

June 18, 1973

Rabbi M.R. Mandel  
61 Almorah Road  
Epsom 3, Auckland  
New Zealand

My dear Rabbi Mandel:

It was a genuine pleasure hearing from you and receiving your most gracious invitation, which my wife and I cordially accept.

Your description of the condition of New Zealand Jewry is certainly depressing, and I can appreciate the tone of your letter. I have always felt that it is people such as yourself in the rabbinate who are manning the loneliest outposts of Jewry, and therefore deserve all the more credit than those of us who have the good fortune to be in the large centerd.

It will be my pleasure to preach in your congregation on Shabbat and to be your guest for that Shabbat. I do hope that we are not imposing upon you and your kind wife.

In answer to your inquiry, I expect to be arriving in Auckland on Thursday, August 9, 12:45 P.M. aboard Qantas 850. My wife should be arriving the same day, at 3:15 P.M. aboard TE #222. I certainly do not want to inconvenience you, and therefore it will be more than adequate if you meet me at the airport at the later date, because I prefer to wait for my wife and greet her upon landing.

Your description of the deplorable condition of kashrut in New Zealand certainly makes travel more difficult for observant Jews. Nevertheless, we are determined to do the best we can, and will attempt to survive on what little kosher processed food you have and what we can bring in with us from Australia. Our present intentions are to rent a car in Auckland from Sunday morning, August 12 and from there to visit Waitomo and Rotorua and from there proceed to Wellington. We there would like to leave the car and take the



overnight ferry to Christchurch, and perhaps take the air excursions which I have read about.

I wonder if you know how we can make provisions for kosher food were we to spend Shabbat in Christchurch or Wellington. If that is impossible, we shall try to be back in Auckland for the second Shabbat, because we expect to leave for the States on August 19 and 20 (my wife and I do not travel on the same airplane). Please believe me, we refuse to impose upon you for a second weekend, and therefore will be perfectly happy to have Shabbat for ourselves in Auckland. I beg of you not to go out of your way and make us feel that we are causing you any inconvenience. All I would request here is some information as to whether it is best to remain in Auckland at the same motel for that second Saturday, or whether there is some place in Wellington or Christchurch where we can stay and perhaps find food for Shabbat as well.

Incidentally, I do not know of your program or schedule, but Mrs. Lamm and I would be delighted if you and your wife join us, at our expense, for this motor trip through your fabulous country.

Under separate cover, I am sending you several copies of my little book on Angels and Demons called A Hedge of Roses. That you have so far succeeded in prevailing upon five of about 12 brides to observe Angels and Demons even once is, considering the nature of your Jewish community, a tremendous achievement. Perhaps this will inspire your young people to even greater observance.

Now, as to where to reach me, I shall spend most of my time in Melbourne, and some of it in Sydney. My address in Melbourne: H.A. Bachrach, 1003 Howey Court, 234 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000, Telephone: 63-7135/6. In Sydney: 61-6897 or 6822/3.

I do look forward greatly to meeting with you and renewing our friendship and meeting your family.

Cordially,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL:cw