) because you had to have a little money. That is to say that we, we had paid for the trip without knowing if we were going, eh. It's the idea it's those who could pay paid and we saw how many people could leave and so I was one of those who could leave so I ... we spent a month in China etc., the Cultural Revolution and all that, we discovered ...

RG: What impression did it make on you?

BV: Ah it was extraordinary because, because we were completely ...

AV: Absolute lack of critical thinking

BV: Yes we were completely enthusiastic, the idea ... we saw everything in the light of Beijing Information etc., so we were, the idea that indeed finally the intellectuals, the workers, the peasants were united, were doing the things together etc. We had two, three little doubts what when we went to a factory and saw the army everywhere, we asked the question, 'but why the army?', 'But the army, the army c' are the representatives of the people ', etc. (laughter from RG) so voila, we protested by yelling ' Down with Liu Shaoqi! Down with Deng Xiaoping! '. Anyway, we were completely enthusiastic about it, we were, we were in a working-class community, we worked, we were in a factory, we worked. Anyway, we came back completely enthusiastic about it

RG: Yes

BV: And then the year 68 began with very strong workers' strikes and then me, as it was precisely the slogan of establishment, that we had to go to the factories etc. And indeed the factories went on strike and so when May 68 arrived it was, for me it was inevitably because we were always in the good, in the good line and that indeed we were going to make the revolution. So I was, so I was at the Ecole Normale so I was in the middle of the Latin Quarter and so I was in the very first barricades of the, of May 1 or not, not even before, it was May 3 - or finally I do not know any more. As soon as it started, I was in it, we were doing committees I don't know what. There was a little one,

RG: Yes

BV: who was she totally paranoid about the fact that all this was done for, to come and imprison all the militants of the UJC (ml) (laughs). So there were two of us, three of us who didn't agree at all and found it ridiculous not to ... and we didn't get permission to go and fight.

RG: Oh yes, okay

BV: as representatives of the UJC (ml) in the, in the student struggles

RG: Okay

BV: And I was able to participate in May 10 and all that, in full harmony with my movement ...

RG: Because for the May 68 leadership it was a 'petty bourgeois' thing or a 'counter revolutionary' thing, what was it?

BV: It was a bit more complicated than that. It was the idea that the student movement was joining the labor movement and what was important was what was happening in the factories. And then, the commotion that we did in the universities was producing these effects, that is to say, we were getting better and better. But the first days of May 68 then, finally Linhart

AV: you see who Robert Linhart is

RG: Yes, yes, yes

BV: Linhart is the one who has it, who lived it like that, eh, in a, in a somewhat paranoid thing which was to say ...

AV: who was totally delusional, not a little paranoid

BV: Not yet completely, was to say okay, here it is, 'This is all a maneuver of the ...

AV: It was the start of a delirium ...

BV: cops to corner students in the Latin Quarter

RG: Yes

BV: make them fight at the Sorbonne when that is not the place to fight. It is in the suburbs and therefore we, UJC militants (ml), we are not going to fall into this trap. So we are not going to participate in this fight but rather we will explain to the students that they are leaving, that they are leaving the Latin Quarter '

RG: Okay

AV: 'Everyone in Saint-Denis!'

BV: There you go, so I escaped that. I was able to really live it fully and then, for me it was absolutely extraordinary of course. We were, it had been two years since I was campaigning, fighting for someone to listen to me and then we arrived at the end of Boulevard Saint-Michel. We started to speak a little loud, there were 20 people, 30 people, 100 people, we said 'come on. we go to such and such a place '. We started at 200, we arrived we were 2000. Finally it was, it was Le Cid, what (Laughs of BV and AV). And uh, no but it's true, it had an absolutely magical side of, of, of mass movement like that and so here we had the impression of participating in the story

RG: But you went to Flins or to the suburbs, so the factories afterwards?

BV: So obviously when the, when the workers' movement started, we resumed - well all the UJC (ml) resumed its activity in an extremely effective way. So yes I was in Flins, we were, well I was mainly in the factory at - or moreover Linhart was established a year later - at Citroën-Choisy -, so there you are, I had my neighborhood etc.

AV: We all had basic points

BV: We had the, the mimeos running at full speed, we did all the big demonstrations. So we lived everything 68 like that until the end of the movement and there, the decision of the UJC (ml) to do what we called the long marches

RG: Yes

BV: So in other words to stay mobilized all summer, the idea being that we had to mobilize the peasants since that is what was lacking anyway (AV laugh). Well yes it is important all

the same the peasants, and therefore it was necessary that the peasants join the workers who from there in September it was started again and there we were going towards the revolution

RG: You went to ...

BV: So I went to the North because that is still one of the places where there was a lack of people. And in the North near Arras and there, first in something ...

AV: In fact it's because we got to know each other. You have to even tell that it's important (laughs)

BV: There our stories come together ...

AV: Until now it was separate ...

BV: since therefore it is in my, in my room at the Ecole Normale that the dispatching was done ...

AV: assignments

BV: for walking

RG: Okay

BV: So that's where there were the UJC (ml) officials saying to so-and-so, 'Where do you want to go?'. There are some who wanted to go to Biarritz (laughter from BV and RG) others to...

AV: in Palavas-les-Flots

BV: and so, and then there you go, and well, 'You go to such and such a place and we take you to such and such an address', etc. And that's how it was organized and so we have, in the line we both met and we both left for the North and, we left in the same car and ...

RG: Yes okay

BV: Uh here

RG: Is it the summer of '68?

AV: Yes it was at the very beginning of July. I had already gone once to Dunkirk, it was very badly gone, with some thugs. Yes, I left with the hooligans of Chatenay Malabry because the junction with the lumpenproletariat was already being done quite a bit. They had started to steal cars in Dunkirk

RG: Yes

AV: We were doing emergency returnees so it was my second, my second departure. I, I wanted to leave the summer, I was finally still in this, this trajectory of returning to Fénelon and continuing my studies which finally pleased me. So we left in, and at the same time we actually ended up really by chance in this car where there was ... there was enough logistics ... which took care of us on arrival, which distributed us over the units ...

RG: Yes and what did you do to contact the peasants and what kind of peasants?

BV: So there ...

AV: So that was really not sad (laughs)

BV: We ended up in a house that was home ...

AV: Finally you, not me

BV: from a relative of an activist

RG: Yes

BV: and we ...

AV: who had peasant ties

BV: and there were ten of us who were there in ...

AV: to glean all day

BV: whose aim was to agitate the peasants. So what we were trying to do was go to the bistro in the evening, we would chat with them, do a belotte from time to time. But we didn't understand what they were saying because they spoke with a very strong chtimi

accent and they anyway the whole village except the people, the peppers in the bistro were suspicious, considered that we were a bunch of ...

AV: hippies before their time

BV: hippies who all slept together etc., and they really looked at us like, like threats and like strangers...

RG: Yes, they saw it all on TV

BV: So we were there completely isolated from everything, from any possible interesting contact and ...

AV: and we were going to do some outings. I was, I was not with him at that time by the way, because when we arrived, we arrived in the same car but we were dispatched differently. I found myself in Douai - there was a big factory called Larebel which was a car factory, or car accessories - and we did, we hung out in apartments where we chatted all day long on the road. revolution. But in fact what we were doing was some distribution of leaflets. Then there were also the mines - it was also the region of the mines - so from time to time we also went at 4-5 in the morning to distribute leaflets at the foot of the mine, but it was all the same ...

BV: But in the end ...

AV: And then there were indeed workbenches anyway. So all, all this was to support the people who, who were settling

RG: Okay

AV: because on arrival here we decided to ... there are those, there were yes those that we established and on which we had to make a sort of sanitary cordon so that they were not spotted etc. , and then - what we called the exits of, it had a name but I even forgot what - the outside commandos what, the factory commandos, the factory exits, we were, and we spent the summer like that ...

