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# Reports and Testimony: January 1994

## Highlights

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### Improving Government

*Although progress has been made in the last year in addressing major management problems, the federal government still lacks a basic financial and information management foundation to ensure accountability and implementation of broader reforms. Page 14.*

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### V-22 Osprey

*After eight years of development, the Navy's V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft still faces major design and operational problems as well as escalating costs that could mean the ultimate cost of each plane might reach as much as \$64 million. Page 20.*

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### Minority Scholarships

*An investigation of minority-targeted scholarships—those for which some form of minority status is an eligibility requirement—shows that although these scholarships represent only a small proportion of total scholarship programs and dollars, many school officials find them valuable in recruiting and retaining minority students. Page 4.*

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# Reports and Testimony: January 1994

## Agriculture and Food

### **Dairy Industry: Potential for and Barriers to Market Development**

GAO/RCED-94-19, Dec. 21 (68 pages).

Since 1981, Congress has sought to reduce the U.S. dairy industry's dependence on federal financial support. As a result, the government's costs under the U.S. dairy program have shrunk from \$2.7 billion in fiscal year 1983 to \$395 million in fiscal year 1992. In addition, recent international trade agreements may promote freer trade, causing the U.S. dairy industry to be more responsive to market forces. This report (1) compares and contrasts the U.S. dairy industry's export activities with those of other major milk-producing nations, (2) examines ways to develop and expand markets, and (3) identifies potential obstacles that the industry faces in expanding markets.

### **Agricultural Marketing: Federally Authorized Commodity Research and Promotion Programs**

GAO/RCED-94-63, Dec. 29 (24 pages).

Producers and handlers of agricultural products paid millions of dollars for federally authorized research programs in 1992. Such check-off programs, which are funded by deducting a small amount from producers' checks for each unit of a commodity they sell, are authorized by Congress at the request of the agriculture industry. The programs are run by boards, such as the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board and the American Egg Board, whose members are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture from nominations submitted by industry. This report provides information on (1) the amount and the use of check-off funds, (2) the nature and the extent of Agriculture Department (USDA) oversight, and (3) coordination of oversight responsibilities within USDA.

### **Commodity Programs: Flex Acres Enhance Farm Operations and Market Orientation**

GAO/RCED-94-76, Dec. 30 (12 pages).

Congress recently began allowing farmers to plant crops other than their designated program crops on up to 25 percent of their base acres. This flexibility was one of the principal elements of the 1990 farm legislation

aimed at improving U.S. competitiveness in the international agricultural market. Another law passed that same year eliminates income support payments on 15 percent of the base acres, even when the designated program crops are planted on that land. Taken together, these provisions establish what are commonly known as flex acres. According to the Agriculture Department (USDA), flex acres and other changes in the law will cut government costs by about \$12 billion from 1991 through 1995. In addition, USDA officials say that although farmers dislike losing part of their deficiency payments, they generally like the increased flexibility they gain from flex acres and believe that the overall impact on their operations is positive. The net economic impact of flex acres is inconclusive at this time. But given the generally positive views of farmers and the projected savings to the federal government, GAO sees no reason why flex acres should not be continued or expanded in future farm legislation.

**Farm Credit System:  
Farm Credit Administration Effectively Addresses  
Identified Problems**

GAO/GGD-94-14, Jan. 7 (196 pages).

The Farm Credit System is a government-sponsored enterprise created by Congress to ensure a stable supply of credit to farmers. The system, which is cooperatively owned by its member-borrowers, holds about \$62 billion in assets. It nearly collapsed in the mid-1980s, and the government bailout is still being repaid. This history, the large losses in the savings and loan industry, and problems in banking prompted GAO to review the regulation of the system. This report describes GAO's findings in detail.

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## Budget and Spending

**Budget Issues:  
Compliance Report Required by the Budget Enforcement Act  
of 1990**

GAO/AIMD-94-66, Jan. 10 (21 pages).

In GAO's opinion, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Congressional Budget Office sequestration reports substantially complied with the law with two exceptions. Their inflation adjustment to the fiscal year 1994 discretionary spending limits was incomplete because it did not cover personnel costs. Also, OMB's final sequester report did not include an upward adjustment to the 1993 discretionary spending limits for released

contingent emergency appropriations. If the inflation adjustment had been applied to all discretionary spending, the spending limit for discretionary budget authority would have been about \$2.3 billion lower because actual inflation was lower than that assumed in the Budget Enforcement Act when caps were originally set in 1990. Appropriated amounts, however, were far enough under the spending limit that such an adjustment would not have required a sequester. OMB's decision not to adjust the 1993 discretionary spending limits for the release of contingent emergency appropriations resulted in official discretionary spending limits that understated the full amount of spending allowed by \$132 million but did not affect any sequestration calculation.

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## Education

### **Higher Education: Information on Minority-Targeted Scholarships**

GAO/HEHS-94-77, Jan. 14 (99 pages).

Minority-targeted scholarships—scholarships for which some form of minority status is an eligibility criterion—have become controversial in recent years. Scholarships restricted to students of a specific race or ethnicity have raised concerns over perceived reverse discrimination. GAO found that although many schools awarded minority scholarships, these scholarships accounted for a small proportion of scholarships and scholarship dollars in academic year 1991-92. Most schools awarding minority scholarships used race or ethnicity as an eligibility criterion; few used gender, religion, or other minority status. Race or ethnicity, however, was rarely the sole factor. Most minority scholarships used additional criteria, such as financial need or academic merit, for awarding funds. Furthermore, students receiving race- or ethnicity-based minority scholarships made up a small percentage of all racial or ethnic minority students. Schools funded minority scholarships primarily through (1) private endowments and (2) income from tuition and other fees. Four of the six schools GAO visited used minority scholarships to a great extent and found them valuable in recruiting and retaining minority students.

### **Rural Children: Increasing Poverty Rates Pose Educational Challenges**

GAO/HEHS-94-75BR, Jan. 11 (68 pages).

Although the population of rural children declined during the 1980s, the number of children living in poverty increased, as did the numbers of those in families headed by single mothers and parents with little education—trends that pose challenges to the education systems serving these children. Rural poverty was concentrated by region, race, and ethnicity. For example, poverty rates among rural children were highest in the South and the Southwest. Also, in many states in these regions, the majority of the poor rural children were minorities. Rural counties make up more than 80 percent of the counties that, under changes proposed by the administration, would no longer be eligible for basic or concentration grants.

**Student Loans:  
Millions Loaned Inappropriately to U.S. Nationals at Foreign  
Medical Schools**

GAO/HEHS-94-28, Jan. 21 (60 pages).

Because the Education Department has failed to ensure that foreign medical schools meet U.S. standards before letting them participate in the student loan program, an estimated \$118 million in loans between 1986 and 1991 went to students attending foreign medical schools whose standards may be questionable. This occurred for several reasons. First, Education's standards for assessing these schools fall short. In particular, Education does little to assess the clinical training of foreign medical students. Second, Education has done little to enforce the few standards it has in place. Third, Education has no way of preventing students who attend unapproved schools from receiving loans. State medical boards cannot obtain information they need to evaluate the education of foreign-trained doctors before licensing them, mainly because of a lack of resources but also because schools refuse to cooperate. As a result, unqualified physicians may be entering the mainstream of American medicine. Many states have tried to compensate for the lack of information on foreign schools by raising the postgraduate training requirements for graduates of these schools. At the same time, foreign medical associations and other groups are pressuring states to treat these graduates the same as their U.S.-trained counterparts.

