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Norrell H. Noble to Dr. Silver, 12 July 1962

Norrell H. Noble

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July 12, 1962

Dear Dr. Silver:

Larry wrote that you were better and that he had seen you when he was there for the banquet for Dr. Howerton. I am glad to hear it, for you see, I need your services! I'm going to try once more to get into a graduate school to start on a PhD in history with emphasis on Africa. Boston seems to have a good program and I should appreciate very much your writing to the following address: Secretary of Admissions, Boston University Graduate School, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. The application says, "letters of recommendation from two professors under whom the applicant has studied in his major field." I think that my two years here, plus a basic knowledge of Swahili will give me a headstart and perhaps make it possible to go on.

We have just been on an eighteen day safari into Uganda and Kenya. Kenya is truly a lovely country; cool, green, lush. We crossed by train over the Great Rift Valley, a spectacle of mountains, valleys, lakes, at one point the train was at 8,000 feet. We drove with a friend up to Nyeri, in the White Highlands, the very heart of the Kikuyu country, the people who supplied the Mau Mau with men. The whites are not at all happy over the present and immediate future, and so many of the farmers are selling out and going to South Africa or Australia. It makes you wonder what will happen to modern, bustling Nairobi when the whites have all been made to leave. Certainly it is happening here in Tanganyika. Soon the only whites left will be school teachers and UN specialists and a few private businessmen. The civil service is being Africanized at breakneck speed, regardless of qualification or consequence. It is so sad to see things slowly getting more and more inefficient. I suppose it will all grind to a dismal halt in a period of three or four more years, then slowly, with bitter experience under their belts, the Africans will set things in motion again and find that they can run a country in a twentieth century manner. It is terribly easy to get fed up, bitter, resentful. I'm glad I work with school-boys rather than the 'new men' in "power."

See that Ole Miss has been told to let a Negro in. Hope it does and as smoothly and quietly as possible. Also see that Mr. Faulkner died, the end of an age. Hope this finds you, Mrs. Silver, and your children well.

Very truly yours,
Norrell H. Noble