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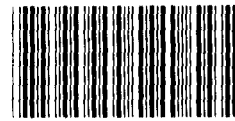
GAO

Fact Sheet to
the Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
House of Representatives

February 1986

BODYGUARD SERVICES

Protective Services Provided Selected Federal Officials



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United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

General Government Division
B-222141

February 28, 1986

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Dorgan:

This fact sheet responds to your October 21, 1985, request for information about the annual costs and sources of funds for protective services (bodyguards) provided certain government officials. On February 19, 1986, we briefed a representative of your office on the results of our work. This fact sheet summarizes information presented at that briefing.

To obtain data on the costs and sources of funds for providing bodyguards as well as other related data requested by your office, we sent questionnaires to 15 departments, agencies, or bureaus identified through an informal telephone survey as potentially providing this kind of protection. These included the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Energy, the Department of Labor, the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Information Agency, the U.S. Postal Service, the Federal Reserve Board, the Department of Justice headquarters and three of its components--the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

We received responses from all the agencies. Three of the 15 agencies, the Department of Justice headquarters, the Bureau of Prisons, and the U.S. Postal Service, replied by letter instead of questionnaire. The Department of Justice did not respond in detail to our questions. A Justice official told us that headquarters' staff does not provide protective services. The Bureau of Prisons said it did not use personal protective services for the periods in question, which were fiscal years 1984, 1985, and 1986. The Postal Service response was sufficient to answer most of the questions. As agreed with your office, we did not survey any agencies or offices whose officials were protected by the Secret Service or the Department of Defense, and we did not verify the data submitted by the agencies.

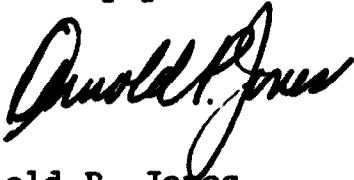
The comments of the agencies responding to our questionnaire are being sent under separate cover. Essentially, the questionnaire responses showed the following:

1. Organizational unit providing protective services: All of the agencies responded that protective services were provided by organizational units within the agencies. Five of these agencies stated that the service was provided by the Office of the Inspector General. Four said that protection was provided by the security office. Various organizational units provided the service to the remaining agencies.
2. Individual responsible for making the decision to initiate or terminate protective services: Six of the 13 respondents said that the decision to initiate or terminate bodyguard service was made by the head of the agency (Federal Bureau of Investigation; Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Labor, and Housing and Urban Development; and the Postal Service). The remaining seven respondents said that these decisions were made at other managerial levels.
3. Description of procedures for initiating and terminating protective services: Five of the 13 respondents said that the decision to provide protective services was based on an analysis of threats made to the federal official; 3 said that such service was provided on a regular basis; 2 said service was provided only for international trips; and 3 did not answer this question.
4. Legislative authority authorizing protective services: Five of the 13 responding agencies cited specific legislative authority for providing bodyguard services, 1 cited a Comptroller General decision; 1 cited an agency order; and 6 said there was no specific legislative authority for these services. However, two of these six agencies said presidential directives in 1970 and 1972 granted the authority to provide bodyguard services to those agencies that did not have specific authority to do so.
5. Total costs for protective services: The total reported costs for protective services for fiscal year 1984 ranged from \$7,756 to \$535,139; for fiscal year 1985, from \$1,400 to \$514,895; and for fiscal year 1986, from \$1,700 to \$542,235. The total costs reported for protective services were \$1,603,639 in fiscal year 1984; \$1,563,703 in fiscal year 1985; and are estimated to be \$1,557,939 in fiscal year 1986.

6. Source of funds for protective services: None of the 13 agencies stated that protective services was a specific line item in the budget. The agencies stated that the funds for protective services were included in other budgeted costs such as those for salaries, travel, and investigations.

As agreed with your office, unless you publicly announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this fact sheet until 30 days from the date of the fact sheet. At that time, we will send copies to interested parties and make copies available to others upon request. If you have any questions regarding this fact sheet, please call me on 275-8389.

Sincerely yours,



Arnold P. Jones
Senior Associate Director



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