BV: to prepare for the start of the school year. At the start of the school year what had to happen is that in Arras we had a workbench which was Jean Schaivo who was a great leader of the Proletarian Left

RG: yes

BV: and Jean Schaivo had a very simple theory, he was in a factory called ...

AV: The Mesh

BV: La Maille which was a textile factory

RG: yes

BV: and La Maille was to, was part of the same, the same group of companies as factories in Lyon, Rhodiaceta etc. And so the idea was we put La Maille on strike, it puts everyone, the whole sector on strike and so the revolution started again. We had to restart it in (AV laugh)

RG: Okay

BV: Because we weren't going to succeed with the peasants, at least we were going to do that. And so there, the question that was put to Anne, to me and to all those who had come

like that for the long walk in the summer, was, 'you have to stay because otherwise you can't do revolution '(AV laugh)...

RG: And the studies in the meantime?

BV: So there you have it, then we had to make the decision: either we stayed, we became professional activists or we came back to Paris and we became...

AV: and we were traitors

BV: petty-bourgeois students

AV: traitors!

BV: So we both decided to stay. I...

AV: Finally ...

BV: Yes

AV: We weren't together, were we?

BV: We didn't live together

AV: We weren't living together and we weren't together. Finally there was, there was nothing between us at that time, and so Bernard was paid to him by the Normal School, so in addition it was ...

BV: And me

RG: Oh yes, okay

BV: as a normalien I already had my pay

AV: So in fact the salaries, the salary of a person provided a living and the gasoline and the leaflets and the, the few apartments and the stuff, we slept the ... well with sympathizers, yes, all summer still that's it. We went to the markets, we did a lot, a lot of door to door, we had contacts ...

BV: with workers. We had contacts with workers of the Communist Party who had for a long time been breaking away from the Communist Party which they found becoming too social-democratic.

RG: Yes

BV: and so we found this reason for contact and we went every 2-3 days to discuss the critical situation with them ...

AV: And our tasks

BV: We were starting to build a small network

AV: The sympathizers, the ...

BV: who went since then the former resistance fighters, it is, it is

AV: Well, we mainly had two ...

BV: journalists from ...

RG: was it all in Douai?

BV: no to Arras

RG: in Arras

BV: there you have it, we finally settled in Arras. So to Arras Anne and I so we are, we decided to stay and we rented an apartment

RG: Okay

BV: and there it started ...

AV: you rented an apartment

BV: started to make a stir in September, October with high school students to have a small support force. So we found a small group of Anar high school students who had done May 68 and who wanted to continue

AV: we recruited

BV: and it is the first cell of the UJC (ml), finally of the Proletarian Left, which became the Proletarian Left

RG: Yes

BV: in Arras with therefore to support this leader who was established in the factory and to maintain contact with these workers. So we started the work there

RG: Okay, and the Gauche Prolétarienne was organized from Paris, you made contact with someone, how did it go?

BV: So what happened is that this leader in question was in the middle of discussions precisely about the split ...

AV: with Benny Lévy, with ...

BV: in the UJC (ml) between those who stayed, who went to the PCMLF afterwards and then those who founded the Gauche Prolétarienne

RG: Yes

BV: So he was in the middle of these discussions all the time. Us, me, I went once or twice to meetings etc., in fact we were, we did not understand much ... well we did not understand much more. It seemed obvious to us who was going to stay, who was going to the Proletarian Left since the others. There was, there was a certain withdrawal eh, people from, who did not take this path ...

AV: we called liquidos

BV: That's what we called them, the liquidators, it's because they said 'wait there, let's stop'

RG: Yes

AV: 'Let's build a party'

BV: 'We are going against the wall, we have to build a party, reflect, democratic centralism also requires that we have a class analysis of the French situation etc.'. So a much more reasonable speech from the communist point of view than us, who were ... we were called not for nothing the Mao-spontexes, eh, who were ... 'Let's stop ...'

AV: 'Let us involve the line of the masses, let us meet the workers, it is they who know, it is they who are right, it is they who have ...'

RG: Who were the liquids? Was it the old UJC (ml) who left?

BV: There you go

AV: Yes

BV: Who arrested, who founded this PCMLF

RG: Yes, okay

BV: and who have therefore stopped wanting to go agitprop in factories

AV: Finally who are, what is weird is that they were also established when you think of Laurent Marty etc.

BV: Yes, yes it was, but it was, it's still a very big difference of, of conception of, of what we had to do, in the, in the immediate future

RG: Okay

AV: Yes the recovery ...

BV: Basically it was very clear, but that's because we were also with that leader and we were in that atmosphere. For us it was very clear that if we wanted to continue the revolution, we had to stay there. If we started to return to Paris ...

RG: Was the structure fairly decentralized?

BV: Enough finally, it was never a party eh, so it was never an organization where there were cards or members or things like that

RG: Yes

BV: It has always been a little vague but there was a very strong central organization, there were about ten leaders who were there, who succeeded very, very regularly, who formed the political office or I do not remember anymore what it was called, the central committee, no, well a kind of executive committee

RG: Yes

BV: national, and in each region there was the representative of this national committee who had made around him a small group also of leaders of the region

RG: Okay

BV: So for example I would go, I was afterwards responsible on the corner, and then I would go to a meeting in Lille where we received the word that came to us from Paris

RG: Okay

BV: because there were big discussions and all that

RG: And it continued for how long?

BV: Well, it continued throughout the year 68-69, right?

AV: Yes 68-69 with ...

BV: From September 68 until June 69

AV: Yes it was the big one, in fact it turned into a big anti-authoritarian awakening with the high school students

BV: Yes, but we were in the North, it's not very

AV: We were in the North, yes, then we settled down

BV: There you go, after it was summer, so we went ...

AV: Finally

BV: We started working at the factory

RG: Yes, where is that?

BV: So first in Arras in a factory, I also worked in a spinning factory.

RG: Yes

BV: It didn't last very long. It was a month or two, because then we were sent back to Cambrai, which was another area, so there we were already together.

AV: Those were, decisions actually taken in a very central way, we were sent like pawns here and there...

BV: Because it was necessary, because there was a worker

AV: there was a worker, formerly from Citroën

BV: When I was ... we both wanted to settle, the ideal was that we go to Cambrai to be established together and therefore ...

AV: It was the resumption in fact of places where there were important things in 1968, big strikes in 1968 and where contacts had been made but often very, in a very ... And there was a contact and the idea was to start from this contact to create a cell in Cambrai as there was, thinking that in Arras the others could take over, since Bernard was there anyway.

RG: Have you both been to Cambrai?

AV and BV: (hubbub) So we both went to Cambrai, I was working...

BV: Sorry

AV: I worked in a chocolate factory with girls who were typically ... well, young women before marriage who worked. Well it was, it's a factory that worked on a seasonal basis, it was, it almost stopped during the winter, we had to make the chocolates for Christmas. It was the Lanvin factory, it no longer exists, it has disappeared. I went back not too long ago when my daughter was appointed philosophy teacher at Cambrai high school, quite by chance (RG laughs). It's funny and there you go, it was an absolutely foundational experience anyway, even if it didn't last very long. First of all because we, we, they were girls who came from all kinds of corners, villages really,

RG: Who did not want to make the revolution?

AV: so who did not really want to make the revolution but ... [pause] yes, no, well no ...

BV: Not at all

AV: But with whom... who didn't want to at all, no that's clear. But with whom, there were also rebels, many more ... I remember, I remember very, very well a little brunette there who was funny, not a little blonde, I remember like it was yesterday i could almost recognize her in the photo - which was very funny, which made everyone laugh. I was really frustrated because I was there, I hardly understood anything of what she was saying, but she was really very, very funny and in fact the way ... Our role was still to obviously stir up conflicts, they were all the same, well the working conditions we know them - but it was the time clock, speed, speed all day, we were in the assembly line, he didn't There was no question of going to wee, there was no question of ... There were these famous contredames, so a whole kind of authority to, and then to kick at the exit. So the idea was indeed to start to lean, always apply the baseline so to lean insofar as we could understand on the slightest dissatisfaction that could, which could grow, so all the same, finally me, I had bonded with a girl who could not be from the area - therefore who spoke more or less normal French - who on the day I had anyway, I nevertheless confided to her that I was a student because I, with my loathing of lying, I found that this situation was a little intolerable, who never wanted to believe me but, by saying to me, 'if you' was a student, if you had the baccalaureate you wouldn't be there, what are you talking about, that's nonsense '. But with whom we still made a leaflet that was distributed. So my great satisfaction when I think back to those months of factories is to see this leaflet distributed by my friends and, and still read and applauded with both hands. Finally, that is to say that effectively

RG: Yes, what did the leaflet say?

