



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

Office of the General Counsel

B-231763

July 14, 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: Lorentz A. Feltes v. United States
Cl. Ct. No. 290-88C

We refer to your letter of June 16, 1988, your reference: JRB:DMC:JMkinsella 154-290-88, 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.