

OIG 90-3137

Closeout of M90070029

This case was brought to OIG by [REDACTED], a program officer in the [REDACTED] Division, [REDACTED] on July 31, 1990. It concerns a proposal submitted to his program by [REDACTED] in the Department [REDACTED] University. A reviewer [REDACTED] had stated that several sentences in the proposal had been copied from a published paper. These sentences were part of the statement of the problem to be studied.

The proposer noted that he had referred to the paper in his proposal and did not intend to plagiarize. However, he had copied passages from the paper in several places without indicating that they were taken verbatim or nearly verbatim from the published text. After some correspondence, it was made clear to him that such copying should be marked by more than the source reference he had made. He submitted a revised proposal that contained the proper attributions to the paper.

The amount of material copied is small, and it amounts to quite a small portion of the proposal. It would not be appropriate to initiate a more formal procedure with a view to a possible sanction. The proposer now has a clearer idea of standard practice in the use of citations, and the case can now be closed. The complainant and the program officer should be notified by phone.

[REDACTED]

January 25, 1991

Concur: James J. Zorumb
1/28/91

[REDACTED]