AV: rhoo I don't know ...

BV: 'Down with the little chefs'

AV: Yes that was it (RG laughs). 'Down with infernal cadences' was the big watchword of the time, it was cadences and little chefs and it was almost everywhere like at La Lainière, like everywhere. And we managed to ferment all the same, real ones ... So I think of José in his ... in Roubaix which was on the factory but real ones, either real strikes or real fights of the cadences bridles etc.

RG: Yes

AV: And I was finally happy because I was not very happy, it was still enough, it was a very, very, very, very hard life, but in any case I had the feeling of being at the heart of the, where it was needed

BV: And me on my side so I first worked in a sugar refinery because we also had to make some, have a little working history. We couldn't go and get hired from ... I wanted to go to Citroën, which was the local factory, important and therefore we had to go through intermediate stages to have a work certificate and show people where we wanted to get hired

RG: Okay

BV: and so I worked in this sugar factory for a while then I got hired at Citroën and there I really found the ideal job

RG: Yes

BV: since I was a storekeeper, a storekeeper, that is to say, I supplied the chains so strategically that was great, eh. It was the place where we could talk to everyone in the channels etc. But unfortunately I didn't stay long (laughs) because after a week, ten days that I was there, we went to get married in Paris, a weekend, a wedding weekend ...

AV: we went to get married at Marty's, so that was one of the...

RG: So when are we here, on what date?

AV: In September 69

RG: September 69 agreed

BV: And so I come back from my wedding and ...

RG: No honeymoon?

BV: No, no

AV: but then marriage that was also....

BV: I still had three days to get married

AV: No, but the marriage was for political reasons too

RG: Oh yes, of course

BV: And so I ...

AV: Finally of course

BV: I come back and there I am turned away at the entrance of the factory

RG: Yes

BV: 'You are fired'

RG: Oh yes, okay

BV: And so there I, the all the same that was my best claim to fame as a worker, it is that so I shouted etc., The workers stopped and the workers went on strike

RG: Ah great

BV: to defend my, against my dismissal. And so there was a strike that lasted half a day, and at the end of the half day the trade unionists who went to negotiate with the boss returned to the refectory, where all the workers were - I was always outside - and, and we say to the workers 'we won everything'. Well they had indeed won all their claims that they had for several years

RG: Oh yes

BV: And the guys said, 'Ah and Victorri is reinstated?'. And there the guys said, 'No, no, no Victorri no it's another matter it's much more complicated than you thought, it will pass to the Prud'homme etc ... We remain mobilized on this but, but, but mistrust and all that. And in fact what had happened was that the boss had told the unionists that the cops had come

to say that I was Maoist and therefore the unionists totally agreed that I was fired as a Maoist. . For them there was no problem I was a foreign agitator, I had to be fired so they have, they managed to stop the strike by getting these on a lot of other things, that's it

RG: Okay, but because they were CGT unionists?

BV: CGT here they were, CGT essentially...

RG: Yes okay

BV: It was the Communist Party that was at work ... and so here it is, I was, my moment of glory did not last very long

RG: There is a little thing that I do not understand. How do you Parisians with the training you have, how, how did you manage to pass yourself off as a worker in the North?

BV: well it's quite simple actually ...

RG: Weren't you spotted right away?

BV: Well it's ...

AV: We had stories

BV: it's quite easy. We arrive in, at the sugar factory for example, it is ... there is what we call the campaign of sugar, beet, etc., and there during the summer it is before the campaign, it

is building companies in fact, subcontractors who come to put back all the jails, etc., finally everything, everything to rearrange the factory for the countryside

RG: Okay

BV: So there is a series of small boxes looking for labor, looking for labor for two months. So you get there and you say, 'I'm looking for a job', 'well come on'. There is no ... it wants to know nothing, just don't be scared when you climb on the big pipes

AV: No, but the stories we told were indeed ...

BV: That's it (laughs from RG and BV)

AV: First it was a period of super full employment, well frankly

RG: Yes okay

AV: There was no ...

RG: Okay

AV: And Bernard he said that he came from Algeria so that his father had a business. Me I said that I had to raise my brothers and sisters finally things like that, finally here

RG: Yes okay

AV: Sometimes we took tests, so when we had to take the tests the hardest part was ... you still had to pass them enough to be taken but not too much not to show, that's it.

RG: Yeah, did you say you don't like lying?

AV: When it is legitimized by ... I don't like lying when, there you go (RG laughs) when it was against the enemy indeed I was not very, very good

BV: Lying to the enemy is the regime

AV: Lying to the enemy is like ...

BV: Well, there you have it, this job ended very quickly and then what happened? Well then I was called ...

AV: Well afterwards you were still quite quickly in prison eh

BV: No, no, no there was still ... no, no I found myself at, at, at the sugar refinery again, but during the campaign. And there I did a job as a pontooner which, where I had the scares of my life, I ...

RG: What is a pontooner?

BV: Pontoon worker, you know the big bridges in the factory that move around with big cranes on them

RG: Yes

BV: And there is, I was above the crane so I had a little cabin that was moving around in such a noticeable movement with an accelerator in one direction in the other direction, walking like that on a big bridge and we, we ... and then downstairs there were workers who put bags of sugar that went to the trucks so

RG: Okay

BV: and this job is a very dangerous job

RG: Yes

BV: really and it's a job, what we called the four / eight, that is to say that we did 8 hours in a row for a week, then we had 8 hours of rest and we resumed. So if we had started in the morning we would resume at night, and for 7 days, at night we would do 8 hours and then after that we had 8 hours of rest and we would resume in the afternoon etc. So it was an absolutely grueling job

RG: Yes

BV: especially when we were at night and one night I, the nights I fell asleep eh on my thing and it was necessary, I really almost spent there I think. And so I was not very, very happy and luckily the management of the UJC (ml), of the Proletarian Left, decided that I had to stop working because I had to take over the management of ...

RG: Okay

BV: from all ...

AV: executives, activists

BV: So I became a manager

RG: Okay

BV: And, and there I ... what happened?

AV: After you took over, you still absolutely wanted to settle down, it was the big struggle because Bernard wanted to work in a factory and ...

RG: You still have your ...

AV: Sorry, Bernard wanted to work in a factory and the management wanted that, didn't want what

RG: Yes

AV: and then after you worked in Thompson, you worked in a brewery, it was always enough experiences, quite short in the end between...

BV: Ah yes no, but wait for that, that's it. So after Cambrai I was a manager and there, it was pretty hellish. We were, we distributed leaflets everywhere, we did a lot of things

AV: There was a lot of commotion, it was the year ...

BV: This is where the mines were

AV: Yes

BV: So there was an accident in Fouquières-lès-Lens

RG: Yes

BV: who killed....

AV: 16 minors

BV: 16 or 17 minors

AV: It is the penultimate major mine accident

BV: And so there

AV: there is a big campaign of, we all mobilized

RG: Yes

AV: We came from all over Lille, Douai, Arras, etc., even though it was not the mines and...

RG: Sorry mine was what name?

AV: Fouquières-lès -Lens, now it's called, no, Hénin-les-Tars

BV: Hénin-Beaumont

AV: And now it's called Hénin-Beaumont, so it was a mine then in which there was a blow of firedamp

BV: So in Fouquières-lès-Lens there was this firedamp and so there we had a great campaign

RG: Yes

BV: on the theme of...

