

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN 1118 W. JOHNSON STREET MADISON 6, WISCONSIN

January 2, 1959

Sir Ronald A. Fisher Gonville and Cains College Cambridge, England

Dear Sir Ronald:

The purpose of this letter is to inquire whether it might be possible for you to entertain an invitation to spend a sojourn as research professor in this Research Center. Because this Center is still young and still in its formative stage, it is likely you do not know of it. I am therefore enclosing a brochure which sets forth its philosophy and purpose.

You will see from this that the Center is a unit in the University of Wisconsin. Its mission is the conduct of basic research in the more applied fields of mathematics, inclusive of the statistical field. Although it is ultimately financed by the United States Army, it is academic in character, and has no assignment or responsibility to engage itself in routine problems originating in the Army's work. If requested to do so, the members of the Center are expected to be willing to advise upon or to study problems that are beyond the ordinary capabilities of regular Army agencies, and that are judged to be of basic significance. In the main, the members here are free to plan and engage in their own research. Their results are all freely publishable.

At the present the members number about twenty-five. Many of these are here for specific terms, and will return to institutions from which they are on leave of absence. Professor L. M. Milne-Thomson, whom you know, is a member here, and is, I believe, enjoying it.

My purpose in this first communication is to explore a possibility. If you will let me know that it might be possible for you to come, I shall frame a proposal for your consideration. I am quite confident that I can propose a salary that you would find acceptable. It would

be my hope that you could come for a sufficiently long time to make your association here more than fragmentary.

I shall look forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

R. E. Langer

REL:sh Encl

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