



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

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Office of the General Counsel

B-232614

October 4, 1988

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

Attention: James M. Kinsella  
Commercial Litigation Branch

Dear Mr. Bolton:

Subject: Carol Shafer v. United States  
Cl. Ct. No. 520-88C

We refer to your letter of September 12, 1988, your reference: JRB:DMC:JMKinsella:rmr 154-520-88, in which you request our report on the above-entitled action.

There is no record of any claim having been filed by the plaintiff in the General Accounting Office on the matters set forth in the complaint and we have no information about the facts of the case other than the allegations contained in that complaint. In addition, we have no record of any claim or demand which might furnish the basis for a cross action against the plaintiff. However, you should be aware that GAO's 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. These might include the Army Holdup List (government contractors), Department of Education (student loans), Veterans Administration, or Small Business Administration.

If this office can be of any further assistance, I can be  
contacted on .

Sincerely yours,

*David F. Engstrom*

David F. Engstrom  
Assistant General Counsel