AV: it's not... an accident...

BV: 'the coal mines kill the miners in cold blood'. And indeed it was, it was accidents, what we called work accidents at the time it was all the same

RG: Yes

BV: a lot, a lot of neglect

RG: Yes sure

BV: and so there we had a huge mobilization which worked very well but which was savagely repressed

AV: It was in 69-70, this accident dates from, well yes indeed...

BV: So it was brutally suppressed by the, by the cops who had picked us up on the birthday of, the day of ...

AV: from the funeral

BV: from the funeral, well we ...

AV: around fifty ...

BV: found at the police station around fifty. Besides, we had a kind of revolt in the police station, we had fought with the cops in the police station, well it was quite violent and strong. And when we saw that we could not do, to move the minors on our watchword, we decided to take a violent action

RG: Yes

AV: finally violent ...

BV: and therefore Molotov cocktails were thrown by the Houillères offices in Hénin-les-Tars in question

RG: Oh good

AV: and that's where we met Olivier Rolin who ...

BV: who came to organize us, because it was part of the New Popular Resistance

RG: Ah yes, okay, okay

BV: And so we did, we did that, and then, and then here it is and then it continues, it did not stop, and then there was, we carried out more and more violent actions also in the , in the boxes. So I, once I found myself in Roubaix, so, as I was one of the chefs in the North, the idea was that you always had to be first ...

RG: Yes

AV: first line

BV: first line on all actions...

AV: And it was explosive actions, not violent actions, eh, we weren't in Italy anyway

BV: No

AV: It was symbolic, very symbolic actions like throwing paint cans on the contredames because we were in the middle of the year ...

RG: Yes, but a Molotov cocktail ...

BV: No, Molotov cocktail ...

AV: Molotov cocktails...

BV: it's the only one we've done, it's, besides, it didn't burn much, and then it could have, it should have burned all the mines

RG: Yes no it's, I don't care but it's, there is a whole discourse of the former Maoists on non-violence

BV: Not non-violence, on the fact that we never have

AV: took the risk of killing ...

BV: took the risk of, even yes of seriously injuring someone

RG: Okay

BV: for example for this thing of the coal mines it is true that it is an action, an arson we can kill people since there it is

RG: Yes

BV: We have, we went on scouting

RG: Yes

BV: make sure that there was no one in the event, not even a tramp etc., who could be in the offices of the coal mines. That is to say, we took a lot, a lot of risks to be sure that the fire that we would have liked to have been more spectacular, it just burned a little bit of parquet. Finally it was on the verge of burning a curtain next door that would have started everything yes good

RG: Alright, alright

AV: to be sure that there was no

BV: We didn't hope to have a big fire in the coal mines, that the coal mines would burn, but we, this office, we knew that it was empty at night.

RG: Yes okay, okay

BV: So there you have it, the other action for which I was in prison was also the, the paint pot

RG: Yes

BV: and a contredame, you know what contredames are, it's the same as foremen

RG: Yes okay

BV: We called them the contredames that they were women, in a textile factory in La Lainière in Roubaix.

RG: Yes

BV: it was infernal cadences and it was girls who were very fascinated, well really a little sadistic, who prevented the workers from going to take a piss when they wanted to, etc. Anyway, there was one that was particularly odious

RG: Yes

BV: and therefore ...

AV: We had someone working inside and so we had distributed the leaflets inside to denounce that and as a brilliant action we threw a pot of green paint ...

BV: A pot of yellow paint was thrown at him yellow, it was yellow

AV: Really?

RG: On his head

AV: On his head

RG: On his head in front of everything, in front of the workers who were going out

RG: Oh okay

BV: So we arrived in commando, we threw this paint pot to say enough, with a leaflet saying ...

AV: So okay, it's finally violence...

BV: 'You pissed off such and such a worker again last week, it's impossible for that to continue'. So there and then there, there, it became for me ... it had indeed become more and more rude

RG: You say you went to jail?

BV: There you go, so me a while ago, at that time I was back to being a college assistant

RG: Yes

BV: Was I back to being a college assistant?

AV: Yeah

BV: Yes, I had become a university assistant

AV: Yes since at a given moment it was the same, finally it is

BV: After that, when I became an executive there, so there you have it, and so there I had some ...

AV: university assistant it is still titular positions of university professors eh

BV: so fed up

AV: by the way

BV: I was so sick of ...

AV: and we can now see how ...

BV: from the militant rhythm etc., that I, I asked to go to the factory again

RG: Okay

BV: telling me it can't go on any longer. And then it was very hard with Anne, since Anne had remained in Cambrai where she had to organize Cambrai on her own. And we started to have a life which was a very, very hard life on a personal level, we can tell you were not doing very well

AV: Well then, it's the first time that I hear you say that, my darling (laughter of the three), usually it's more me

RG: No but that's the big question, it's how you organized your life ...

AV: personal

RG: activist and personal life?

AV: Well at the time there was no difference, well if not but it is true that it was, an extremely interesting question. We had this character finally this - unfortunately we moved a lot away from him not so long ago - Jean Schiavo, you may still hear about him

RG: Yes

AV: It is, it is someone who reigned a little over the North, who had a very strong force of conviction, with ideas at the same time ideas of the GP but also extremely personal ideas and in particular on private life and which - and there is the Chinese one - that is to say that indeed there was, he defended that there were bourgeois loves and proletarian loves for example

RG: Oh yes, okay

AV: There you have it, proletarian loves, it was Chinese love where we were ready to separate to do everything for the party etc., and bourgeois love here, it was, I don't know what, this 'was still very, these personal projections to him. But it is he who married us in quotes since it is he where the day he decided that - well he did not decide he built a whole thesis on the fact that indeed the fact of living without being married at the time in 69

channeled a little the eyes of the workers, that suddenly diverted it from the real question which was the question

RG: Yes okay

AV: I mean classes, to divert him to questions that were not yet on the agenda on the, which came a little later in the...

BV: sexual freedom and all that

AV: sexual freedom, feminism etc., and which therefore convinced Bernard overnight of the correctness of his positions because it often happened like that, at the end of which he finally told me 'So what 'do you think so, are we getting married?'. There it was, it was very romantic but that's how we got married. Finally this said 38 years later we are still married and so here we can not blame him (laughter from AV) but it was not years, but therefore

RG: But civilly married - but it was he who provoked it?

AV: That's it, he's the one who ...

BV: That's it

RG: As a Maoist priest or what

(AV laugh)

BV: That's it, there is a side, the North was known by the Proletarian Left, there were still regions that were much more ...

AV: Specificities

BV: libertarians

RG: Yes

BV: and then regions which were very ...

AV: ascetics

BV: Yes, puritanical like the PC. The PC also had that side and so we had taken this side of the PC back. We were very puritanical, at the same time everything that was, I don't know what, even going to the movies, reading books, etc., it was a little controlled, it was a little

AV: Everything, our whole life was totally, totally under control

BV: If we had a little time, we would read Mao Tse-tung, okay, and then ...

AV: So I who was in literature studies and who read, when I was about 14-15 years old I read three to four books a week, I stopped reading for, for 10 years what

RG: Really?

AV: Ah yes completely

BV: And we were, we were activists 24 hours a day

AV: There was no question of buying a book, there was no question of, our whole life was rigid...

BV: When we had a little time, we went to the bistro to chat with people, go and distribute a leaflet, go ...

AV: Or if we did nothing, I spent in Cambrai, I spent hours on my bed to be depressed too

BV: There you go

AV: There you go, no, I actually lived very, very dark years at the same time, very hard, very but hey, it was the spirit of sacrifice

BV: Finally things turned out ...

AV: What governed ...

RG: Sacrifice for the people what?

