



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

D
305

B-173761

October 12, 1978

The Honorable James Abourezk
Chairman, Subcommittee on Administrative
Practice and Procedure
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your letter of September 29, 1978, requested various information regarding the overdue study of Federal agency compliance with the indexing and publishing requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

You stated that although our letter to you dated July 31, 1978, indicated that the final report would be forwarded to your Subcommittee by the General Services Administration "in the near future," you have yet to receive the document. Issuance of the final report is the responsibility of GSA, as determined during early meetings with your Subcommittee. At the time of our letter to you, it was our understanding from GSA that the report would be issued soon after receipt by GSA of our comments. These comments were sent on July 31.

Several contacts with GSA officials during August and September indicated that pressure was being exerted to expedite processing and issuance of the report. The National Archives and Records Service (NARS), the GSA agency that conducted the study, was alerted to the concerns expressed in your letter. In this regard a NARS official advised us on October 5, 1978, that the proposed report was sent to the GSA Congressional Liaison Office on October 4 for concurrence and OMB clearance. The official advised us that he did not know how long this process would take nor was he willing to provide an estimated release date for the report.

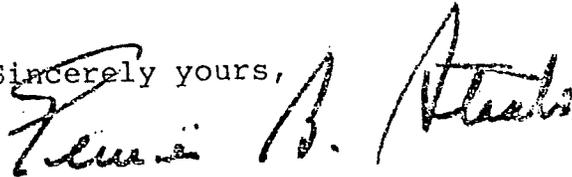
The official told us that the proposed report, as sent forward, stipulated that the report represented the official position of the executive branch. He stated, however, that this is subject to OMB approval.

As regards the need to do additional work due to the age of the data, we do not believe that further work will be needed prior to issuance of the report. We also feel that while the information in the report is dated it still has applicability today.

We are enclosing a recent letter and enclosures we sent to the Chairman, House Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, which contain additional information regarding the history of this study and our efforts to expedite the issuance of this report.

Should you wish, we will be pleased to discuss this matter further with you or your staff.

Sincerely yours,



Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure