

11900 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

purpose of the study was to provide an economic analysis of the management of these items and to make appropriate recommendations for achieving effective and economical Government-wide support for drugs, medical and Nonperishable Subsistence items.

The interagency study group completed extensive fact finding and submitted its report and recommendations. The report received the official support of all appropriate agencies. In the interim, the General Accounting Office issued its previously referenced report. In June 1974, OMB directed that an inter-agency committee be established to implement the recommendations of the study group. This committee was established in September 1974 and specifically directed to develop a system for Government-wide management of medical and nonperishable subsistence items. This Committee consists of a Chairman from the GSA Office of Federal Management Policy, and one representative each from the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (DHEW), General Services Administration (GSA) and Veterans Administration (VA).

To expedite the development of an effective and responsive management system, the Committee established various task groups to perform specific functions. Accordingly, a task group to "Determine Criteria for Defining Categories of Medical Items" was established. The purpose of this group is to develop criteria by which medical items can be categorized in order to