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**Limited English Proficiency:  
A Growing and Costly Educational Challenge Facing Many  
School Districts**

GAO/HEHS-94-38, Jan. 28 (92 pages).

In 1990, the President and state governors agreed on six goals for the nation's education system, to be reached by the year 2000. They include first-place standing for U.S. students in math and science internationally and high student achievement in five core academic subjects. At the same time, Congress has become increasingly concerned about the ability of schools to teach the growing numbers of students who speak little or no English. In the last decade, the number of limited English proficient (LEP) students increased by nearly 26 percent. More than 2.3 million LEP students live in the United States, representing a multitude of linguistic and cultural backgrounds. This report answers the following questions: (1) What are the characteristics of LEP students, nationally and in selected school districts, and the challenges districts face in educating these students? (2) How do selected districts with LEP students from linguistically diverse backgrounds educate these students, including the extent to which academic subjects are taught in the students' native languages? (3) What approaches have been identified as promising when diversity of languages spoken by students makes native language instruction difficult? (4) Do key federal programs targeted to LEP students provide the types of support that school districts need to implement programs serving these students?

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**Employment**

**Multiple Employment Training Programs:  
Conflicting Requirements Hamper Delivery of Services**

GAO/HEHS-94-78, Jan. 28 (35 pages).

Conflicting eligibility requirements and differences in annual operating cycles are hampering federal employment training programs from helping people in need of services. Differences in eligibility criteria, such as income level, family or household definitions, and age, make determining who is eligible for which program a complex process that confuses clients and frustrates administrators. Within each target group, differences in annual operating cycles also hinder the ability of program administrators to cooperate to ensure that participants receive needed services. For example, the 16 programs that target youth have four different operating cycles. One state administrator stated the problem especially clearly: "The

aim of case management is to assess various programs in order to deliver the best services possible to clients. However, conflicting requirements turn coordination into a jigsaw puzzle ....”

**Multiple Employment Training Programs:  
Overlapping Programs Can Add Unnecessary Administrative Costs**

GAO/HEHS-94-80, Jan. 28 (31 pages).

In the current fragmented system of federal job training programs, many programs are targeting the same populations. This overlap in client groups raises questions about duplicated effort and wasted government resources. GAO’s analysis of nine programs that target the poor showed that the programs had similar goals, often served the same kinds of people, and provided many of the same services using separate, yet parallel, delivery structures. The overlap can add unnecessary administrative costs at each level of government—federal, state, and local.

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## Energy

**Nuclear Science:  
Developing Technology to Reduce Radioactive Waste May Take  
Decades and Be Costly**

GAO/RCED-94-16, Dec. 10 (45 pages).

U.S. efforts to develop a technology that might be able to reduce the volume and the radioactivity of nuclear waste have lagged because the Energy Department (DOE) believes that the technology, known as waste transmutation, is too costly and unnecessary. Such radioactive waste, the legacy of decades of commercial nuclear power and nuclear weapons production, will have to be buried in a deep geological repository. In essence, any practical application of transmutation is at least decades away, and several roadblocks would likely slow or prevent application should it be pursued. These include current funding constraints; the high cost and the long time needed to develop and implement transmutation; and the technical, institutional, and public challenges that would have to be overcome. Moreover, DOE’s waste managers, industry representatives, and others now believe that transmutation is neither necessary nor cost-beneficial.

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**Health and Safety:  
DOE's Implementation of a Comprehensive Health Surveillance  
Program Is Slow**

GAO/RCED-94-47, Dec. 16 (17 pages).

Workers in the Energy Department's (DOE) industrial complex are at risk of exposure to ionizing radiation, potentially toxic chemicals, and other health hazards. A 1989 DOE panel recommended that the agency begin a health surveillance program to systematically collect and analyze data on workers' health and workplace conditions to detect illnesses or health trends linked to workplace exposure. In the four years since, DOE has not fully implemented such a program. DOE attributes the delay to technical difficulties and staffing shortages, although GAO believes that a lack of program planning has also been a contributing factor. DOE now projects full program implementation by 1998. Until a comprehensive program is developed, DOE will continue a program that began at the University of Washington in 1983—one that is limited to analyzing patterns of illnesses and injuries on the basis of information provided by DOE sites. A lack of complete reporting of illnesses and injuries, however, limits the current program's ability to flag the occupational diseases, injuries, and premature deaths that threaten workers. Expanding the program to additional sites without correcting these problems will simply make a program with limited effectiveness larger and will do little to improve the health of DOE workers.

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**Environmental  
Protection**

**Pesticides on Farms:  
Limited Capability Exists to Monitor Occupational Illnesses  
and Injuries**

GAO/PEMD-94-6, Dec. 15 (58 pages).

Do monitoring systems at the state and federal levels accurately gauge the nature and the extent of illnesses linked to pesticide exposure on farms? GAO found that a number of federal and state reporting systems, surveys, and other data sources provided some information on acute pesticide-related illnesses in the United States. Except for special research studies, however, none address delayed onset or chronic health effects. Moreover, except for the California state monitoring system, all are quite limited in coverage, comprehensiveness, and data quality. As a result, the national incidence or prevalence of pesticide illnesses in American

agriculture cannot be determined. Without a valid and reliable means of monitoring, there is no way to spot problems that may arise with the use of different pesticides or to determine whether risk assessment and management practices successfully prevent hazardous exposure.

**Superfund:  
Further EPA Management Action Is Needed to Reduce  
Legal Expenses**

GAO/RCED-94-90, Jan. 13 (31 pages).

Parties responsible for pollution at hazardous waste sites are liable for any cleanup costs. Responsible parties also incur costs, especially legal expenses, when they allocate responsibilities among themselves, settle with the government, or litigate liability for cleanups. At some sites, hundreds and even thousands of parties are involved in allocating cleanup costs and litigating liability. To reduce these costs, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has several tools at its disposal, ranging from expedited settlements for small-volume waste contributors to the use of neutral third parties to help resolve liability and cost allocation problems. This report (1) determines how often EPA has used these tools, (2) identifies any impediments to their use, and (3) assesses EPA's recent actions to increase use of these tools.

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## Financial Institutions

**Bank Insurance Fund:  
Review of Loss Estimation Methodologies**

GAO/AIMD-94-48, Dec. 9 (26 pages).

GAO reviewed the methodologies used by five forecasters—the Congressional Budget Office, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of Management and Budget, Ely and Company, and Roger J. Vaughan and Edward W. Hill—to estimate bank failures and resulting losses incurred by the Bank Insurance Fund. This report (1) contrasts the various approaches used by these forecasters in estimating bank failures and losses and (2) discusses the major similarities and differences between them, the key assumptions used, and the timing and the frequency of their preparation.

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## Financial Management

### **Financial Audit: House Office Systems Management—Three Months Ended 9/30/92 and Fiscal Years Ended 6/30/92 and 6/30/91**

GAO/AIMD-94-18, Jan. 14 (14 pages).

