October 1, 1969

Rabbi Dr. Abner Weiss 21 Benzelia Manning Road Durban, SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Abner:

I was delighted to receive a New Year's card from you and your wife, and both my wife and I gladly reciprocate your good wish es for a happy and healthy year and a G'mar Tov.

I have been inquiring from mutual friends about your welfare in Durban, although I have little doubt that you will succeed gloriously. I must tell you that I very much enjoyed your company when we did meet in the States, and I look forward to further meetings.

As a matter of fact, I would like to make a suggestion, or a request, and hope that you will keep it confidential except insofar as you can possibly be of assistance to me.

A mutual friend of ours, who shall meanwhile remain nameless, planted an idea in my mind which gradually developed into some thing that is either a stroke of genius or utterly scatterbrain. I hope you will freel free to give me your honest judgment.

The idea is this. I am anxious to do something else in the summer, other than stay in Camp Morasha. I am anxious to visit Israel, especially this summer - where a newhew of mine is celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on July 4th and also would be hap py to make another visit to South Africa.

The idea would be to accept some of the "feelers" that have been put out to me as to whether I would like to visit South Africa again. Frankly, I do not want to come as a professional fund raiser, being taken around to the homes of various prospective contributors and twisting their arms. Nor would I want to go

through the same hectic pace I did last time for six weeks. Rather, I wonder if it would be possible to give a series of lectures, perhaps tied in with the campaign of some institution like the Yeshiva College or Board of Education, which, of course, can use my visit as part of its annual campaign. This should be a onewweek or ten day affair. The remainder of the time would be spent in ministering on Saturdays (in cluding, of course, Friday nights) to a synagogue in an area where the weather is favorable during July and August. I believe that the Cape does not fulfill this requirement.

I would like to arrange the trip so that I could stop off in Israel for about two weeks and arrive in Africa in mid July, staying until the end of August.

Now, we are a family of six including two children under twelve. I realize full well that the expense of the flight and quarters during my stay in Africa would be quite high. The question is, can this expense be covered, at least in its major part, by some combination between a communal board and the synagogue?

I would not broach this to you if we were not personally friendly. But I do think it would be a unique experience for my family, and I would love to re visit pocountry whose Jewish community I very much enjoy.

Do be discreet in making your inquiries, and do forgive me for burdening you and exploiting my friendship with you.

My warmest good wishes to your wife and, once again, our prayers for your success and happiness.

Cordially yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM