



United States  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548

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Office of the General Counsel

B-231690

July 14, 1988

The Honorable John R. Bolton  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division  
Department of Justice

Attention: M. Susan Burnett  
Commercial Litigation Branch

Dear Mr. Bolton:

Subject: Ariel Maritime Group, Inc. v. United States  
Cl. Ct. No. 326-88C

We refer to your letter of June 9, 1988, your reference: JRB:DMC:MSBURNETT:cl 154-326-88, in which you request our report on the above-entitled action.

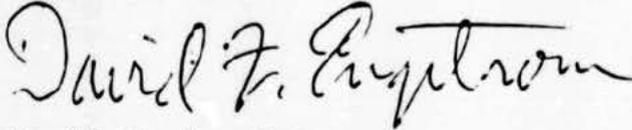
There is no record of any claim having been filed by the plaintiff in the General Accounting Office on the matters set forth in the complaint and we have no information about the facts of the case other than the allegations contained in that complaint. In addition, we have no record of any claim or demand which might furnish the basis for a cross action against the plaintiff. However, you should be aware that GAO's data base of debt cases has become quite limited. When GAO and the Justice Department amended the Federal Claims Collection Standards in 1984, the requirement that agencies routinely refer uncollectible debts to GAO was deleted (4 C.F.R. § 105.1). Since that time, our data base has been decreasing as the older cases are disposed of. Therefore, to obtain a more reliable indication of outstanding indebtedness, you may wish to selectively consult other sources. These might include the Army Holdup List (government contractors), Department of Education (student loans), Veterans Administration, or Small Business Administration.

We have the following comments regarding plaintiff's claim for transportation charges. Plaintiff has not followed the applicable procedures or provided the required documentation set forth for transportation claims against the United States set forth in 41 C.F.R. § 101-41. It is not apparent that plaintiff has yet filed a claim against the Air Force; if not, it should be required to comply with the billing

procedures in 41 C.F.R. § 101-41, and paragraph 2 of the complaint would not be a sufficient jurisdictional basis because there has been no decision of a contracting officer.

If you need further information from this office, please contact Oliver H. Easterwood at telephone \_\_\_\_\_ .

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David F. Engstrom". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

David F. Engstrom  
Deputy Assistant General Counsel