NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

nsf

**OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 27, 1998

To: File I97110056 ███

From: ███████████ Special Agent, Investigations Section

Through: ███████████ Special Agent-in-Charge, Investigations Section

Re: Close out

In September 1997, ███████████ of the General Services Administration (GSA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) referred an allegation to our office. The GSA agent had received an allegation that ███████ was misusing surplus government property by giving it away to contractors. The complainant alleged that the ███████ was giving the surplus equipment to contractors in lieu of paying them for services rendered. The ███████ receives surplus government property, whose title remains with NSF.

The GSA agent assigned to the case, ███████████ indicated that the surplus property was obtained by ███████ about ten years ago, and believed that the alleged wrongdoing occurred about five years ago. ███████ said that to his knowledge, the allegations did not relate to anyone personally profiting from the sale or giving away of this property. GSA-OIG decided not to pursue this case, because the allegations were vague, the alleged wrongdoing occurred over five years ago, and no one appears to have personally profited from the giving away of government property.

According to the NSF contract property administrator, ███████████ acquires surplus government property but the title remains with NSF. In order for ███████ to give away this property, they must get permission from NSF to do so. NSF will only transfer the title if ███████ requests approval, in writing, to sell or donate the property. At the time we first spoke, the property administrator did not recall receiving requests by ███████ to transfer title of the equipment in question.

Our review found that ████ had traded equipment for work performed by various contractors. ████ voluntarily provided us with the invoices that indicated the type of equipment traded and the nature of the work performed by the contractor. The ████ property manager stated that he obtained permission and title transfer from the property administrator at NSF. Although this administrator originally stated that ████ had not traded equipment for contract work, he later recalled that ████ had indeed requested title transfer of some equipment in order to trade this equipment to contractors.

Our review showed that ████ did not violate agency regulations or law in their actions, nor did they circumvent or ignore any rules governing the government surplus property program. Based on this information, this case is closed.