



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

April 7, 1969

Valletta  
Malta

P.P.

Dr. Albert Bowker, Chancellor  
The City University of New York  
535 East 80th Street  
New York, New York 10021, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Bowker:

As yet President Richard M. Nixon has not indicated he does not wish me, as one of the only four black ambassadors the United States has out of 124, to continue rendering public service in this capacity. Thus I must assume the President expects me to continue to shoulder my current responsibilities for the present.

I feel honored that the Search Committee to find a president for the proposed experimental Bedford-Stuyvesant Community College VII selected and offered me the position. However, in view of what I have just said above, I write to say that I would not be available to accept the position.

It did occur to me, however, that in Brooklyn itself there is a person who could fill adequately the presidency of this new, experimental college. I know that he is very conversant with the community needs and nuances, and understands the character and temper of the people and times there. This sort of understanding, you will admit, is most important and necessary to the successful launching of this new institution of the City University of New York. His name was mentioned as a candidate for the position in the news item carried in The New York Times of March 28. I refer specifically to Mr. Rhody McCoy, chief administrator of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville district in Brooklyn.

Asking that  
the Search  
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use extend bot my regrets and thanks to  
e, as well as to yourself, the privil-  
e interest the had in adacy, with

Very sincerely yours,

Hugh H. Smythe  
Ambassador