



**Comptroller General
of the United States**

Washington, D.C. 20548

B-231122

August 15, 1988

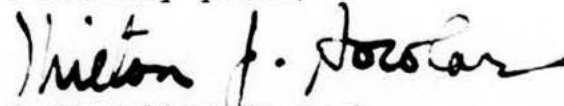
The Honorable Richard E. Lyng
The Secretary of Agriculture

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is a copy of our decision sustaining the protest of Houston Helicopters, Inc., because we found the firm's bid to have been improperly rejected as nonresponsive. Please note our recommendation that the present contract awarded to ERA Helicopter, Inc., be terminated for the convenience of the government and award made to Houston if that firm is found to be responsible. We also find Houston to be entitled to its reasonable costs of filing and pursuing the protest, including attorneys' fees.

Since the enclosed decision contains a recommendation for corrective action, we direct your attention to 31 U.S.C. § 3554(e)(1) (Supp. IV 1986), which requires that the head of the procuring activity responsible for the solicitation report to our Office if the agency has not fully implemented our recommendation within 60 days of receipt of our decision. In any event, please advise us of the action taken in this case.

Sincerely yours,

for 
Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure