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FROM: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN

TO: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: March 10, 1943

NUMBER: 1597

From Burns for Victor.

From a Berlin source which he considers responsible, following was obtained by 474.

Fifteen thousand Jews in which were included Jews with Aryan wives and Jewesses with Aryan husbands were arrested in homes in factories between January twenty-sixth and March second. For this purpose all closed lorries in Berlin were requisitioned. They were brought to four centers including Bohemian Church and two of the main Gestapo prisons. There have died several hundred children who were separated from parents and left without food. In Berlin the shooting of several hundred adults took place. Officers who are high in the SS and who took the initiative in this action are reported to have made the decision that before the middle of March Berlin should be liberated of all Jews. Friends are sheltering about eighteen thousand Jews. That the above methods will be extended within the near future to other regions in Germany is definitely expected. The new policy is to kill the Jews on the spot rather than deporting them to Poland for killing there.

FC:EVP:VA 3-11-43