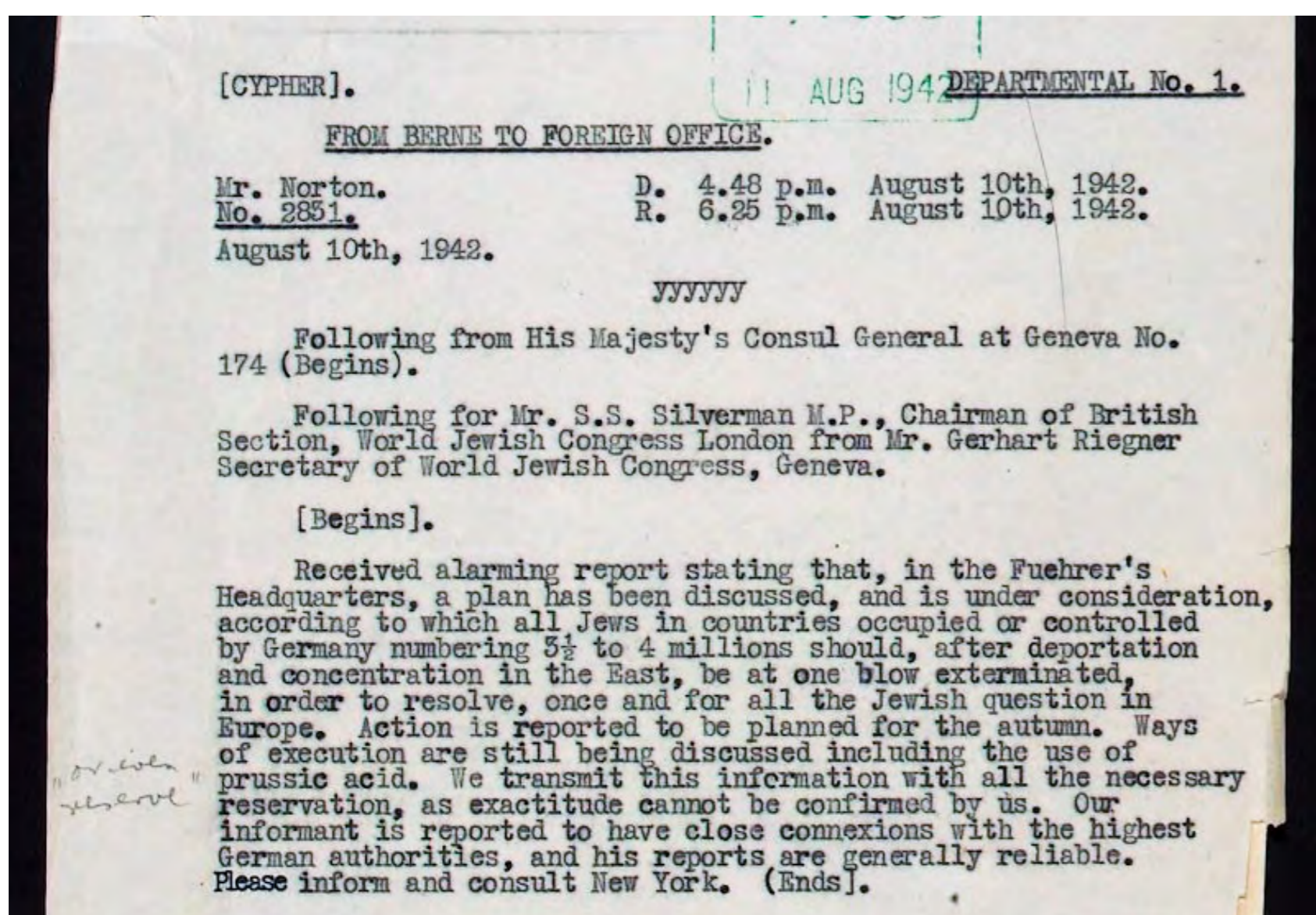




## Gerhart M. Riegner | Class of 1937

Gerhart M. Riegner was a Jewish lawyer and leader of the World Jewish Congress. He participated in the creation of the World Jewish Congress of which he was the Secretary General from 1965 to 1983. He was notably the first to alert the Allies to the so-called “Final Solution”, the Nazi’s plan to mass murder Jews. He worked tirelessly to advocate for and implement numerous rescue initiatives to get Jewish children out of Europe and to save Hungarian Jews from deportation in the last year of the war.



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Gerhart M. Riegner, then legal secretary of the World Jewish Congress, sent out a teletype message on August 8, 1942 from his Geneva office to the New York and London offices of the WJC. The cable came to be known as The Riegner Telegram and confirmed the alarming reports that the Nazis had the intention to mass murder European Jews.



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Gerhart M. Riegner (second row, second from the left) meeting with the executive committee at the opening session of the Assembly of the World Jewish Congress in Montreux, Switzerland, in July 1948. The assembly was the first post-war meeting and took account of activities during and after the Second World War.

