Representative RUMSFELD. Could you supply for the record a copy of the General Accounting Office's new regulations in compliance with the Attorney General's recommendations after the passage of the freedom of information, public records law?

Mr. STAATS. Yes; that information is available.

Representative RUMSFELD. Specifically, how it deals with this question.

Mr. STAATS. We could give you our preliminary regulations. I should point out, though, that while we are not covered under the law, we have taken action on our own.

Representative RUMSFELD. I understand you have.

Mr. STAATS. We think this was only proper on our part, being an agency of the Congress.

Representative RUMSFELD. Right.

Mr. STAATS. But we could also relate our regulations to the specific problem you have raised here.

Representative RUMSFELD. Thank you.

(The following material was supplied by the GAO:)

The regulations issued by the General Accounting Office implementing the Freedom of Information Act are not applicable to the availability of information in the General Accounting Office to Committees of Congress.

Furnishing to the public the names of contractors involved in General Accounting Office audit reports, when the contractors are not identified in the reports, would be prohibited under the paragraph of the regulations governing information contained in the investigative files by GAO (Paragraph 5(7)).

The procedure for obtaining comments of contractors concerned in GAO audit reports is contained in our booklet, "Audits of Government Contracts."

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D.C., July 3, 1967.

B-161499.

Heads of Divisions and Offices:

1. While the General Accounting Office is not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act, we nevertheless, as a public agency, have taken cognizance of and adopted in practice, to the extent appropriate to the functions and duties of our Office, the public information section of that act (section 3; 5 U.S.C. 552). A continuation of that policy with respect to the revised public information section which is to go into effect July 4, 1967 (Public Law 90-23, approved June 5, 1967), is deemed appropriate; and it will be our policy to make the fullest possible disclosure of information consistent with our responsibilities as an agency of the Congress. The implementation and administration of the foregoing policy shall be the responsibility of the Director, Office of Administrative Services.

2. The head of each division and office, separately or jointly if appropriate, shall submit as soon as possible to the General Counsel information necessary for the preparation and the publication in the Federal Register of a current and complete statement of the General Accounting Office containing the following:

(A) Descriptions of its central and field organization and the established places at which, the officers from whom, and the methods whereby, the public may secure information, make submittals or requests, or obtain decisions.

(B) Statements of the general course and method by which its functions are channeled and determined, including the nature and requirements of all formal and informal procedures available.

(C) Rules of procedure, descriptions of forms available or the places at which forms may be obtained, and instructions as to the scope and contents of all papers, reports, or examinations.

(D) Substantive rules of general applicability adopted as authorized by law, and statements of general policy or interpretations of general applicability formulated and adopted by the Office.