Letter to the Righteous Of the World, Chiyan Sugihara

Dear Consul Chiyon Sugihara,

I am writing you a letter with a huge admiration because of your courage and deed. This courage and sacrifice are appreciated by all the people of Lithuania: this year is anounced by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania as Sugihara‘s year.

Despite the danger, with enormous resources of humanity and mercy, you have managed to save the lives of more than 6 000 people. You could have done this because you were the Japanese consul in Kaunas and you were able to issue Japanese transit visas to jewish people.

Before the Holocaust, many Jews lived in Lithuania, they were marked by a high culture, spoke in a separate Yiddish dialect. Vilnius, a jewish religious, cultural and scientific center, was called "Jerusalem de Lita" or "North Jerusalem". This world collapsed at the start of the Second World War. During the war, 90% of Lithuanian Jews were killed. According to historians, about 50-60% of Jews died in the Paneriai Forest near Vilnius, is‘s about 15 thousand. About 5000 people of Lithuanian Jews were deported to labour camps in Latvia and Estonia. Jews also entered concentration camps on German-occupied Polish territory.

Lithuanians reacted variously to the Holocaust phenomenon. Some of them did nothing, some collaborated with the Germans and participated in mass massacres of Jews, but some rescued the Jews by risking their own lives. You were one of the most important personalities who helped the persecuted. With the help of the Polish Ambassador to Japan, Tadeusz Romer was able to issue documents, so-called life visas, with which thousands of Jewish refugees from the occupied territories arrived in the Far East by the end of the summer of 1941. "If I turn away from those who need my help, I will betray Christ," you explained to your wife with a modest sense of heroism.

I know that you are respected in Lithuania, Japan and around the world. In 1985, just before your death, you were given the name of the Righteous Of the World Nations, although the Japanese authorities only later recognized your merits. I also know that the world might not have known about your heroic act if the rescued ones had not spoken of it.

I'm fascinated by your courage. I don't know if a tree is planted in your honor in the Garden of the Righteous of the World Nations. It is important that your name must be remembered by us, our children and grandchildren, because knowing the past can save the future.

Questions:

How many people did Sugihara save during WWII? (6000)

What was his occupation? ( a consul of Japan in Lithuania)

How many Jews people were killed in Lithuania during that period? (90 ⁒)

Why did Sugihara save those people? ( If I turn away from those who need my help, I will betray Christ, - he said)