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

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Accounting and Informatica Management Division

B-280892

September 23, 1998

The Honorable Henry J. Hyde Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives

Subject:

Federally Chartered Corporation: Review of the Financial Statement Audit Report for the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for Fiscal Year 1997

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested, we reviewed the audit report covering the financial statements of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, a federally chartered corporation, for the year ended December 31, 1997. The corporation's purpose is to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual service of the patriots of the war, as well as documents, relics, and landmarks; and to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of the war and of the revolutionary period.

Federally chartered corporations are required under 36 U.S.C. 1102-1103 to

- present the corporation's assets and liabilities and reasonable detail on the corporation's income and expenses in annual financial statements,
- obtain an annual financial audit by an independent public accountant, and
- submit the auditor's report and the corporation's financial statements to the Congress not later than 6 months following the close of the corporation's fiscal year.

The objective of our review was to determine whether the audit report complied with the financial reporting requirements of the law. In carrying out our work, we reviewed the corporation's financial statements and the accompanying notes, performed certain analytical procedures related to information presented in the financial statements, reviewed the auditor's report, and made inquiries to corporation officials or the auditor as we deemed necessary. We did not review the auditor's working papers. During our review,

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nothing came to our attention that would cause us to believe that the financial reporting requirements of the law have not been met.

The audit report included the auditor's opinion that the financial statements of the corporation were fairly presented on a modified accrual basis of accounting. We are returning the audit report you sent with your letter.

Sincerely yours,

David L. Clark

Director, Audit Oversight and Liaison

(w/o enclosure)