GAO audited the statements of receipts and costs for the House Office Systems Management, which provides congressional offices with such items as computer equipment, copiers, and television and video equipment. GAO found that (1) they were reliable in all material respects; (2) internal controls provided reasonable assurances that losses, noncompliance with laws and regulations, and misstatements material to the financial statements would be prevented or detected (controls over automated financial data, however, needed improvement); and (3) there was no material noncompliance with laws and regulations. GAO noted that the House Office Systems Management lacked certain control procedures to prevent or detect all unauthorized changes to its automated financial data.

### **Financial Audit: Environmental and Energy Study Conference Financial Statements for 1992 and 1991**

GAO/AIMD-94-45, Jan. 14 (11 pages).

GAO audited the balance sheets of the Environmental and Energy Study Conference for 1992 and 1991 and the related statements of revenues and expenses and cash flows for those years. The Conference is a legislative service organization that provides its sponsoring Senators and Representatives with information on environmental, energy, and natural resources issues affecting federal legislation. GAO found that (1) the financial statements were reliable in all material respects; (2) internal controls reasonably ensured that losses, noncompliance with laws and regulations, and misstatements material to the financial statements would be prevented or detected; and (3) there was no material noncompliance with laws and regulations.

## Government Operations

### **Paperwork Reduction: Reported Burden Hour Increases Reflect New Estimates, Not Actual Changes**

GAO/PEMD-94-3, Dec. 6 (24 pages).

The U.S. government is the world's largest creator, collector, distributor, and user of information. From filing income tax returns to applying for food stamps, the American citizen is faced with a government form. In addition, thousands of businesses, nonprofit groups, and state and local governments fill out lengthy applications to receive federal benefits or to remain eligible as government contractors. During 1992, Americans spent nearly 6.6 billion hours filling out forms, answering survey questions, and compiling records for the federal government—the equivalent of hiring more than 3 million full-time workers annually to complete paperwork. GAO estimates that the federal paperwork burden, as measured in hours, increased 261 percent between 1987 and 1992, most of which was due to a Treasury Department reassessment of the time it spends processing paperwork, especially tax-related reporting and filing requirements at the Internal Revenue Service. This report discusses in detail (1) how the paperwork burden has changed over time, (2) what factors account for the observed change, (3) whether some groups have been affected differently, and (4) whether the reasons for information collection have changed.

### **Farm Credit System: Costs for Office Space, Equipment, and Furniture Compared to GSA's Costs**

GAO/GGD-94-57, Jan. 7 (17 pages).

The Farm Credit System (FCS) is a nationwide system of borrower-owned banks and associations established by Congress to provide credit and other financial services to farmers and their cooperatives. FCS and its regulator, the Farm Credit Administration (FCA), could save money if they had access to and used General Services Administration (GSA) supply sources for office equipment and furniture purchases. GSA prices for these items were often less than the prices that FCS and FCA obtained on their own in 1992. Even though FCA and FCS banks were allowed to use GSA supply sources, they did not do so routinely in 1992. FCS entities other than banks are not authorized to use GSA sources. Although FCS and FCA 1992 costs for leasing and operating space were about the same as GSA's costs, FCS and FCA used more space per employee than either GSA's space

utilization goal or agencies' actual usage rates in GSA space, due partly to recent staffing cuts. FCS and FCA are trying to reduce the amount of office space they use, which should improve their space utilization rates.

**Status of Open Recommendations:  
Improving Operations of Federal Departments and Agencies**

GAO/OP-94-1, Jan. 14 (240 pages).

In fiscal year 1994, GAO made more than 1,600 recommendations. This report highlights the impact of GAO's work on everything from health care to transportation to international affairs. It also summarizes the key recommendations that have yet to be fully acted upon. For the first time, computer disks are being automatically included with the printed report. This hypertext software, which provides greater detail on all open recommendations, contains menu options that allow users to locate information easily.

**Voice of America:  
Station Modernization Projects Need to Be Justified**

GAO/NSIAD-94-69, Jan. 24 (12 pages).

The end of the Cold War, technological advances, and organizational changes in U.S. foreign broadcasting programs may render some of the Voice of America's (VOA) shortwave modernization projects obsolete before they are finished. Democracy is spreading in many parts of the world, host country media have become more reliable broadcast sources, and VOA and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty audiences have shrunk. By the turn of the century, direct satellite broadcasts involving high-quality signals may be available. Despite these trends, VOA plans to continue to build new shortwave stations and modernize existing ones. More than half of the \$900 million VOA plans to spend on modernization through 2003 is for shortwave projects that have not yet begun. The planned shortwave modernization projects are not supported by cost-benefit analyses.

**Government Management:  
Update on GAO's High-Risk Areas**

GAO/AIMD-94-72R, Jan. 27 (11 pages).

Since early 1990, GAO has been reviewing and reporting on government programs especially vulnerable to waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement. This report updates the 17 areas included in GAO's High-Risk Series issued in December 1992 and adds to the list the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), where billions of dollars continue to be at risk due to long-standing organizational, systems, and staffing problems. In GAO's view, HUD warrants the special focus that comes with high-risk designation.

## Testimony

Decennial Census: Promising Proposals, Some Progress, but Challenges Remain, by William M. Hunt, Director of Federal Management Issues, before the Subcommittee on Census, Statistics, and Postal Personnel, House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. GAO/T-GGD-94-80, Jan. 26 (13 pages).

Over the last year, GAO has chronicled the fundamental changes that the Census Bureau has been making in its census methodology to contain costs and improve accuracy. GAO remains concerned about the long-term prospects for reform, given the Bureau's slow progress to date and the significant challenges that still confront the agency. Although GAO is encouraged by the recent testing of proposals to modify the census methodology, it believes that the Bureau must aggressively plan for and carefully implement its research, testing, and evaluation programs. Results of these efforts must be made available to ensure fully informed and timely decisions and to build needed support among key stakeholders and customers for changes in the 2000 census. Continuing top-level leadership at the Census Bureau, the Commerce Department, and the Office of Management and Budget is critical to generating consensus on the direction of change and the implications of census reform for federal and other data needs. As long as the position of Bureau Director remains vacant, however, the Census Bureau will lack a fully vested and authoritative voice.

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**Improving Government: Actions Needed to Sustain and Enhance Management Reforms**, by Charles A. Bowsher, Comptroller General of the United States, before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. GAO/T-OCG-94-1, Jan. 27 (44 pages).

Over the years, GAO has testified repeatedly on the breadth and the seriousness of the problems undermining the effectiveness and the credibility of the federal government. The Comptroller General is very encouraged by the trend toward a smaller, more efficient government—one that stresses accountability and manages for results. Although 1993 showed promising activity, much hard work remains to turn proposals for management improvement into meaningful, lasting results. The federal government still is a long way from having the most basic management foundation in place to guarantee accountability and effective implementation of broader reforms. The Comptroller General urges Congress to expand the requirement for audited financial statements to more federal programs and agencies, strengthen the framework for managing information technology to ensure that agencies come up with systems that effectively support federal programs, focus on high-risk programs especially vulnerable to waste and mismanagement, implement the new performance results measurement legislation, and develop strategies for implementing the National Performance Review recommendations. All these difficult reforms must be achieved against a backdrop of continuing budgetary pressures and the realities of moving to a smaller, more efficient government. Strong leadership and legislative-executive branch cooperation will be essential.

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## Health

### **Health Insurance Regulation: Wide Variation in States' Authority, Oversight, and Resources**

GAO/HRD-94-26, Dec. 27 (64 pages).