AV: Yes, and he had that, well here it was the Chinese, the spirit of sacrifice, this is what we were repeated, it is a word that came back in our vocabulary constantly, constantly, constantly, constantly. And so our personal life was absolutely not dissociated from, from

nothing else. And then at one point I - so Bernard was in Lille, I had stayed in Cambrai - I was asked when I did not have a permit that I was in addition to a shyness totally finally extreme then it was impossible what - I had to, there was this old man, well, this relatively old worker with whom I, as a young girl, could not really tie anything up. So I didn't do much in Cambrai and at one point I revolted a bit and on top of that

BV: I fell asleep on the road at night, with the fog, it was total horror

AV: It was, it was the North, the icy roads, the two-horse-drawn carriages that didn't work. It was, well ... and at one point I, I rebelled anyway. Well I showed that it was not going any more, there was a kind of, a bit like a session of self-criticism eh

RG: Yes

AV: and there I was summoned to see this Jean Schiavo - who had become a great friend, he's my daughter's godfather - and who wanted to send me as a daughter, what we called the daughters of the mines, daughters of the mines they were girls who lived in the mines, who left at 3 am worked in the textile factories of Roubaix, so by bus, it took 2 hours a, and returned. And it wasn't so much to campaign or stir up, it was really like to punish me

RG: Oh yes, okay

AV: It was really punishment, like 'you have to go through it', with all this talk and I also remember it as if it was yesterday ...

BV: It wasn't punishing, it's called rehabilitation

AV: There it was, in fact

BV: It's like, like in China, students and all that behaved badly...

RG: Yes, okay

BV: we re-educated them in the countryside

AV: My ideology was not good so I had to go through living conditions from which I had to come out purified and ready for use.

BV: And me too, by the way, that's one reason why, me by the way, I even wanted to, I was fed up with leading this crazy life there, and so I asked also to settle down, again and so I worked in Thompson

RG: Yes

BV: anyway one of, well every time I had found (laughs at AV) anyway the spotless places, the Thompson was perfect, again I was, feeding the channels etc., an absolutely strategic place, c was

RG: Ah which place?

AV: In Lille

BV: In Lesquin, it is near Lille, it manufactured household appliances so...

RG: Yes, yes

BV: And, and really I was, it was perfect. And one day so I arrive at my job and the foreman says to me 'you are summoned to the office up there, go ahead' and all. So I go to the office and there were two cops behind the door who handcuff me and chack they send me to jail and so I was put in jail

RG: When is that?

AV: In March, not February March

BV: No March or April

AV: No you went out on May 6, I was pregnant, I had just found out that I was actually pregnant

RG: Oh good... wait what year?

AV and BV: 70

BV: Yes March-April 70, so I put myself in prison for the story of the paint bucket

RG: Oh yes, okay

AV: It's funny what you say 'I put myself in jail' (laughter from AV and BV)

RG: How long did you stay?

BV: So I stay a month and a half where there is the judgment which is made, the trial therefore and there I take three months in prison.

AV: It appears 15 days and after 15 days

BV: I go out for 15 days, we decide to go and settle in another area

AV: The Sambre basin

BV: The Sambre basin ...

AV: Finally we decide, we are sent to another corner

BV: yes, and the, 15 days after both of them were arrested, Anne was already pregnant with ...

AV: 4 and a half months

BV: 4 and a half months. When we returned from the Sambre basin we would go prospecting to try to find a place to stay etc. In our house in Roubaix, we stop and the armed cops etc., stop us

AV: for the story in fact of, mines

BV: for the story of, of Hénin-les-Tars ...

AV: They had raked wide, they were stopping

BV: Molotov cocktails

AV: a dozen activists

BV: And we stay, and we are arrested, we stay, I remain in prison seven and a half months until the judgment while Anne remains in prison only one month

AV: Me, I stay a month but I had concrete alibis which did not prevent the...

RG: Yes because you were pregnant

BV: No, no, no ...

AV: It's not because I was pregnant

BV: The alibi is that she was in Paris on the day of the ...

RG: Oh yes, okay

BV: the day we threw the Molotov cocktails

AV: I was not there ...

BV: She wasn't there and

AV: Not only was I not there but ...

BV: The guys who sold us, since we were donated by two

AV: two types of Noumean XXXX proletariat with whom we loved to hang out, it must be said, we were really going to look for them

BV: And they had said that Anne was at the meeting which had prepared such and such a thing, such and such a date ...

AV: finally there had been confusion of people etc.

BV: they totally messed up Anne was in Paris that day so that helped

AV: I had alibis

BV: to release her immediately, well almost immediately. Finally a month that lasted when ... while we, the others, Jean Schiavo the first, he was there eh?, Jean Schiavo etc., almost all the leaders of the North, we had all participated in the operation

RG: Yes

BV: So we ended up in prison for seven and a half months and tried by the State Security Court.

RG: in Paris?

BV: in Paris, Jean-Paul Sartre and others set up a People's Court in Lens which was intended to condemn the coal mines and which echoed our trial. So must say that

AV: It was just before

BV: the idea was still to support the comrades who had good

RG: Yes

BV: and we were

AV: And above all to condemn the coal mines

BV: acquitted at the, after the Court of State Security. So we were acquitted

RG: Okay

AV: after four days of trial

BV: after four days of a heroic trial and all

AV: quite a fabulous trial because in fact it was

RG: Still in 70

AV: Yes December 70, two months after my delivery, our daughter was born - who is about to give birth - saw her father for the first time in the prison of Health

RG: Oh yes, okay

BV: And so there, we come back to the North, well yes and we go back to

AV: In the same place

BV: campaigning precisely at, finally

RG: But are you repeat offenders?

BV: Repeat offenders, absolutely

RG: No but you didn't, because you said you were also attending college, college

BV: yes, Lille university

RG: at the University of Lille, but you had a child. Shouldn't have gotten a little serious at the time?

BV: No

AV: No not at all

(RG laugh)

BV: Not at all

AV: No, no it was not at all the spirit that animated us. We had a child, that's really complicated but

BV: Yes, yes we were in, we were in, it was our life eh, we

AV: We were 20 and 22 years old

BV: could not see himself living otherwise

AV: We were 20 and 22 years old, we were in it, we didn't see each other, I could see myself living quite well otherwise we should not exaggerate but yes, if we are

BV: We didn't see the right to ...

AV: We asked ourselves anyway ... I was telling you, 'if I go back to Paris, what do you do?'. Well the day you told me, 'I'm coming with you', I experienced it as the greatest declaration of love I had ever had. No it was, it was very, we didn't experience it the same way at all, that's clear. And besides, we did not come from the same background, well we did not look alike at all but at the same time to leave was to betray. Finally there was one, it was, we were all the same, well we were called New Popular Resistance, we had, we are all the same children finally from the generation finally, in any case the model of the previous generation

BV: of the Resistance

AV: of the Resistance, of the sacrifice of our life etc., was present, was significant

RG: Yes

AV: And even I, who indeed I could not find myself there at all as a woman, as a grassroots activist, as, with this, this Jean Schiavo, well his dicta which made no sense. I felt that we were completely down to earth, I think that we, that we, that this personal life made no sense. Good, but at the same time I did not see myself returning to my old footsteps anyway

RG: Yes

AV: and I didn't envy them at all, I envied them a little bit at the same time. But I mean my, my comrades who had continued their studies, my mother who wrote such and such entered a certain school, I was in the middle of something else and ...

BV: In real life

AV: And yes in something that was more of real life, which was also - so it's true that Cambrai it was a horrible parenthesis because at the same time it was not just that, I was cut off of everything, everything, everything. I was in this apartment, but afterwards, when we were in the Sambre basin where it was very, very hard

RG: Yes

AV: we met in a place which was, which was like Zola

RG: But were you together?

BV: Sorry

RG: Were you together?

BV: Yes, when we get out of prison so we go back to the Sambre basin, the place where

AV: there we were together

BV: We were supposed to be activists before prison

RG: Which place is it? It's Maubeuge

BV: So

AV: Yes Maubeuge

BV: Maubeuge, Beaumont, Hautmont, in short

AV: We first lived in a place called Berlaimont and then in Hautmont

RG: Yes

AV: So Hautmont is a city

BV: So there, there we really settled down with our child etc.

