AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,
Berlin, Germany, October 13, 1933.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Department's memorandum instruction of September 28, 1933, transmitting a copy of a letter dated September 19, 1933 which the Department has received from Rabbi S. Joshua Kohn of the Jewish Communal Council of Utica, New York, in which he refers to a statement that "there were 450,000 or 460,000 prostitutes in Berlin with the intimation that people of the Jewish faith were responsible for that situation. These figures were challenged and the answer was made that the American Consul in Berlin verified them. In the name of truth and justice I desire to know whether the American Consul did or did not verify them." I also have a copy of the Department's reply of September 28 to the effect that nothing has been received from the American Consulate at Berlin which would afford the slightest basis for believing
in the accuracy of the information embodied in Rabbi Kohn's letter.

I have not made any report on prostitution in Berlin or in Germany since I assumed charge of the Consulate General at Berlin about three years ago, and the records of this office do not show that any report on this subject has been made by any officer of the staff within the same period. I have not during that time, nor has any officer on the staff of this Consulate General, made an investigation of prostitution in Berlin or in Germany or in any way studied the matter so that we would be able to pass an opinion on the correctness or accuracy of figures showing the alleged number of prostitutes in Berlin or in the country. I wish to categorically affirm that I have at no time made any statements with reference to the number of prostitutes in Berlin, or that people of the Jewish faith "were responsible for that situation".

I can quite understand Rabbi Kohn's perturbation over the alleged statement and I would appreciate the Department's informing him that at no time during the past three years have I or any officer of the Consulate General in Berlin made any such statement as that referred to in his letter.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.