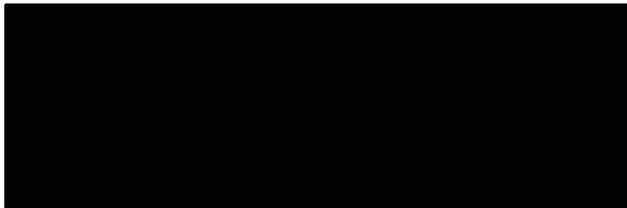


Closeout of M90120049

This case was referred to OIG by [REDACTED], a program officer in [REDACTED] on December 13, 1990. He had received a letter from the complainant, Prof. [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] Department at the [REDACTED]. The complainant alleged that a reviewer had violated the confidentiality of the review process by using material from a proposal submitted by the complainant in a published article.

However, the complainant refused to identify the reviewer or the article. He is an untenured faculty member and fears reprisals from the reviewer, who he says is a senior person in the field. He did indicate that the amount of copying was very small.

OIG examined some review articles published by reviewers of the proposal, but without finding evidence of plagiarism or intellectual theft. From the information provided, and without the cooperation of the complainant, OIG has not been able to identify the reviewer with certainty. A much wider search, involving the examination of the publications of all the reviewers of the proposal, might identify the guilty reviewer, if such a person exists. However, this is not a practical undertaking in view of the resources of OIG, especially since the harm being alleged is very slight. Consequently, this case is being closed.



Concur: James J. Zurembek  
11/19/91

Weld: FJS  
11/27/91