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OGC 70-2086

15 December 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: General Fund of the Treasury

REFERENCE: General Accounting Office Policy and Procedures  
Manual for Guidance of Federal Agencies

1. Title 7 of the referent publication states that an appropriation is an act of the Congress authorizing an administrative agency to incur obligations and to make expenditures out of the general fund of the Treasury. As a term, however, "general fund of the Treasury" is not defined. Today I met with GAO attorney, Mr. John W. Moore, seeking an authoritative definition, description or explanation of the term. Moore is Assistant General Counsel (Appropriations and Miscellaneous Receipts). I was referred to him by Mr. Henry Barclay, Associate General Counsel, GAO.

2. According to Moore, "general fund of the Treasury" has not been specifically defined. As a concept, it refers to that portion of the Treasury where all general revenues are deposited and out of which funds may be withdrawn only by an appropriation made by the Congress. Moore recalls that an Office Memorandum was prepared in the early 50's in an effort to explain the concept. He will attempt to locate a copy for our use.

3. Touching on the matter of appropriation controls, apparently the procedures had been changed drastically since passage of the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950. For example, accountable warrants are no longer issued, and the requirement that

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GAO countersign certain appropriation documents has been waived in many instances. By way of assisting us in understanding the present system, Moore is to provide us with a copy of the joint Treasury-GAO regulation entitled, "Procedures for Making Appropriated Funds Available for Disbursement".

4. Moore's offices are at Room 7083, GAO Building, Code 129 Extension 3153.



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Assistant General Counsel

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