Although state insurance departments are responsible for overseeing health insurers and protecting consumers, their authority extends over only part of the market and varies widely among states. Moreover, more and more states have elected to self-insure their health plans under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, thereby avoiding state regulation. About 24 percent of health care is now paid for by private health insurance that is regulated by state insurance departments. Although the National Association of Insurance Commissioners has tried to establish a uniform, nationwide system of insurance regulation, it has no authority to require states to adopt its model policies; this

responsibility falls to state legislatures. The resources that state legislatures allocate to their insurance departments and the proportion that the departments dedicate to regulating health insurance also vary widely among states. State insurance departments work to protect consumers from insurer failures, unfair policy provisions, excessive premiums, and unscrupulous business practices—any of which could financially devastate policyholders. GAO found wide variations in the practices and the procedures that states use to monitor insurer solvency, approve health insurance premium rates and policy forms, and respond to consumer complaints. As Congress reviews the various proposals for health care reform, it needs to consider what role, if any, state insurance departments will play in enforcing new requirements that may be imposed on health insurers.

**Medicare and Medicaid:  
Many Eligible People Not Enrolled in Qualified Medicare  
Beneficiary Program**

GAO/HEHS-94-52, Jan. 20 (27 pages).

The Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program pays many out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare recipients whose incomes are not quite low enough to qualify them for regular Medicare benefits. The number of people enrolled has steadily increased since the program began in 1989, but a substantial portion of those eligible have yet to sign up—despite repeated efforts by government and advocacy groups to publicize the program. Many believe that people have not enrolled because of the perceived welfare stigma associated with means-tested programs and because of the complicated application process. Many also believe that authorizing the Social Security Administration (SSA) to make program eligibility determinations would help overcome these factors and boost enrollment. Although SSA might be able to increase enrollment, GAO believes that this concept should be tested before it is generally adopted. Finally, some state part A buy-in practices delay or preclude enrollment of Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program and regular Medicaid beneficiaries in part A. This, in turn, can place some beneficiaries at a disadvantage relative to beneficiaries in other states.

## International Affairs

### **Conventional Arms Control: Former Warsaw Pact Nations' Treaty Compliance and U.S. Cost Control**

GAO/NSIAD-94-33, Dec. 14 (39 pages).

By November 1993, thousands of former Warsaw Pact and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) tanks, artillery pieces, aircraft, and other military equipment were to be destroyed under the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe. As a group, the former Warsaw Pact nations have shown the technical ability to reduce equipment quickly enough to meet the November 1993 interim deadline. In general, the U.S. government agencies GAO reviewed have successfully exercised all treaty rights and have met all treaty obligations. But in doing so, agencies have incurred significant implementation costs, which GAO estimates will exceed \$134 million during the first three years. Policy changes could yield significant savings. To fully explore cost-saving options, however, policy officials need more complete data on implementation costs.

### **Foreign Assistance: U.S. Had Made Slow Progress in Involving Women in Development**

GAO/NSIAD-94-16, Dec. 21 (81 pages).

The Agency for International Development (AID) has only recently begun to consider the role of women in its third-world development strategies, despite the fact that 20 years have passed since Congress directed that AID assistance programs focus on integrating women into the economies of developing countries. Many AID officials view women-in-development as either a narrow special interest issue or as one more responsibility for an overburdened staff. The State Department has generally promoted women's issues through its Bureaus of International Organizations Affairs and Refugee Programs. It has yet to carry out, however, a 1974 legislative directive encouraging U.S. international organizations to promote women's economic and policy-making participation and to consider progress on women's issues when making U.S. contributions to international groups. Refugee women are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse and face discrimination in the delivery of goods and services. Although women and children are the majority of refugee camp residents, women in the four camps GAO visited were largely excluded from decision-making and the development of aid programs. The cultural values of relief officials continue to influence camp conditions for women. The

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State Department supports training for refugee workers to more effectively address to needs of refugee women and girls.

**Export Controls:  
Actions Needed to Improve Enforcement**

GAO/NSIAD-94-28, Dec. 30 (74 pages).

The Persian Gulf War illustrated vividly the dangers posed when countries such as Iraq obtain so-called dual-use equipment and technology needed to develop weapons of mass destruction. Controlling exports is central to the U.S. strategy for preventing the spread of these weapons. This report reviews (1) the tools and resources available to the Commerce Department and the U.S. Customs Service in carrying out their enforcement responsibilities, (2) how well they are enforcing export controls, (3) impediments to effective enforcement, and (4) options for modifying the current enforcement organizational structure.

**Promoting Democracy:  
Foreign Affairs and Defense Agencies Funds and Activities—1991 to 1993**

GAO/NSIAD-94-83, Jan. 4 (33 pages).

This report inventories U.S.-government-funded programs aimed at democratic development. This information is presented, on a geographic basis, for fiscal years 1991-93 for the Agency for International Development, the Defense Department, the State Department, the National Endowment for Democracy, and the U.S. Information Agency. GAO also identifies the legislation authorizing U.S. assistance for democratic involvement.

**Foreign Assistance:  
U.S. Participation in FAO's Technical Cooperation Program**

GAO/NSIAD-94-32, Jan. 11 (137 pages).

Foreign governments that have received projects under the United Nation's (UN) Technical Cooperation Program are generally satisfied with the program, have found most of the projects useful, and have generated the money to expand many project activities. Nevertheless, the criteria governing the program are vague and do not reflect all of the UN Food and

Agriculture Organization's (FAO) goals for the program. Since the program activities GAO reviewed were not responses to urgent or unforeseen needs, the governing bodies could have programmed them in advance, along with other usual budget activities, through their established programming procedures. Programming would increase the governing bodies' influence over the distribution of program resources. GAO also found management weaknesses in the program, such as delays in hiring and buying equipment, lack of compliance with purchasing requirements, and the absence of impact evaluations. Financial management weaknesses included delaying the release of unused funds from completed projects, carrying over large amounts of unobligated program funds from one biennium to the next, and charging expenses on new projects to earlier unused appropriations. FAO has taken some corrective measures, but the governing bodies have not required information on their results or additional corrective actions.

**El Salvador:  
Implementation of Post-War Programs Slower Than Expected**

GAO/NSLAD-94-10, Jan. 18 (24 pages).

Aid provided by the United States and other donors has fallen far short of the amount need by El Salvador to move ahead with post-war reconstruction and reform programs mandated by the 1992 peace agreement. The Salvadoran government estimates that it needs about \$1.83 billion through 1996 to finance the remaining programs mandated by the peace agreements, but government and international donors, including the United States, have committed only \$1.15 billion so far—a shortfall of about \$682 million. Donors have pledged another \$197 million in assistance, but the agreements for this funding have not been finalized and obtaining more donor pledges is unlikely. The Salvadoran government may be able to increase its own contributions however, as better-than-expected economic growth is forecast over the next several years. The development of the National Civilian Police and its academy has been slow due to insufficient funding. Although police recruits from the academy are being deployed, they are undertrained and poorly equipped. Land distribution to ex-combatants and landless civilians as well as the National Reconstruction Plan have been delayed by disagreements between the government and former opposition forces over program elements. These programs have also been plagued by technical and administrative problems.

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**Measuring U.S.-Canada Trade:  
Shifting Trade Winds May Threaten Recent Progress**

GAO/GGD-94-4, Jan. 19 (87 pages).

