



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

Office of the General Counsel

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September 9, 1988

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
United States Senate

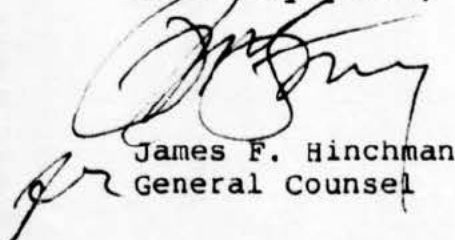
Dear Senator Byrd:

This is in response to your letter dated August 23, 1988, concerning a bid protest filed with our Office by Ceredo Mortuary Chapel, Inc., regarding certain contracts for ambulance services awarded by the Veterans Administration.

Ceredo's protest was dismissed on August 23. The protest was untimely on its face to the extent it challenged a contract awarded under invitation for bids (IFB) No. 581-30-88 on June 1, 1988. Under our Bid Protest Regulations, 4 C.F.R. § 21.2(a)(2) (1988), a protest such as Ceredo's must be filed within 10 days after the basis of protest is or should have been known. Since the protest was not filed until August 22, approximately 3-1/2 months after the contract was awarded, it was clearly untimely.

Ceredo also appeared to challenge its reimbursement for certain services under an earlier contract (No. V581P-1352) covering the period from October 1, 1986 to September 30, 1987. This contention concerns a matter of contract administration which our Office does not consider. See 4 C.F.R. § 21.3(m)(1). Any such claim should be pursued with the contracting agency under the procedures described in the disputes clause of Ceredo's contract.

Sincerely yours,



James F. Hinchman
General Counsel