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TO: AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN.

FROM: Secretary of State, Washington

DATE: October 8, 1942

NUMBER: 2314

Personal from the Acting Secretary for the Minister.

During the past few weeks, the leaders of the Jewish Congress have been receiving reports from their representatives in Geneva and in London to the effect that many thousands of Jews both in Poland and in other German occupied portions of eastern Europe are being slaughtered pursuant to a policy now embarked upon by the German government of complete extermination of Jews in Europe. As you are probably aware, Tittmann has cabled that information may be available to the Vatican which would provide confirmation at least to a part of these reports, and I am awaiting in this regard further word either from Tittman or Myron Taylor. Other than this, I have been unable to secure confirmation of these stories.

I was told by Rabbi Wise today that he believes there was available to his representatives in Switzerland factual evidence in this connection, but that they were in all liklihood fearful of dispatching any such reports through either open cables or mail. Dr. Riegner or Mr. Lichtheim, the representatives of the Congress in Geneva, are being requested by Dr. Wise to call upon you and make available to you such evidence and other information as they may have. You are requested to forward by telegraph any reports which they may make to you, and to advise me of all evidence and facts as you may secure as a result of your conferences with Dr. Riegner or Mr. Lichtheim.

WELLS
Acting

EH:WIR:AMN 12/22/43