The United States and Canada are the world's top trading partners. The free trade agreement between the two countries, which took effect in 1989 and is gradually phasing out duties on bilateral trade, is expected to further enhance their trade relationship. Given the importance of this relationship to the economies of the two nations, accurate data on its nature and extent are vital. For this reason, GAO and the Office of the Auditor General of Canada reviewed the capacity of the statistical systems of both countries to produce accurate and complete trade data for the present and the future. This report focuses mainly on merchandise trade data but also recognizes the importance of data on international transactions of services, investment income, and capital.

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**Justice and Law  
Enforcement**

**Federal Prison Expansion:  
Overcrowding Reduced but Inmate Population Growth May Raise  
Issue Again**

GAO/GGD-94-48, Dec. 14 (40 pages).

The inmate population of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has risen dramatically in recent years, a trend that is expected to continue. BOP has acted on many of GAO's recommendations for expanding capacity, including greater use of double-bunking in facilities, better use of halfway houses, and use of surplus military property in prisons. But BOP has yet to pursue statutory authority that would allow it to explore whether private prisons would be a cost-effective alternative at the federal level. BOP, which has received more than \$3.1 billion in federal funding to increase bed capacity, has increased its number of facilities from 70 in 1989 to 103 in 1993; it plans to have 51 more facilities up and running by 1997. But if no changes are made to sentencing laws and if prison construction is not funded in the budgets for fiscal years 1994 and beyond to accommodate the expected growth, overcrowding could again become a serious problem in the late 1990s. Policymakers are considering revising the sentencing guidelines and laws to permit the use of alternative sanctions. Changing these law enforcement policies could effect the total prison capacity needed; types of facilities needed; and the resource requirements of other law enforcement entities, such as the judiciary's Probation Service.

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**Sentencing:  
Intermediate Sanctions in the Criminal Justice System**

GAO/GGD-94-63BR, Jan. 14 (132 pages).

The federal prison population has soared in recent years, as has the cost of housing the inmates. Consequently, interest has grown in a group of programs known collectively as intermediate sanctions, which generally involve sentences that are harsher than simple probation and less severe than traditional imprisonment. Examples of intermediate sanctions include "shock incarceration"—typically boot camps for teenage offenders; intensive probation supervision; and home confinement. This briefing report discusses (1) available sanctions, (2) eligibility for the sanctions, (3) the sanctions imposed—both intermediate and other sanctions—on convicted offenders in fiscal year 1991, (4) the agencies responsible for administering the sanctions, (5) the monthly operating and expansion costs of illustrative sentences, and (6) legal limitations on the increased use of sanctions other than imprisonment.

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**National Defense**

**Navy Aviation:  
V-22 Development—Schedule Extended, Performance Reduced, and Costs Increased**

GAO/NSIAD-94-44, Jan. 13 (36 pages).

Major elements of the Navy's V-22 Osprey remain inadequate or untested after eight years of development. In May 1986, the Navy anticipated full-scale development of the V-22 to be completed in June 1992 at a total cost of \$1.8 billion. In October 1992, when the full-scale development contract was terminated, the V-22 had been in development for six years at a cost of \$2 billion. Even so, the V-22 was more than 3,500 pounds heavier than its specifications called for, which limited its operational capabilities. Design and operational work was not completed on such critical components as the wing, the main landing gear, flight controls, and the rotor drive system. The price tag for purchasing each of the tilt-rotor aircraft, which are designed to take off and land like helicopters and to fly like fixed-wing planes, could reach \$64 million. GAO recommends that the Navy use more-realistic capability assumptions in its new cost, operational, and effectiveness analysis of the V-22 variant and the helicopter alternatives. GAO also recommends that if the V-22 variant is chosen as a cost-effective candidate, the Navy eliminate or significantly

reduce the overlap in its development and production to ensure that operational requirements are met before procurement funds are requested or a commitment is made to production.

**Unmanned Aerial Vehicles:  
Performance of Short-Range System Still in Question**

GAO/NSIAD-94-65, Dec. 15 (17 pages).

The Army is acquiring the short-range unmanned aerial vehicle—a pilotless aircraft that can be controlled from the ground—at a projected cost of \$4.1 billion. The small plane is expected to fly over enemy territory and perform reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and intelligence missions. The Pentagon believes that the preproduction test results justify the vehicle's low-rate production. GAO's review of the test results, however, revealed deficiencies that could jeopardize the system's ability to meet military requirements. In addition, several important performance requirements either were not tested or were tested under unrealistic conditions, further compounding the uncertainty about system performance. The upshot is that the Defense Department, by allowing the program to be driven by schedule requirements rather than by proven achievements, has committed to acquiring an unproven and possibly deficient system.

**Strategic Bomber:  
Issues Relating to the B-1B's Availability and Ability to Perform  
Conventional Missions**

GAO/NSIAD-94-81, Jan. 10 (16 pages).

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has refocused its national security strategy from one of deterring the Soviet nuclear threat to one emphasizing conventional fighting capabilities. Air Force efforts to adapt B-1B strategic bombers, once the backbone of the U.S. nuclear force, for combat missions in conventional warfare have fallen short, however. Despite plans to modify 60 of 95 B-1B bombers, the Air Force has only 40 B-1Bs capable of flying conventional missions, a number that is not expected to increase significantly during the next decade. Further, although the Air Force requires 29 of its 65 spare B-1B engines to be serviceable at any given time to keep the planes in operation, only five were serviceable as of September 1993—an especially troubling situation

given the susceptibility of B-1B engines to ice damage. Structural cracks in the aircraft are also a continuing problem

**Air Force:**

**Assessment of DOD's Report on Plan and Capabilities for Evaluating Heavy Bombers**

GAO/NSIAD-94-99, Jan. 10 (eight pages).

The Defense Department (DOD) is required to assess the effectiveness of the B-52H and B-1B bombers in conventional missions and to report on its ability to flight-test these bombers against a variety of current and future threats. GAO found that DOD's plan offers little insight into how the key issues involving the B-1B will be addressed. According to the plan, the effectiveness of heavy bombers in conventional warfare will depend on mission planning and the ability of the bombers to deploy, perform long-duration sorties, penetrate air defenses, and employ conventional weapons. Pentagon officials made a conscious decision not include all the detail necessary to address the key issues raised in the plan about the B-1B. They view the plan as a top-level guidance document in which more detail would have been inappropriate. GAO believes that of the key issues identified in the plan, deployability is particularly critical. Resolving this issue would allow more-informed decisions on upgrading the B-1B bomber and defining future conventional roles of the B-52 and the B-2 aircraft. The plan concludes that although DOD can design realistic flight tests to determine the survivability and the operational effectiveness of proposed modifications to the B-1B and the B-52H aircraft, the design will not duplicate all known threats. DOD attributes this limitation to the lack of advanced threat air defense systems in the test resources inventory and to the vast number of possible threat postures and configurations.

**Force Structure:**

**Basis for Future Army Forces in Europe**

GAO/NSIAD-94-43, Jan. 14 (55 pages).

U.S. military forces in Europe are being cut by one-third—from 311,000 positions in 1990 to about 100,000 positions by 1996. Despite this downsizing, debate continues over the size and the composition of these forces and whether further reductions are possible. This report evaluates the Pentagon's force reduction plans and discusses (1) the basis for the size and the composition of U.S. military forces planned for Europe at the

end of fiscal year 1996 and (2) the major military capabilities that will be affected by the cuts. GAO focuses primarily on the size and the composition of Army forces in Europe since they constitute about two-thirds of all forces there.

