



Office of Inspector General  
*U.S. Department of State*  
*and the*  
*Broadcasting Board of Governors*

# MONTHLY REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

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*audits, inspections, testimony, and special activities*

**April 2003**

This report describes testimony provided by the Inspector General or other OIG officials and lists OIG reports issued during the period indicated. This report includes unclassified summaries of classified reports; all text in this report is unclassified. Classified reports are not distributed publicly. On occasion, OIG distributes an unclassified version of a classified report; in such a case, this listing also indicates the issued date of the original report. In addition, all major reports, together with OIG investigative activities, are summarized in the Inspector General's semiannual reports to the Congress, which are publicly available every June and December.

## Office of Audits

**Assessment of the Department of State's Connection Approval Process, Independent Validation and Verification Protocol, and System Certification and Accreditation Process (AUD/FM-03-30)**

Beginning in 1977, in its independent auditor's report on the Department's financial statements, a contract auditor reported a material weakness related to information system security. The Department stated that two recommended corrective actions for this material weakness would be addressed as part of its process to implement OpenNet Plus, which would constitute a program of system vulnerability and mitigation.

At the direction of the Office of Inspector General, an external systems contractor reviewed the Department's OpenNet Plus connection approval process, including the independent validation and verification protocol, and the system certification and accreditation process. The systems contractor found that, although the connection approval process was a positive step, it was not sufficient to constitute a program of system vulnerability assessment and mitigation. In addition, the Department had not established a Department-specific certification and accreditation process.