

# *The University of Michigan*

## *Center for Afroamerican and African Studies*

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Dear Friends,

You wrote to me a little while ago. I apologise for not responding sooner, but the last twelve months have easily been the most hectic of my entire life.

I had both professional obligations and rather serious family problems. On the family front two of my children were threatened by blindness. We were all kept rather busy with medical and related concerns. We are still worried about the children's problems.

Professionally in the last twelve months I had long-standing commitments with UNESCO, the African Studies Association of the USA (of which I was president), the British Broadcasting Corporation (of which I was the 1979 Reith Lecturer), the World Order Models Project (of which I was Director of the African section) and the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies of this University (of which I was a newly appointed Director).

As a result of some of these commitments I crossed the Atlantic at least once every month throughout 1979. This travelling load was quite apart from the actual business I had to conduct for each of the above organizations.

Some of you wrote to me with a specific request in mind. It may now be too late to do anything about your request. You may have made other arrangements already. If I let you down in any way, I do apologise most sincerely.

A few of you wrote to enquire about scholarships and fellowships in the United States. You may already have got fixed up by now. I certainly hope so. If you are among the lucky ones, I congratulate you heartily. But if you still have problems, let me confess that I have been having problems too in my efforts to help aspiring students get financial sponsorship. Funds are rather tight in the United States right now. I am sorry I cannot sound more optimistic.

But some of you wrote to me about other things. If your business is still pressing, and you think I may be able to help, by all means write to me and say so. I'll see what can be done. If nothing can be done, I will see what else to suggest.

Meanwhile, please forgive me for not responding sooner. Forgive me also for this standard reply. As a result of the volume of work and worry these last twelve months I am now so far behind in my correspondence that I have had to resort to this standard letter. Please be tolerant.

With best wishes for the rest of 1980 and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Ali A. Mazrui, D.Phil., (Oxon)  
Director, and  
Professor of Political Science

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