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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE  
REGIONAL OFFICE  
3009 FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING, 909 FIRST AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98104

JUN 9 1971

Mr. Donald Eide  
District Director  
Bureau of Customs  
Seattle, Washington 98104



Dear Mr. Eide:

We have completed our survey of reimbursable services and selected other services being performed by Federal agencies involved in the importation process. The purpose of our survey was to (1) obtain background information on the types of services being performed and (2) evaluate the adequacy of established policies and procedures for performing these services.

We appreciated our recent opportunity to discuss with you the results of our survey. As you recall, we discussed one area which we believe may be of interest to you in improving operations in the Seattle District. In observing the clearance of a ship's crew, we noted that the inspectors were not following established procedures. Part 4.6 of the Inspector's Manual provides that when the crew member presents his purchases for clearance each article should be checked against his declaration. Also, Customs regulation 23.4(b) alludes to an inspection by providing for penalties if the seaman's declaration does not include all articles landed. In our observations we noted that the inspectors did not check the seamen's foreign purchases against their declarations nor did they perform any inspection as the seamen left the ship.

We believe that greater control over ship's crew is essential to prevent illegal or undeclared items from entering the U.S. undetected. We would appreciate being advised of your views on this matter as well as any action you may subsequently take to improve local controls.

We wish to thank you and your staff for the courtesy and cooperation given our representatives during this survey. We are available for further discussion of the foregoing matter, if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

Irwin M. D'Addario  
Acting Regional Manager

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