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ms. Betsford

UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

In Reply  
Refer to: B-204409(JAB)

September 15, 1981

The Honorable Stuart E. Schiffer  
Acting Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Attention: David Epstein, Director  
Commercial Litigation Branch

Dear Mr. Schiffer:

Subject: [ William C. Ragland v. United States  
Court of Claims No. Appeal 55-81 (M)  
Reference: SES:DE:GEHarris:sls,  
154-A55-81

We refer to your recent letter requesting a report on the above-captioned action. Through his attorney, Mr. Ragland has filed a claim for salary retention with our Claims Group. We note that the Merit Systems Protection Board dismissed his claim on jurisdictional grounds. It appears that his appeal of this action to the Court of Claims was made to preserve his appeal rights.

Our Claims Group is prepared to issue a settlement denying Mr. Ragland's claim, and we have enclosed a copy of the proposed settlement. Although we normally will not take action when a matter is pending in court, we think, in light of the circumstances surrounding this case, that our Claims Group should proceed with its settlement. We will of course wait for your concurrence before advising our Claims Group to do so.

In addition to the proposed settlement we have enclosed the documents submitted to our Claims Group and copies of several of our recent decisions in this area.

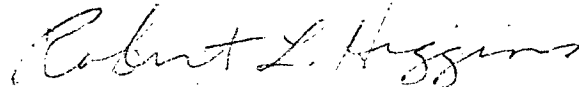
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Our records reveal no outstanding claims against the plaintiff and we know of nothing that would form the basis for a counterclaim or setoff.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter please contact Jessica A. Botsford at 275-6404.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert L. Higgins".

Robert L. Higgins  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures