

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

HENDRIK S. HOUTHAKKER  
PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS

209 LITTAUER CENTER  
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS

August 30, 1963

Mr. Robert Sherman  
Phelp-Stokes Fund  
297 Park Avenue  
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Sherman:

Mr. Barack H. Obama has asked me to write to you concerning his application for a scholarship. Mr. Obama is not among our best students, and his record to date leaves something to be desired. However, I can also report that he has worked for me as a research assistant this summer and has displayed intelligence, initiative, and diligence. I have reason to hope, therefore, that his academic performance here will improve and that he may succeed in obtaining a doctorate. He seems to be better adjusted to academic conditions in the United States than most other African students.

Yours sincerely,

*H. S. Houthakker*

HSB:ST