



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I 03110056

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A proactive review of various conference grants conducted by our office identified two concerns regarding an award¹ to a university² to support the travel of participants to a conference being held in a European country³. Specifically, we had questions about trips to non-European locations, including Mexico City and Washington D.C., and a possible violation of the Fly America Act due to the use of non-American airlines. The matter was referred to the Office of Investigations in November 2003.

We requested and received additional information and records from the university, and we were able to address the issues. First, we were able to determine that the Fly America Act had not been violated. There were not any American flag carriers offering direct flights to Hungary; furthermore, all of the flights had been made through American flag carriers as required.

Secondly, through our review we were able to determine that most of the questioned travel was in furtherance of the grant and made with the approval of the NSF Program Officer (P.O.)⁴. The sole issue was the PI's trip to Mexico. We contacted the university⁵ in July 2004, advising them of the results of our review and requesting corrective action with regard to the trip. In August 2004 we received the university's response⁶; they agreed with our conclusion that the trip to Mexico was not directly related to the grant, and indicated the university would remove all related charges⁷ from the grant. In October 2004, we verified that the funds had been returned⁸.

Accordingly, this case is closed.