AV: We even had a kind of low-cost housing

BV: We have, I got back to my job as a university assistant

AV: Well thanks to a solidarity network which was huge too, things moved a lot in the universities, I mean it's

RG: Yes

AV: here it is, it was not found like that

BV: And, and therefore

AV: We had a second child in stride

BV: Yes, wait no how did it go?

AV: What, we had a second child in stride, don't you remember? (RG laugh)

BV: No, no, I didn't find it, I didn't find the university right away

AV: Your college job, yeah

BV: No, no that's where I was at the brewery, I worked

AV: yes you worked a little at the brewery but not for long, yes it's true

BV: I worked at

AV: It must have been summer

BV: At the brewery because on the hunger strike I have, we ended up there

RG: What hunger strike?

AV: Well it's easy because of the age of the children, because of Cécile's age, in 71 there was one. In fact, what happened in Hautmont is that there, there really we were, we felt linked to the masses, we - when we disembarked completely - that we knew no one, that we actually did well as in Roubaix but in Roubaix we were less, we inhabited less us, a proletariat in a state of misery, living conditions, conditions of everything. And at the start of the school year 71, I, I had taken a position as a teacher in a college

RG: Yes

AV: and three with another teacher who was rather him on positions we will say libertarians and then activist from our region. We were fired, the two of us for political reasons because we had spotted who we were, and he because of his attitude because he was teaching on the lawn with his students, that there were already species of 'completely unfounded insinuations of - we did not say pedophile but finally to flirt with students etc. It was not at all true by the way, and so we went on a hunger strike

RG: Oh okay

AV: And, in the church

BV: in the Hautmont church so there it was quite a circus

AV: And there, it was a great popular movement

BV: and it's true that

AV; a kind of mini May 68 in Hautmont what, that is to say that there were a thousand people in the place coming to talk to us, talking about the school, complaining about the 'school, questioning things, supporting us

BV: It lasted a week eh

AV: It lasted longer than that

BV: The movement that is mounted, mounted, mounted and the CRS bus

AV: More than that, more than that

BV: we had planned a big demonstration, the CRS coaches arrived but really like a kind of occupation army. And finally we transformed the demo into a big meeting and there, there were a thousand workers in the big municipal hall of Aumont who came to listen to us.

AV: A thousand, you exaggerate, a thousand, no, no, not a thousand, a lot that a lot, several hundred

BV: We will look at it is written in

AV: In what?

BV: Well what is it called, this review

AV: I'll just show you something

BV: Les Temps Modernes, it's written all this history

AV: I don't know, I don't know where he is, he must be somewhere... so there, there we had... I put my thing back... there we really had the impression even if it was hard to, well me in any case to be there for something what

RG: Was it your apotheosis?

AV: It was, yes a little, at the same time, at the same time it was also a moment where we lived all at the same time because I was pregnant myself during this, this beginning of the hunger strike - I was pregnant with my second child - which also made me stop this hunger strike very, very quickly and the fascists had entered the church

RG: Oh yes

AV: had, we had crushed the tent finally it is, it is there it was also violent - not our fault besides but - then violent but not death of man either eh, although sometimes we has passed, probably often close to hand but ...

BV: Look at 'The meeting' except what happens at the meeting 'nearly a thousand people come mostly workers who often come in groups of workshops'

AV: But it was you who wrote the article so necessarily

(Laughter from RG)

BV: No, no I have, no on that you can't say, me too the lie, there was no lie, no, no I remember that it was really huge

AV: Yes it's true

BV: Anyway, here it was, it was our feat of arms and which meant that afterwards we settled down ...

AV: No weapon precisely, not our feat of arms precisely

BV: So we moved into this to ...

AV: Our word

BV: for several

RG: Yes

BV: and we therefore lived through the end of the Proletarian Left

RG: Yes

BV: its dissolution with Lip etc., there in a group where

RG: who came in 73 or so

BV: So this is the whole period, we lived it in Hautmont where we had, we had a real network, a real workers' cell, here we were

AV: it was at the time of the Red Aid, it was also at the time of the beginning of feminism

BV: in particular we also had relations which had become extremely close, pleasant and respectful with the people of the PSU

AV: The Cathos of the Left

BV: The Cathos of the left precisely and therefore in particular a guy who then became a member of Parliament, Rocardien, and who was formidable

AV: Typically a leftist Catholic, finally formidable

RG: And what is his name?

AV: Umberto Batiste, he lives in Ferrière-la-Petite in the North

BV: and so all our militant XXXcations from there we basically made them, we made them with them, and, and so there we had, we had almost a normal life of communist militants, of, traditional if you will. with that, we made the association of parents of students, we did something, we made the committee of tenants, of the HLM

AV: Here it is, that's Bernard in the demonstrations of 68 (she shows a photo)

RG: Ah yes, very well there you go (laughs at AV and BV) ah he has more hair (laughs at RG)

AV: And here is the little remark that kills

RG: But you have, you alluded to, to feminism there

AV: So in fact for me it was really by the MLAC that is to say the MLAC

RG: Yes, when did you meet?

AV: I don't know, the children were still born ...

BV: Was it before the dissolution or after?

BV: It was almost at the same time, in fact that allowed us, in fact like you in which were also the MLAC that the MTA, Movement of the Workers alge..Arabs etc., made that for us it is sneaked in. So the MLAC was what sixty ... I gave birth in 72 Olivier, it was rather 73 but finally. No, but I had already made contact with the hard-line feminist movement when I was pregnant with Cécile already, Le Torchon Brule who nevertheless became MLF, well I had been to see

RG: Who were your contacts?

AV: Hard to say. I know there was a local in rue des Canettes and here we were showing up rue des Cannettes and there were meetings where I was, I was very, very watched because I was pregnant so it was (laughing at BV and RG) ... So I didn't go over there too much because there you are ... But, but let's say that it interested me enormously because of course, I loved the ones that I hate now. I had read a lot, a lot Simone de Beauvoir, I was very, very, very penetrated by these ideas that I had completely put under a bushel at the time of the GP. It was more, it was more essential, so there from the moment when there had been, in particular the newspapers, Le Torchon Brule, it started, it still gave us aspirations that in the, at the GP there was, it discussed a little bit, it was not, it was not completely the debate. So in fact it is mainly the MLAC, the Movement for the Freedom of Abortion and Contraception which developed from around 72 and which led to the fact that we perform abortions here. Finally I have, we were not enough since the Sambre basin was

very, it was far from Lille, it was 80 km from Lille which was a bit the place where things were happening we perform abortions at home. Finally I have, we were not enough since the Sambre basin was very, it was far from Lille, it was 80 km from Lille which was a bit the place where things were happening we perform abortions at home. Finally I have, we were not enough since the Sambre basin was very, it was far from Lille, it was 80 km from Lille which was a bit the place where things were happening

BV: with the Karman method

AV: That said we still have; we trained in this method

RG: Which method is it?

AV: It's a method ...

BV: suction

VA: a suction abortion method is not very

RG: Okay

AV: Maybe not go into details

BV: that we could do at home

AV: Yes there it is, finally good

BV: by taking some precautions and provided that it is still, less than three months

RG: You have become 'angel makers' as we used to say in the past

AV: Yes, so I brought ...

BV: but it was very militant eh, it is, it is

RG: Yes, yes of course

BV: All the MLAC girls who got together, the guys looked after the children, there was a whole side ...

AV: And then there was obviously a discussion as to whether

BV: There were also discussions about whether they really veiled

RG: It was not at all bourgeois feminism

AV: No

BV: It wasn't radical feminism under ... it wasn't about aborting girls

AV: against them, against their will

BV: against, for fun if I may say so. There were extremely serious discussions

AV: No, but they were movements, the MLAC in our country was very feminine, well feminine in the sense of women. For example in Lille it was men, it was doctors who taught us the methods, it was not a movement closed to men for example

RG: Okay

AV: So there was a little, and then there was the, the emergence of women's groups, for me that was extremely important, very, very, very important. So groups of women like there have been all over the place or we were able to - I will give you some cold coffee, maybe not?

