

to Dr. Z

Closeout of OIG 90-3122 (M90-14)

This case came to OIG on March 19, 1990 from a program officer ([redacted] in [redacted] who was receiving complaints from two reviewers of the same proposal. They had found approximately ten sentences in the proposal to be the same or nearly the same as sentences appearing in two articles that appear in the published literature. They accused the proposer ([redacted] in the [redacted]) of plagiarism.

OIG wrote to the subject asking for any information he would like to provide. His reply did not appear to clear up the matter completely, and the case was deferred to the subject's institution for a preliminary inquiry.

The institution conducted an inquiry and formal investigation and reported the results to OIG. They found that the subject was careless in his use of language in citations and unclear regarding the fine points of citation. Without questioning the subject's honesty as a researcher, the institution took remedial action to ensure the adequacy of citations and quotations employed in the future.

OIG believes that the plagiarism in this case is relatively minor, since it occurs in the parts of the proposal that discuss prior research rather than in those parts that represent the researcher's plan for his own research. Hence the measures taken by the institution adequately meet the requirements of this case, and nothing further needs to be done. The interested parties will be informed that the matter is now closed.

Donald E. Buzzelli

Donald E. Buzzelli
September 7, 1990

Concur: *James J. Zyzanski*
9/7/90

OK *[initials]* / PYS
9/12/90