

GAO

United States General Accounting Office  
Washington, DC 20548

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Office of  
General CounselIn Reply  
Refer to: B-198451

*[Revised Air Force Procedures to Obtain Relief for Disbursing Officers]*

February 5, 1981

Mr. John K. Scott  
Deputy Assistant Comptroller for  
Accounting and Finance  
Department of the Air Force

Dear Mr. Scott:

We agree to the proposals set forth in your letter of August 27, 1980, providing revised procedures under which your Department will submit questions concerning relief for disbursing officers under 31 U.S.C. § 95a.

You state that upon completion of action by the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management), the case file will be forwarded to this Office for final decision. Please note that the Comptroller General in his letter of today to the heads of the military departments, B-198451 (copy enclosed), has determined that henceforth our consideration will be limited only to situations where there exists doubt either as to whether the shortage of funds is due to physical loss rather than illegal or improper payment or as to whether the accountable officer involved was a disbursing officer. Thus, no other cases need be forwarded to this Office for review.

Upon reaching our conclusion on any doubtful cases submitted, we will send our decision along with the complete original case file to the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center for final action.

Additionally, you asked that we provide you a contact point. All requests for relief are handled in



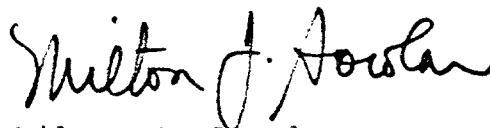
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the General Government Matters section of the Office of General Counsel. The persons who handle the control desk for this section will be able to advise you as to which attorney has been assigned a particular case. They can also refer you to an attorney to answer any general questions. They may be reached at (202) 275-5544.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Milton J. Socolar". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Milton J. Socolar  
General Counsel

Enclosure