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Accountability \* Integrity \* Reliability

Comptroller General  
of the United States

United States Government Accountability Office  
Washington, DC 20548

April 3, 2006

Letters to the Editor  
The New York Times  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036

Letter to the Editor:

I'm writing to express my surprise and disappointment regarding your decision to publish the article entitled "Accountability Office Finds Itself Accused" in the April 2 edition. The GAO report that was the basis for the article is over four years old and has been the subject of three internal investigations, including one by our Inspector General. All of these investigations found that the employee's assertions lacked merit and the employee concurred with the related report before it was issued. Furthermore, contrary to your article, our report did not "exonerate the contractor" nor was it intended to draw any conclusions of guilt or innocence.

Finally, the report reflects the consensus view of our most senior technical and program experts, and we stand behind it.

Sincerely,

David M. Walker  
Comptroller General  
of the United States