

HB:jp

11th April, 1974.

Dear Hillel,

My first name is Hans Or Abraham and I guess we will be seeing each other soon. May I take the liberty of addressing you by your first name and I hope you will do likewise.

It was a particular pleasure to receive your handwritten letter from Chicago where I hope you enjoyed ^{hbo} with your family. Your writing is clear and I hasten to answer your letter.

The intensity of the seminars had been previously communicated to me and we in Australia had all intentions of dividing the three weeks during which Shalom College is available into three parts. However, owing to difficulties with transport and owing to the fact that there may be great objections to Australian youngsters travelling each way for a full day just to spend four days in the seminar atmosphere, I telephoned Dr. Stern and after submitting the problem to him, he agreed to reducing the number of seminars in the period to two longer ones. This may also be an advantage as Australians may take longer to be emotionally involved and to work up enthusiasm.

Taking into account various representations which I have received, I now wish to confirm to you that the first seminar will be exactly as you envisaged except that the departure shall be moved to one day later. This will be balanced by the arrival of the next group one day later, giving you a full 48 hours break which you requested. In addition, we have planned a full day's outing to the Blue Mountains and Jenolan Caves, a round trip of 150 - 200 miles, and we had thought of this taking place at the end of the seminar, but Ruthie Casin suggested that it may be better to break the seminar activities towards the middle. Please give us your advice and guidance.

As the second seminar starts a day later, it will have to continue to Sunday, 21st, when there is no morning train, but an evening train. This seminar can also be broken by possibly two days outings as a visit to a performance of the Opera for this group will be out because of the three weeks. However, we hope the first group will get such a visit.

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After the seminars, the next intensive activities will only be the following weekend which should allow for a few days of recreation and sight-seeing. For the activities during that weekend of Tishab'av, the group will split up as University Shabatonim are planned all over Australia. We are sure that satisfactory arrangements can be made for those leaving for Perth, Adelaide or Brisbane to do so at the last minute or earlier to suit their likes and/or the additional lectures which they may wish to give during their stay in those cities.

From then onwards the centre of activities will be Melbourne and its vicinity, but again ample time will be allowed for recreation and sightseeing. Details will be submitted as soon as we are able to fix further dates.

I apologise for making a mistake in the date (20th July). Shalom College has to be vacated on Sunday, 21st July, as their students will return for lectures the following day. In order to give the people time for clearing, I propose you schedule outside activities for that day only.

Regarding travel arrangements, Dr. Abe Stern spent considerable time with the Travel Agent and they pointed out to him the difficulties of the ticket which we intend to use.

It starts in Paris or London and goes via New York to Australia allowing, from point of origination to point of disembarkation, the use of a total of four flight numbers and for the total trip, besides 45-180 days at destination, one stopover which I believe will best be in New Zealand. However, certain technical stops (less than 24 hours) we hope to incorporate as well as hoping that the airlines will permit the use of tickets early or later than actually dated. However, this ticket allows us not to fly always together as a group. *It gives individual routing as you require for West Coast.*

Whilst we forfeit the Europe/London component, this section counts as one flight. Therefore the second flight to your individual points on the West Coast is number 2 flight and the third is the flight to Honolulu. I'm sure you can enjoy your stay there, but you will be disappointed that, from my information, scope for Jewish activities would be very limited. My offer of a car for every 5 people holds good as well as accommodation for 1 night unless the airline pays this as they did for Dr. and Mrs. Stern. By then you have used up three of the flights and therefore you have to use a direct flight to Melbourne. If you take the same as Dr. Abe Stern did, leaving Tuesday morning early and losing a day on the way, you will arrive in Melbourne on Wednesday morning. At the V.I.P. Lounge at the airport we hope you will be able to meet Press, Radio and T.V. as Rabbi and Mrs. Lamm did. That day and the next you will have a good rest prior to the Board of Deputies holding a reception in your honour and the following day in the afternoon, the official integration weekend will start.

Leaving Australia on Wednesday, 14th August, to Wellington, I guess a number of you will spend Shabbath there while others will travel by car to Auckland via the Wytoma Glo Worm Caves and Rotorura with its hot geysers. You will be reunited by Monday evening for a flight to Pago Pago, which we hope as a special Pan Am will allow you to interrupt there for two days.

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Then you will take the continuation of the same flight to Seattle arriving Wednesday, 21st or Thursday, 22nd August about midnight, which I believe you want to do. Then there will be the technical third section to New York and the last section to London or Paris, of which you may or may not avail yourself.

Please advise (1) whether the ticket should originate and end in London or Paris and (2) who is going to which point on the West Coast.