

**DECISION**



**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548**

FILE: B-208478

DATE: August 17, 1982

MATTER OF: Stewart and Stevenson Services, Inc.

**DIGEST:**

GAO will not review procurement actions by Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT) because COMSAT is not an agency or establishment of the United States Government subject to GAO's account settlement authority.

Stewart and Stevenson Services, Inc., (Stewart and Stevenson) protests the proposed award of a contract to Solar Corporation by the Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT). Stewart and Stevenson asserts that the proposed award to any offeror other than itself would be improper because the other offerors failed to meet the specifications requirements. We dismiss the protest.

Our authority to resolve Government contract controversies rests on the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, 31 U.S.C. §1 et seq. (1976), which provides that claims and demands against the United States will be settled and adjusted by the General Accounting Office, and further delegates authority to our Office to certify accounts. For this reason, we resolve only those bid protests concerning agencies of the Federal Government whose accounts are subject to settlement by our office. 4 C.F.R. §21.1(a) (1982); see, Electro-Nav, Inc., B-195450, August 22, 1979, 79-2 CPD 145.

COMSAT, however, is not an agency of the Federal Government, but rather is a corporation established pursuant to the Communications Satellite Act of 1962, 47 U.S.C. §701 et seq. (1976). That Act provides:

"There is authorized to be created a communications satellite corporation for profit which will not be an agency or establishment of the United States Government \* \* \*."  
47 U.S.C. §731.

Since COMSAT is not an agency of the Government, it is not subject to our settlement authority, and we therefore cannot consider the protest. Electro-Nav, Inc., supra.

The protest is dismissed.

*Harry R. Van Cleve*  
Harry R. Van Cleve  
Acting General Counsel