

England

November 3, 1961

Rabbi Solomon Gaon  
11, Ashworth Road  
Maida Vale

Dear Dr. Gaon;

I had hoped that by now we would have the opportunity of meeting again, a prospect which delighted me and which I looked forward to most eagerly. I truly regret that, so far, this has not come to pass.

Allow me to encroach upon your precious time and make a request of you in complete confidence. I know the matter shall be kept in utter privacy.

Chief Rabbi Brodie has, through Rabbi O. Feuchtwanger, asked me whether I am prepared to consider occupying the position of Principal of Jews' College if I were invited to do so.

I believe that you know more about The Jewish Center than I do about Jews' College. I am quite happy here, whereas the situation in England is something of which I am quite ignorant. The problems, prospects, challenges, difficulties - these are all unknowns for me. Add to this the fact that I have no personal knowledge of the people with whom I would have to work, and you will appreciate my dilemma. Had I known that this invitation would be forthcoming, I would have lengthened my stay in London considerably in order to acquire some first hand knowledge of the situation.

As you may gather, I have deep respect for your own judgment. I will be most grateful to you for your comments, advise, and suggestions.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

NL:ff

RABBI NORMAN LAMM