**Security Assistance:  
Need for Improved Reporting on Excess Defense Article Transfers**

GAO/NSIAD-94-27, Jan. 18 (57 pages).

Each year, the United States supplements congressional appropriations for foreign military assistance by furnishing its allies with significant amounts of excess defense articles, including tanks, fighter and cargo aircraft, ammunition, trucks, spare parts, military rations, and clothing. Although most transfers of these excess defense articles are provided free of charge to eligible countries, some are sold at discounted prices. As U.S. forces downsize, more defense articles are becoming excess and available for transfer. This report reviews the implementation of the excess defense article program, including its scope and growth and the type of items transferred; the process used to report transfers to Congress; the accuracy of pricing/valuing procedures; and aspects of program management, including the identification of excess articles.

**Military Downsizing:  
Persons Returning to Civilian Life Need More Help From DOD**

GAO/HEHS-94-39, Jan. 21 (48 pages).

Since 1990, about 300,000 service members have left the armed forces every year due to the downsizing of the military. Because of inadequate support from the Defense Department and military service headquarters, however, many of these persons and their spouses have not been receiving timely assistance in the transition to civilian life as required by law. Officials responsible for providing transition services have been unaware of who was leaving, departing service members have not been given information translating their military experience and training into marketable civilian skills, members either have not been provided individual pre-separation counseling or have not received it promptly, and many service members and their spouses have not had a chance to attend transition seminars and use job assistance centers. Service members and their spouses who did receive transition services told GAO that they had found them helpful in readjusting to civilian life. In September 1993, the

Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum stressing the need for commander support of the program.

**U.S. Special Operations Forces:  
Helicopter Cost Is Understated and Reliability Measures  
Are Inadequate**

GAO/NSIAD-94-46, Jan. 25 (18 pages).

The \$1.2 billion in development and procurement estimates submitted to Congress does not reflect the total costs to develop and procure the MH-47E and MH-60K helicopters. For example, at least \$367 million in procurement costs were omitted because they were included in budget documents for Army programs or activities. In addition, the total cost to support and maintain the aircraft—pegged at upwards of \$3.6 billion—has not been reported to Congress because there is no requirement to do so. The primary reliability measurement criterion the Army plans to use to assess the helicopters' reliability is flawed because it measures only their ability to return to friendly territory and not their ability to perform special missions. Because the Army is focusing on the aircraft's ability to return to friendly territory, the measure does not assess the effectiveness of essential equipment.

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**Natural Resources**

**The Gettysburg Address:  
Issues Related to Display and Preservation**

GAO/RCED-94-12, Jan. 26 (26 pages).

Of the five known original manuscripts of the Gettysburg Address, two are in the collection of the Library of Congress. Since 1979, the Library's two drafts have been displayed during the spring and the summer at the Gettysburg National Military Park, which is run by the Park Service. The Library plans to substitute a high-quality facsimile for display at the park after 1994, a move that the Park Service opposes. This report discusses (1) the risks inherent in exhibiting a draft at the park or elsewhere, (2) whether the Park Service has met the Library's exhibition and preservation requirements and can meet future requirements, and (3) the estimated cost of exhibiting the document at the park in the current or an upgraded facility versus the cost of building a comparable facility at the Library. GAO notes that exhibiting the drafts at the park has allowed millions of Americans to see the original documents in a historic setting

and that the Park Service seems capable of meeting evolving exhibition and preservation requirements. The conference report accompanying the fiscal year 1994 legislative branch appropriations act supports exhibiting an original draft in Gettysburg and encourages the Library and the Park Service to reopen discussions on extending the loan of the address. Ultimately, it is Congress' call as to where the drafts should be displayed.

## Science, Space, and Technology

### **Space Operations: Archiving Space Science Data Needs Further Management Improvements**

GAO/NSIAD-94-25, Dec. 9 (24 pages).

In two 1990 reports (GAO/IMTEC-90-1 and GAO/IMTEC-91-3), GAO criticized the conditions of NASA's data archives, pointing out that the archives were incomplete for many important missions and held no data for others. GAO recommended that NASA improve the physical condition of its archives, obtain and restore all appropriate data from past missions, and revise its data management policies to ensure that all valuable data are adequately achieved in the future. Since then, NASA has improved its data-archiving policies and practices, but further improvements are needed to correct some significant long-standing problems, such as continuing storage of data at "temporary locations" that do not meet archive standards and the lack of periodic inspections of data archives to ensure that data quality is protected.

### **Space Projects: Astrophysics Facility Program Contains Cost and Technical Risks**

GAO/NSIAD-94-80, Jan. 28 (15 pages).

The Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF) is to be the third in NASA's series of four "great observatories," which are expected to provide new data and insights into the age, evolution, and composition of the universe. By redesigning and dividing the AXAF into two satellites, NASA has been able to make the program more affordable. The restructuring cut program costs by 54 percent without compromising the AXAF's scientific mission. Affordability for the AXAF-I—the satellite devoted to high-resolution x-ray imaging—may still be a concern, however, because funding reserves for it may fall short. Also, NASA may not have fully accounted for the increased technical risks inherent in the new design. As now designed, AXAF-I cannot

be repaired in orbit, which means that hardware failures could scuttle missions. Further minimizing the risk of hardware failures demands the highest quality parts and rigorous testing, which would boost costs significantly. NASA expects the restructured program to achieve most of AXAF's original science objectives because, owing to a higher orbit for AXAF-1 and greater individual use of instruments, the satellites should operate more efficiently than the originally planned single satellite.

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## Social Services

### **Older Americans Act: Title III Funds Not Distributed According to Statute**

GAO/HEHS-94-37, Jan. 18 (21 pages).

The Administration on Aging's (AOA) method of allocating funds under title III of the Older Americans Act is inconsistent with the law's basic requirement that funds be distributed to states in a manner proportionate to their elderly populations. Funds must be allotted proportionally among the states except that no state is to receive less than the minimum set by law. AOA's current method of computing allotments ensures that the minimums are met but in a way that fails to achieve proportionality among states not subject to the minimum grant requirements. Among the distorting effects of AOA's method are that the amounts allotted per elderly person are not equal in similarly populated states and that states with more rapidly growing elderly populations are underfunded. The required method avoids or minimizes both effects.

### **Residential Care: Some High-Risk Youth Benefit, But More Study Needed**

GAO/HEHS-94-56, Jan. 28 (75 pages).

A recent study has estimated that more than 10 percent of the nation's youth are engaging in behaviors that seriously jeopardize their futures, including poor academic performance, substance abuse, delinquency, and unprotected sex. One approach for dealing with at-risk youth—residential care—removes them from where they normally live and places them in settings ranging from tents in the woods to suburban homes, where they are taught skills and prepared to return to their communities and become contributing members of society. GAO found that although few rigorous evaluations of residential programs have been done, the studies issued so far suggest that residential care can successfully treat some high-risk

youths. Thorough evaluations are needed to determine which treatments are most effective and what the long-term effects of the treatment are so that policymakers can make sound decisions on the most effective mix of programs and the best role for residential care. Program officials and other experts agree that some key elements enhance the programs' ability to alter high-risk behavior, such as close ties with the youths' families and continuing support after the youths have left the residential setting and returned to their neighborhoods.