RG: Yes, I don't mind... but really a mix of women from all walks of life, from all walks of life?

AV: No

RG: No?

AV: No, no we can't say, even so it was essentially, it was mainly us sympathizers, university teachers, instits. There weren't a lot of, the, the working-class women were ...

BV: Jacqueline

AV: Well no, she has never been in there, no, no... .women from a working-class environment were, were quite far from that anyway, were not, no Jacqueline...

RG: But the abortions were on behalf of, working class women who wanted.... (AV speaks at the same time)

AV: Ah yes, so that if on the other hand, no, no, no, ah yes, yes how they got our contacts that I did not know. But for example we aborted a 16-year-old girl, finally we performed the abortion of a 16-year-old girl, who was the daughter of a fairground, you know, of a fairground merchant, who lived in absolutely dire poverty. That's horrible, horrible, and there yes so I haven't, well we in our region, so we always had recourse behind the hospital, so we took ...

BV: We had a lot ...

AV: appointment with family planning, also as in the, in the

BV: But we had a lot of contacts of all kinds. There were also small traders, we had, we had, we had become a local political force, a small local political force. We were a kind of, people knew us as the local activists and so ...

AV: And we did, when we did that, I remember for example, and once again I said that I was insisting on this sickly shyness. But the first time that I really did speak in public, well which was exacerbated by the militancy of the GP because...

RG: Yes

AV: we must have told you or we will tell you, it was nevertheless an eminently macho movement, the directed ones, yes very, very, masculine words, very, very authoritarian, very strong words, very where women do not. did not meet at all, at all finally

RG: Okay

AV: and, and indeed I remember that my first public speaking was at the hospital - uh by the way, finally at the hospital with family planning to actually ask...

BV: help

AV: freedom of contraception. So that was very important, so the MLAC and the women's groups - I have never been in outright feminist movements as it has been formed in Lille, well almost everywhere ...

RG: Yes because the hospital you mentioned was ...

AV: I was in Maubeuge, we were ...

RG: Yes okay

AV: Lille and Maubeuge is really

RG: Yes, yes

AV: the end of the world is really, the Belgian border is... (BV laughs) no but you say yes but frankly

RG: No but, it is commonly said, I lived a lot of time in Lille but I am not but I have never been to Maubeuge

(laughter from BV and RG)

AV: and even now there are theater festivals, there are cinemas, there is this incredible festival there, this ... but, but at the time there was not a cinoche, it was, c 'was the steel industry, it was, it was Germinal it was Zola but complement eh

BV: Yes

RG: Yes

BV: That's what we write here (BV laugh)

AV: And so

RG: And you didn't have any trouble with the authorities because it was still illegal to have an abortion...

AV: It was perfectly illegal yes, it was perfectly illegal, well

BV: Yes, yes, but it was the period when they had given up on the ...

RG: Yes

AV: It was still very little time ...

BV: It was before, it was the Veil law but

AV: before the law, it was very shortly before

BV: but there was already the Sluts Manifesto

AV: yes there it is

BV: 300 bitches or I don't know how many

RG: Yes

AV: 143, 147

BV: that he had refused, finally given up on pursuing them. So they knew it was all there but he decided not to, not to suppress them

RG: Okay

BV: There you have it, and then gradually between a women's movement, a movement of this, of that, we moved on to the communities. We lived in community for a year so after, so sexual freedom all that

RG: Yes

BV: We lived all this after activism

RG: Still in the same place?

BV: Always in the same place (laughs)

RG: With what kind of people anyway with ...

AV: With uh

BV: Couples of friends who were ...

AV: from the middle class, who were not at the GP

RG: Yes

AV: who were activists either of the PS from elsewhere at the time or precisely supporters of the MLAC

BV: friends

AV: people with who actually had, who were around. There were - we pass over in silence a lot, a lot of things - there was a strike for example, we held a strike for a month with Olivier in his cradle who was three months there.

BV: the jails perfoles (?) XXX

AV: 3-4 months so that's 72, a hard, hard strike, which lasted a long time and we occupied day and night, we had the baby's cradle in the middle, the, the cafeteria's wife said 'but wait, I'll show it to you in the room 'and all

BV: (laughs) yes it was really...

AV: and so when there were things like, and then there were lots of other things, with the Secours Rouge. There was, there was each news item in quotes that could give rise to a ...

BV: yes it's true the Truth and Justice Committees "

RG: Oh yes

AV: There we were, we were really in it

RG: It was for the, the in prison, that's it ...

BV: No, no, no it was a ...

AV: No, that too I was at ...

BV: questioning of bourgeois justice, well there had been the notary of Bruyais

RG: Yes

BV: There, all this, the maker of Bruyais we also went

AV: We don't have ...

RG: Yes, but Oliver Rolin said it was also a big mistake by Bruyais

AV: Yes, yes no, huge, huge

RG: Do you agree?

BV: But everything that is "Committee of Truth and Justice" was very, very, very limited because the idea that bourgeois justice should be replaced by good popular justice. We know very well what that gives, and there it is true that we came up very, very quickly with this, with this difficulty there eh, as soon as we started, as soon as we were installed with our sign, our sign 'Truth and Justice Committee' we saw a lot of people tumbling down who had resentments,

AV: trouble

BV: difficulties with the justice system or with other people etc., and we were only doing bullshit, that is to say we

RG: Yes

BV: There were people who came to see us saying 'it's unfair here they took that away from me, they took this stuff away from me. We started to fight with them, then there could be the activists of a side, of the town next door who received other people who said to them 'this is unfair' and we realized that we had both theses (laughs)

RG: Yes, yes

BV: and that we were in good spirits

AV: Finally, all these justice matters are always complementary....

BV: It's horrible, at the same time it's also true that there were, there were, things that were, real legal scandals, Yvonne Urier for example, therefore the thing for which we were beaten....

AV: We're not going to go into this in detail because ...

BV: We are not going to tell in detail but her son was, committed suicide while she was in prison for having stolen one, almost nothing...

AV: Yes, I mean even there

BV: We had, we still had a lot of ...

AV: we intervened on all fronts and therefore for, whenever there were things like that

RG: Yes

AV: there was, we were in it, but there were people around who were mobilizing

RG: Okay

AV: It's a little with these people, and possibly had mobilized around that we have, that we lived in community. Finally it was small communities but it is a year when, around us, activists or not activists people have experienced other forms of life, have, in particular, pretty much blown up all of their couples one after the other. We lived holidays together, we babysat, we exchanged children a lot too, that's it

BV: Everything

AV: Everything

BV: We exchanged everything

RG: But you stayed together anyway

AV: Yes

BV: Yes

AV: But we are invincible ...

BV: No, but....

AV: (RG laughs) we are the strongest

BV: It wasn't necessarily easy but what happened was that at the end of the year....

FW: 76

BV: 76, there we have, we have, we said that, we said to ourselves that we had nothing more to do

RG: Yes

BV: In other words, we no longer militated at all, these community stories and all that....

AV: We had gone to the end, really to the end and then indeed ...

BV: Yes and things were going well, things that were no longer of any interest and, so we decided to leave but we couldn't go back to Paris, it was impossible

RG: No, okay

BV: So we decided to go far to a country but still French-speaking because Anne did not speak English

RG: Okay

BV: So we had the choice, it was either Cambodia (laughs at AV and RG) or Quebec

RG: Okay

BV: We chose Quebec (laughs)

RG: That's very good

BV: It was a year or two years before Pol Pot eh, it was (laughs) that we really had the luck (laughs from RG) and so we ended up in Quebec and there we have, we lived seven years therefore

RG: With this eviction story

AV: Yes

BV: with yes, between two this story of, we almost got kicked out but we won we ended up staying etc.

RG: Alright, alright

BV: There you go

RG: And then you came back to Paris?

AV: No, we came back to Caen

BV: We came back to Caen after

RG: Caen yes

BV: yes so that was in eighties ...

