

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 1, 1997

TO: I97050021

FROM: [REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED]

VIA: [REDACTED] Special Agent in Charge

RE: Close-out of [REDACTED] Case

Background

In mid-May 1997, Investigations received from Dr. [REDACTED] an allegation regarding a possible travel duplication by Dr. [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] University. The complainant, [REDACTED] wrote NSF stating that 1) [REDACTED] was trying to modify the contents of his paper [REDACTED] after its submission to a referee, taking advantage of more recent work by four other researchers, and 2) Dr. [REDACTED] may have received double travel reimbursement for a conference in [REDACTED] on June 27-30, 1995.

Dr. [REDACTED] is funded by NSF grant [REDACTED]

This award has two amendments, with the funding totaling \$ [REDACTED] and expiring [REDACTED]

Investigative Results

No significant evidence of duplicate travel reimbursements were found for Dr. [REDACTED] on his June 27-30, 1995 travel. Furthermore, no travel reimbursement duplications were found for any of Dr. [REDACTED] travel charged to NSF since

January 1994, based on a random sampling. Dr. [REDACTED] has stayed within budgetary guidelines for NSF travel.

Investigative Methods and Scope

The allegations regarding the paper submission is referred to Misconduct and Dr. [REDACTED]. The allegations regarding financial misconduct were investigated as follows:

June 27-30, 1995 Travel:

Specific charges paid by [REDACTED] University and documents pertaining thereto were obtained from Dr. [REDACTED] and checked against Dr. [REDACTED] NSF award fund disbursements from [REDACTED] University for the same time period.

Comparison of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] documents showed that Dr. [REDACTED] received from [REDACTED] per diem reimbursement for lodging and meals in Vienna from June 29-July 8, 1995, and that he was reimbursed by [REDACTED] University for one night of lodging, July 3, 1997, in the amount of \$121.10 US dollars, based on the July 1995 exchange rate of 4.8307FF to 1US. Although this is technically a double reimbursement for the date of July 3, 1997, Dr. [REDACTED] voucher for payment to [REDACTED] lumps together his trip to Vienna with trips to several other countries in the same time period, and Dr. [REDACTED] pays 84% of the expenses on the voucher from his own private funds, making it difficult to distinguish which portion of his travel was repaid.

Other Travel:

The provider of two sample conferences, held one year apart, to which Dr. [REDACTED] traveled and charged to NSF, was called for reimbursement/ honoraria information. Dr. [REDACTED] had not been paid any amounts from their organization for either of the two conferences. One other conference reimbursement was found to have been a fee for the conference, documented adequately by receipt from the conference.

Budget for Awards:

Dr. [REDACTED] was budgeted \$10,378 of travel under his [REDACTED] NSF award. He charged NSF a total of \$8,378.42. Other than some variations in domestic vs. foreign travel, Dr. [REDACTED] has stayed within the annual expenditure guidelines.

Conclusions

Based on the above information analyzed, no significant findings of fraud, waste or abuse of federal funds is found, and the investigative portion of this case is closed.