



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

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Accounting and Information
Management Division

B-280701

August 3, 1998

Mr. Robert G. Andary
Inspector General
U.S. Government Printing Office

Subject: Results of GAO's Assistance on Audit of U.S. Government Printing Office's Fiscal Year 1997 Financial Statements

Dear Mr. Andary:

To aid the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO) in satisfying its statutory requirement¹ for the audit of GPO's fiscal year 1997 financial statements, we assisted your office by (1) participating in contracting with an independent public accounting firm (IPA), KPMG Peat Marwick LLP (KPMG), to perform the audit, (2) monitoring the audit's progress and (3) reviewing KPMG's working papers and reports for compliance with generally accepted government auditing standards (GAGAS), GAO's Financial Audit Manual (FAM), and GAO's Federal Information System Controls Audit Manual (FISCAM).

Our involvement was limited to assisting your office in the following areas. Specifically, we:

- drafted the statement of work (SOW) which describes the nature and scope of the audit and the methodologies and standards to be applied;²
- participated in the review of responses to the request for proposals and selection of an IPA firm to conduct the GPO audit;
- assisted GPO's Assistant Inspector General for Audits in his role as the contracting officer's technical representative in monitoring KPMG's audit

¹Pursuant to Public Law 104-316, GPO is responsible for selecting an independent auditor to audit GPO's financial statements, annually.

²Specifically, the SOW required an audit of GPO's fiscal year 1997 financial statements. The SOW also required that the audit be done in accordance with GAGAS, FAM, and FISCAM.

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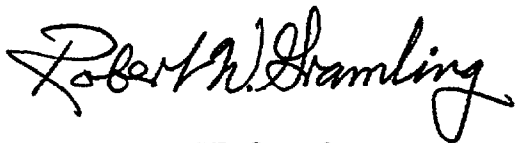
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progress as well as its application of FAM and FISCAM methodologies and professional standards. This assistance included attending key audit meetings with KPMG and GPO management, and providing advice on FAM and FISCAM-related questions and issues.

With respect to our assistance in reviewing KPMG's work, we reviewed their working papers and draft reports and, as necessary, made follow-up inquiries with representatives of your office and KPMG. Our review, as differentiated from an audit, was not intended to enable us to form an opinion on the fair presentation of GPO's consolidated financial statements, the effectiveness of internal controls, or compliance with laws and regulations. As the auditor of record, KPMG is responsible for their report, dated June 12, 1998, and for the conclusions expressed therein. As we previously apprised you, the results of our review of KPMG's working papers disclosed no instances where KPMG did not comply, in all material respects, with the FAM, FISCAM and GAGAS.

Should you or your staff have any questions concerning the assistance we provided your office please contact me on (202) 512-9406 or John J. Reilly, Assistant Director, on (202) 512-9517.

Sincerely yours,



Robert W. Gramling
Director, Corporate Audits
and Standards

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