



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

Office of the General Counsel

B-234783

March 21, 1989

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

Dear Mr. Bolton:

Subject: William Burney d/b/a Mechanical Contractors of
Fayetteville, North Carolina v. United States,
Cl. Ct. No. 75-89C

We refer to your letter to our Office dated March 6, 1989, requesting a report on the above-entitled case. We have no relevant records or information concerning the factual or legal issues involved. Also, our records indicate no claim or other demand against the plaintiff which might furnish the basis for a counterclaim or setoff in this case.

You should be aware the General Accounting Office's (GAO) 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. Depending on the identity of the plaintiff(s), these might include the Army Holdup List (government contractors), Department of Education (student loans), Veterans Administration, or Small Business Administration.

If you need any additional information from our Office, you may contact the undersigned on .

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Morrow
Attorney-Adviser