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A. A. I.
WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

1 April, 1961

Mr. Gordon P. Hagberg, Director
African-American Institute
Dupont Circle Building, Suite No. 505
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hagberg:

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Barack Obama, who is a student on this campus. I have had Mr. Obama in my classes ever since his arrival on campus, and I have always found his work superior. His grades have been consistently A's or high B's in both Freshman composition and World Literature. Where sometimes language problems have prevented a completely first-class expression of his ideas, his interest in the problems and his enthusiasm have made up for any deficiency. He is the kind of student that any professor would enjoy having in his class.

Beyond purely academic pursuits, Mr. Obama has done an exemplary job of getting along with people and of finding out about the local community and its varied nationalities. He has impressed everyone with being a genuinely enlightened twentieth-century man, and the peoples of Africa should be proud to have him representing them here.

The only serious problem that Mr. Obama has faced in his life here has been financial. The cost of living in the Islands is fantastically high, and I sympathize with anyone who has brought any money here from elsewhere, its purchasing power being so drastically decreased. Mr. Obama, I understand, has had to take jobs during the past school year to make ends meet despite the fact that you have awarded him a grant for this period. Certainly I hope that you will be able to renew his grant, but I hope too that you may find the wherewithal to add something to it to make a real student life for this young man possible.

Very truly yours,

Lee E. Winters
Lee E. Winters, Jr.
Asst. Prof. of English