

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550



Office of  
Inspector General

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 30, 1995

FROM: [REDACTED] / Special Agent

VIA: [REDACTED] Special Agent-in-Charge  
Investigations Section

SUBJECT: Allegation of Misuse of Funds at the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

TO: Case No. I95020006

On February 13, 1992, we received an allegation involving the possible misuse of grants funds by the [REDACTED]. Since May 1994, several articles have appeared in the newspaper suggesting that the [REDACTED] acquired land for their new museum building by a purchase price which was 3 times the appraised value of the land. According to the articles, [REDACTED] the former Director is said to have secured the agreement. In addition, the articles imply that the former associate director was soliciting political contributions from individuals who had business with the science center. In 1994, we awarded a grant totaling \$327,126 to the [REDACTED] for a proposal entitled [REDACTED]

We examined account summaries for this award and another grant which was awarded in 1992. Though we did find some minor shifting of funds among several expense categories, the use of the funds was generally consistent with the proposed budgets. We also interviewed by telephone Dr. [REDACTED] the principal investigator (PI) on one of the grants. Dr. [REDACTED] stated that he was not aware of any improper expenses but understood our concern.

As we found no evidence to substantiate the allegations of misuse of funds, and due to limited investigative resources, further investigation of the allegations is not warranted at this time.

This case is closed.