AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

Berlin, Germany, July 29, 1933.

SUBJECT: The general search of trains and automobiles on July 25, 1933.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to inform the Department that on July 25, 1933 from 12 o'clock noon until forty minutes past noon, there took place a general search in Germany of all trains and all forms of automobile transportation. The fact that this search was to take place was not given any prior publicity and plans for it were secretly made, and the personnel of the railways, the police, and the so-called "Hilfspolizei" composed of S.A. men, were utilised. All trains in Germany, between the hour of 12 o'clock noon and forty minutes after, were gone through closely and individuals, baggage and freight were searched. In the streets of the cities and towns, automobiles and trucks were stopped by policemen and searched. The newspapers of the evening of July 25 and since, lay great stress on the fact that traffic was not delayed and it is interesting to note that although
although the search made was very thorough, there was very little actual delay of traffic which in view of the wide extent of the action, is remarkable.

According to the newspapers, the object of the search was to find concealed arms, propaganda material and indications of Communist activity, and the newspapers carry articles indicating that considerable quantities of such material were found and seized and that hundreds of suspected persons were taken into custody. It does not seem reasonable that the search, however, was made for the ostensible reason given, and it has been impossible to determine what the real reason for the search was.

I am informed that the reason for the search was as follows, but I wish to state in this connection that I have not yet been able to verify the correctness of the statement. I am merely sending it to the Department for such interest as it may have in connection with data which it will receive from other sources. It is reported that several peasants recently gave to Premier Dollfuss of Austria definite evidence showing that the Chancellor of Germany, Mr. Hitler, is of Jewish origin and that these original documents were published a few days ago in Swiss and in Austrian newspapers. In order to prevent any of these newspapers from coming into Germany and to confiscate those which might have penetrated the country, this action was undertaken on July 25. Whether there is anything to this report the Department will be able to determine from information which
which it receives from other sources. However, I believe it is unquestionable that whatever the reason may have been for this general search of all means of transportation on July 25, the search was not made for the ostensible reason given in the press.

That the Chancellor, Mr. Hitler, is of Jewish origin or has considerable Jewish blood, is a rumor which has been gaining rapid currency in certain circles of Germany in recent weeks. It is not believed, however, that this rumor has generally penetrated to the German population.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.