**Long-Term Care:  
Private Sector Elder Care Could Yield Multiple Benefits**

GAO/HEHS-94-60, Jan. 31 (45 pages).

Today, about 6 million older Americans need help living at home because of their disabilities. The demand for this kind of assistance is expected to increase significantly in the future, with upwards of 10 million persons needing help by 2020. Most disabled elderly receive this care from family members and friends, primarily women. Yet greater geographic dispersion of families, smaller family sizes, and the large numbers of working women are straining the ability of caregivers. Some companies are responding to the needs of their workers with policies and programs, known as "elder care," to help ease work and caregiving conflicts. This report evaluates (1) the extent and nature of company practices now offered to help employees who look after the elderly, (2) planned changes in these practices, and (3) the potential of company practices to further support informal caregivers.

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**Tax Policy and  
Administration**

**Tax Administration:  
Changes Needed to Cope With Growth in Offer in  
Compromise Program**

GAO/GGD-94-47, Dec. 23 (27 pages).

The Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Offer in Compromise Program involves compromises on tax debts because of doubts about liability or collectibility. Amounts collected through the program are small relative to IRS' overall collections—\$106 million in accepted offers versus about \$24 billion in overall collections in fiscal year 1992. Nonetheless, the program has grown rapidly since IRS began promoting it in February 1992. IRS believes that the program improves taxpayer compliance and will boost

collections but has no way of measuring whether the program is achieving these ends. Such information is crucial because the program's growth may strain IRS' collection resources and because the program could undermine voluntary compliance should taxpayers conclude that the program is too liberal. One effect of the program's growth has been added costs for IRS to investigate all taxpayer offers. The mounting number of offers and limited collection resources underscore the need for IRS to streamline the investigation of low-dollar cases, reduce inefficient manual monitoring of deferred payments receipts, and obtain authority to determine which offers need to be reviewed by legal counsel. Despite new IRS procedures clarifying its policy on offers, acceptance rates for offers continue to vary widely at IRS district offices.

## Transportation

### **Aviation Safety:**

#### **FAA Can Better Prepare General Aviation Pilots for Mountain Flying Risks**

GAO/RCED-94-15, Dec. 9 (68 pages).

About one-third of all general aviation accidents during fiscal year 1992 occurred in the western continental United States, which is mountainous. GAO found that the general aviation accident rate was (1) nearly 40 percent higher for mountainous western states than for all other continental states in fiscal year 1992 and (2) 155 percent higher for a group of mountain airports GAO reviewed than for nonmountain airports. During the pilot certification process and safety seminars, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) warns pilots about the hazards of flying in mountain areas. Many fatal accidents occur each year, however, because pilots are often unfamiliar with the risks of or lack experience in mountain flying. Some communities have begun restricting access to their airports at night, which has led to disputes with FAA. GAO recommends that FAA (1) issue guidance that identifies mountain airports, describes the unique challenges the airports present to pilots, and recommend approach and takeoff routes at those airports under visual flight rules; (2) provide incentives for pilots to seek mountain flying training; and (3) modify the written test to include specific questions on the risks of mountain flying.

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**Gray Market Vehicle Program:  
Extension Warranted, but Improvements in Vehicle Identification  
Are Needed**

GAO/RCED-94-22, Jan. 3 (55 pages).

“Gray market” vehicles are cars and trucks imported into the United States, either permanently or temporarily, by persons other than the original manufacturer; permanent imports must be converted to meet U.S. safety standards. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which runs the gray market program, has yet to set user fees to cover program costs, and registered importers have not recalled gray market vehicles when manufacturers have recalled similar vehicles. More significantly, NHTSA still has few assurances that gray market vehicles that the Customs Department has identified as temporary imports ultimately either leave the United States or are converted to meet U.S. standards. Despite these limitations, safety considerations warrant extending and strengthening the gray market program. Although relatively few gray market vehicles are now being imported—fewer than 300 in 1992—this figure probably understates the actual number of such imports. Further, future changes in the exchange rates and other financial incentives could make importing gray market vehicles more attractive. GAO recommends that the Transportation Department (1) evaluate the merits of a uniform vehicle identification number code to indicate whether vehicles were originally built to conform to U.S. safety standards and (2) improve cooperation among state and federal agencies to better identify and control gray market vehicles.

**Aviation Security:  
Additional Actions Needed to Meet Domestic and  
International Challenges**

GAO/RCED-94-38, Jan. 27 (53 pages).

In the aftermath of the 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has taken several steps to strengthen security at U.S. airports; however, many questions about domestic and international aviation security remain unanswered. This report examines in detail FAA's efforts to (1) assess, in conjunction with the FBI, the security of domestic airports; (2) determine whether a similar level of protection exists for U.S. citizens traveling on foreign airlines; and (3) improve security for mail and cargo.

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## Veterans Affairs

### **VA Health Care: VA Medical Centers Need to Improve Monitoring of High-Risk Patients**

GAO/HRD-94-27, Dec. 10 (25 pages).

After two patients were found dead on the grounds of a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical center, GAO investigated and found that “high risk” patients—those unable to care for themselves—who wander away are a significant problem at 39 of 158 VA medical centers. In a recent two-year period, more than 100 searches were conducted for high-risk patients at 20 VA medical centers. Patients leave their treatment settings without staff knowledge primarily when medical center staff

(1) underestimate the potential for these patients to wander off without authorization or (2) fail to closely watch all high-risk patients while they are in the facility or on its grounds. During the same two-year period, about 7,000 searches were conducted throughout the VA system for high-risk patients who were reported missing. About 99 percent of these patients were ultimately found unharmed; 34 were found dead and 19 injured. VA is working to develop search procedures for these high-risk patients who disappear without staff knowledge and approval. The goal is to find these persons before they leave the medical center grounds. But VA also needs to do a better job of monitoring high-risk patients to prevent unauthorized departures in the first place. Further, VA can do more to locate unaccounted-for patients.

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## Special Publications

### **Abstracts of Reports and Testimony: Fiscal Year 1993**

GAO/OIMC-94-3A and GAO/OIMC-94-3B (indexes), Jan. 1994 (219 pages and 418 pages).

