

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550



Office of
Inspector General

CLOSING MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 17, 1990

SUBJECT: OIG 91-3107 (M90-41)

TO: File

FROM: Counsel to the Inspector General *P. Sunshine*

A 1982 grant (# [REDACTED]) for anthropological research in [REDACTED] was suspended because of the political situation in that country. The political condition has now changed and the Anthropology Program has proposed renewing the initial grant.

[REDACTED] complained that the grant was being re-issued after this long lapse of time without peer review. The Inspector General discussed this matter with the Assistant Director for BBS and it was agreed that the grant renewal would be sent out for peer review.

The complainant also asserted that his past grant applications were not treated fairly because of problems associated with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the mid-1980's. [REDACTED] resulted in a settlement of the matter according to information in the files of the Office of General Counsel. We advised the complainant by telephone that we were not able to reopen matters directly or indirectly related to a settlement agreement. However, we assured the complainant that if he were to submit a future grant application to the Foundation we would monitor the application to ensure that it was handled fairly.

In particular, the complainant asserted that a program officer in anthropology may have interfered with his grant application in 1987. The anthropology program is in the BBS directorate and the 1987 grant application was in the geosciences directorate. We have no evidential indication that there was any involvement of BBS personnel in the application for a grant in geosciences. Given the passage of time, and our limited resources we have decided not to evaluate this claim further.

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