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BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Report To The Congress

OF THE UNITED STATES

Examination Of Fiscal 1979 Presidential And Vice Presidential Certified Expenditures

This is our first report, as required by Public Law 95-570, on certified presidential and vice-presidential expenses. The expenses are accounted for solely on the certificate of the President and Vice President. However, the Comptroller General is authorized to audit the accounts to verify that such expenses were for authorized purposes. He is required to report to the Congress on this verification and on any expenditures made for unauthorized purposes.

GAO's review has been completed for fiscal 1979 and no unauthorized expenditures were identified.



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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-199337

To The President of The Senate and
Speaker of The House of Representatives

As required by Public Law 95-570, we have verified the fiscal 1979 presidential and vice-presidential expenses for five categories of expenditures. Those categories are (1) subsistence expenses for persons in the Government service while traveling on official business with the President, (2) subsistence expenses for persons in the Government service while traveling on official business with the Vice President, (3) official entertainment of the President, (4) official entertainment of the Vice President, and (5) operation and maintenance of the executive residence at the White House. All of the above expenses are accounted for solely on the certificate of the President or Vice President for their respective accounts.

Public Law 95-570 allows the Comptroller General to verify that the expenditures were properly within the categories authorized, and requires a certification to the Congress on our verification, and the disclosure of any unauthorized expenditures we found. Our work was limited to verifying that all expenses incurred related to one of the categories authorized by law. In verifying the expenses, we included tests and examinations of support that we considered necessary.

We evaluated the controls over the authorization, approval, purchase, receipt, and distribution of assets as well as the recording of costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the executive residence. We reviewed the subsistence expenses for persons in the Government service while traveling with the President or with the Vice President. Finally, we reviewed the expenses associated with official entertainment of the President or of the Vice President. We evaluated the criteria used in classifying events as official, political, or personal to determine whether entertainment expenditures were for official occasions.

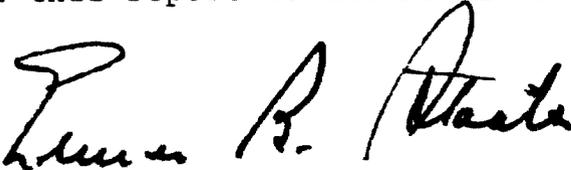
For fiscal 1979, the following amounts were appropriated for the accounts we verified:

B-199337

Travel with the President (not to exceed)	\$ 100,000
Travel with the Vice President	\$ 70,000
Official entertainment of the Vice President (not to exceed)	\$ 60,000
Operation and maintenance of the executive residence at the White House including official entertainment of the President	\$2,683,000

We verified that all transactions examined were for purposes authorized by Public Law 95-570.

We are sending copies of this report to the President and Vice President.


Comptroller General
of the United States

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