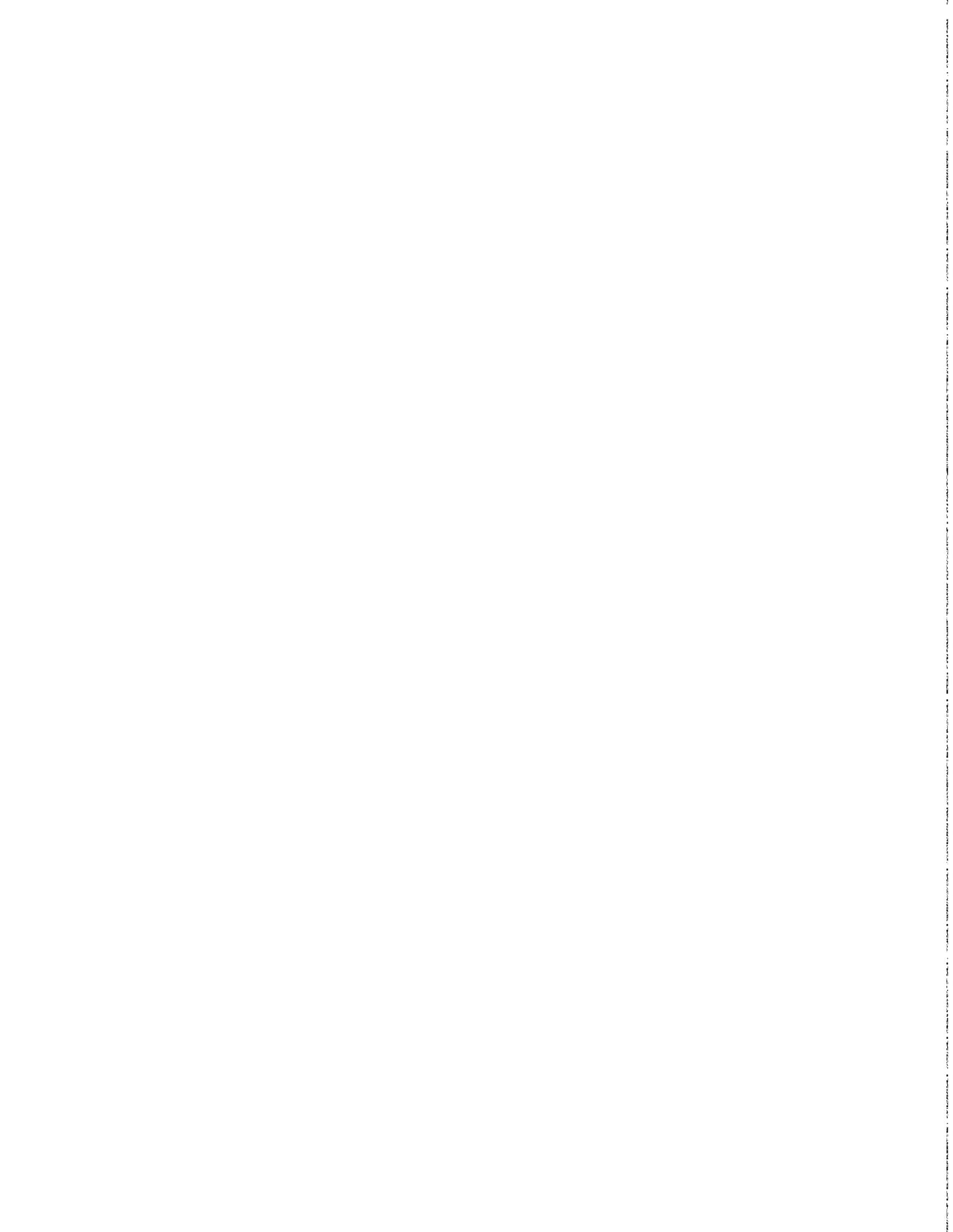
Copies are now available of this handy guide to GAO reports and testimony. A two-volume set, this reference publication provides an excellent overview of the agency’s work during fiscal year 1993. The first volume summarizes more than 1,000 “blue books” and other publications issued between October 1992 and September 1993. The second volume contains comprehensive indexes that allow the reader to locate quickly items documents that are of interest.

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**Reports on Health, Education, Employment and Training, and  
Income Security**

GAO/HEHS-94-83W, Jan. 1994 (72 pages).

GAO's Health, Education, and Human Services Division reviews the government's health, education, employment and training, and income security programs, which are run by several federal agencies. This catalog lists relevant GAO publications. The first section identifies reports and testimony issued during the second half of 1993 and summarizes key products. The second section lists all products published during the last two years, organized chronologically by subject. Order forms are included.





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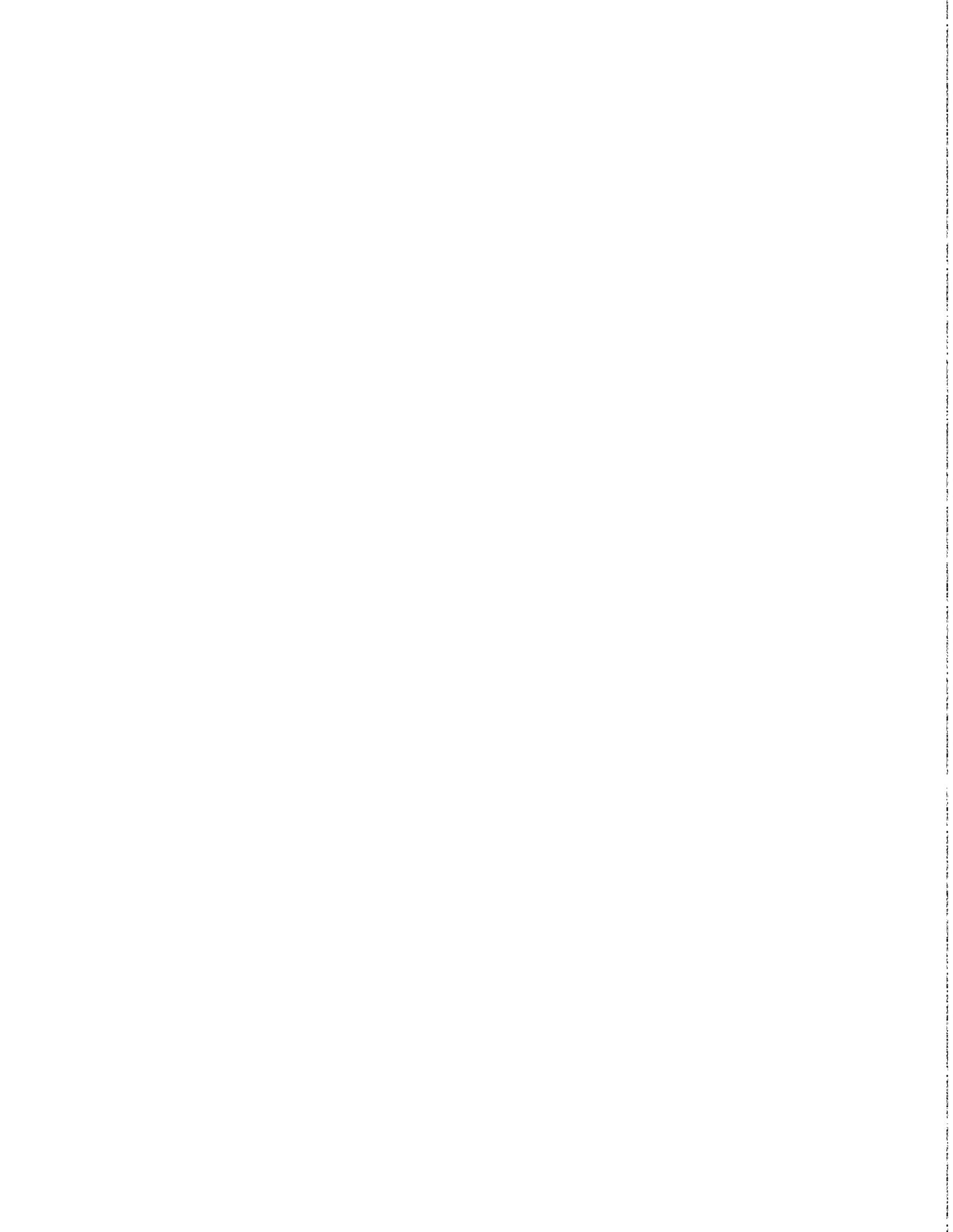
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