AV: we didn't want, our children didn't want to come back to Paris, we came back in '84 ...

BV: 84 yes

AV: we came back to a city where there was a parallel school, we had put our children in experimental schools

RG: Oh okay

AV: and we absolutely did not want to hear about returning once again in the footsteps and in the ... so even still in the eighties we were, yes we have, there was an experimental high school in Heronville Saint-Claire and we chose our place of return for that, we didn't have a job anyway, so we came in, we were 35 and 38, we didn't have a job

BV: Yes, if I still had a job

AV: You had a job promise

BV: promise of a job, and there you have it, and so me during when I left for Quebec I gave up my post at the university since I had my post at the university in Lille

AV: I had become an institute, I also resigned from the public service

RG: Were you an institute there?

AV: in Maubeuge, finally Hautmont yes in this region

BV: and so there, I am remaking a university career in Quebec

RG: Yes

BV: And then I am, we are going to leave Quebec and I am going back to my university career when I come back

RG: And you became a linguist or ...

BV: Yes, I became a linguist computer scientist, between the two, language science

RG: Okay

BV: And I still am today

RG: There you go (laughs from BV)

BV: This is the story

RG: That's great

AV: And I have resigned twice from the civil service, which is still, I am the only person I know who has resigned twice from the French civil service.

RG: As a teacher and the other time?

AV: and the other time when I came back, I studied librarian. I became a librarian and I was therefore employed by the municipality of Héron-Saint-Claire and after a few years I got fed up and, finally I left, finally I am now again a librarian elsewhere.

RG: Alright, alright

AV: I take care of, children's books and, in fact I have reinvested, I work exactly as I was in the past, the more it goes the more I realize, it's really interesting anyway because ... [to Bernard] what time is it?

BV: [to Anne] Say, maybe you have to go

AV: I've changed my mind on a lot of things, obviously I have a critical eye on a lot of things but actually in my way of... what time is it?

BV: 4h month 10

AV: [to Bernard] You wouldn't want to...

RG: We, we're about to finish

AV: Yes

RG: The last question ...

AV: [to Bernard] No, no but what you could do - excuse me - what you could do is phone Cécile, he could probably call us too, phone to find out some news or tell him I'm going to come eh

RG: I'm going... can we continue like this? ... Can, can you tell me about the continuity or the, the change of ideas, what are your, what are your feelings today about this period?

AV: It's, it's getting harder and harder to talk about it anyway

RG: Yes, yes

AV: both because it seems to me both extremely close when you mention all that

RG: Yes

AV: surely more than for someone like Olivier [Rolon] who has, who has no memory, he must have told you, eh...

RG: That's what told me but it's not quite true

AV: If it's all the same ... well, it's not quite true since obviously he has, no it's not quite true but it is all the same somebody of fact has anyway whole sections of, memories that are not there what. I really sometimes have the impression that it was yesterday that I, that I am in the skin, I speak to you about Cambrai, I still see myself in this apartment in Cambrai etc. And then at the same time it's been, it's been almost 40 years anyway, which in fact makes the queues, there I think I'm quite close to Olivier elsewhere, he's a great friend, I do ... I don't know I would say, I do not deny anything, I love, I love this what I was at the same time, I love this commitment

RG: Yes

AV: So obviously I think we were totally down to earth, that we were wrong about almost everything, that there were things that did not make sense, that is, and then good politically, I would like sometimes to have this kind of naivety that I could have and, on the Manichean side, the good the bad guys, the left the right. But there you go, it seems to me that I have a thought that is both more complex and suddenly more difficult to state

RG: But you said at the beginning that there might be a psychological explanation for it all because it's... how to explain for one, people like me from the outside, how to explain this...

AV: This absolute commitment?

RG: This commitment yes, yes to the bottom for years, it's extraordinary

AV: So first for years, it's true that it was very intense but ultimately not that long, you have to see that it corresponded, for me and for others, to our extreme youth.

RG: Yes

AV; Me, what I understand badly, very badly, it's Sartre, it's people like that, it's intellectuals who supported us anyway, that, me, I blame them, yes I blame them because I find that's unbelievable, I find that when you're, when you're 15, 20, wanting to change the world is, I continue to think that it is, there you are, I find it rather good, rather pleasant

BV: [to Anne] He is not going out this evening so obviously he does not have the results of the scan yet, but they are looking for a room for him on the 5th floor, since he is in fact still in the emergency room but room

AV: Good but I'll finish quickly and then I'll go

BV: You have to, you have to go relatively quickly

RG: Yes, but two, two minutes

AV: Yes

RG: Your point of view today on these events?

AV: And....

BV: Did you answer already?

AV: I answered already (laughs)

BV: Me, no, what I think is that, I absolutely do not look at what, what we experienced at that time and the way in which we got involved because deep down we have never been a lie, that is to say what I, what I would not stand today is to have been in politics

RG: Yes

BV: above all this violent policy, this policy which was all the same, yes, which involved lives, things even if we never went until, until the assassination

RG: No of course

BV: But yes we have, we have upset a little, so I do not regret at all because I did it in all good times, that is to say with an ideal that was constantly an ideal that I didn't still haven't given up

RG: Okay

BV: which is an ideal here is happiness, humanity etc., so now very objectively I must admit that we did things very well - for example the mining thing, not only do I not regret including the cocktail Molotov, but I find that we have made a decisive contribution to the fact that the idea that there is no fatality in accidents at work has now become ...

AV: has imposed itself completely, it's true

BV: not only has imposed itself but now we are a little ulcerated by the, the other side that is to say we can no longer walk on a sidewalk without, finally falling off a sidewalk without it there was a trial because the sidewalk was too high compared to ... Okay so, that, that to us, now it annoys me a little but the state in which we were before was absolutely unbearable so it is

RG: Yes

BV: so here I think we played a positive role on one, that's an example, but on one ...

AV: But on MLAC too, MLAC too has played an extremely positive role.

BV: MLAC is the evolution of a number of things. Now we also did huge, something huge in a way, we gave to a whole, to all the generations that followed us, because we were nevertheless for a while adulated by,

AV: Not adulated

BV: We gave the impression that there was indeed still one, one way out in communism

RG: Yes

BV: That is to say that, we, we were completely deceived ourselves by Maoism and what was happening in China, and so here we are also contributing to what I find there the worst

in politics, namely the state lie, the fact that, here it is, I am very, very mixed on the effect of our struggles

RG: Yes

BV: because there were positive sides and very, very negative sides. No personal regret for having participated in this adventure and, and the impression today that when I, when I denounce certain so-called left-wing attitudes

RG: Yes

BV: I am not a traitor, I am on the contrary in the right line of what I mean, that is to say one of the things that strikes me the most in, in our generation which lived 68, it is that we find what we call the sores

RG: Yes, yes

BV: so this is where we find a large part of people who are, who have the same situations as me, who are quite capable, who have the same lucidity about the state of France

RG: yes

BV: and who continue to be left, even extreme left out of loyalty

RG: Oh yes, okay

BV: with the idea that they will betray if they want ... Why? Because it is true that during all the period 68, we were told that, we said, 'our parents betrayed us, our parents became old idiots eh, they were young resistance fighters etc., they became old idiots. And so the fear of becoming old idiots like your parents is something that has marked our generation a lot.

RG: Okay

BV: I don't think it's the only one, by the way

RG: No, no

BV: But ours was particularly strong (laughs) and that explains a lot of attitudes today of people who are incapable, for example, of criticizing - I don't know myself - the way the left behaves for pensions, for questions of this kind I have none, I am completely uninhibited about that, I find that indeed there are advantages, gains that must be eliminated. Here, I am right from this point of view if you will (said that with a smile) but I, I have the impression of always keeping the same ideals of justice etc. Only when we no longer believe that there is a solution on the side of socialism and we resolve to live in a kind of capitalism that we hope to be as social as possible, etc., well we no longer have the right of,

RG: Okay, good very good, thank you for your testimony.