



# *National Archives and Records Administration*

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*Office of Inspector General*

*8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, Maryland 20740-6001*

Date : August 12, 2008

Reply to

Attn of : Office of Inspector General (OIG)

Subject : Management Letter 08-12: Update on Conditions of the Museum Collection at the  
Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

To : Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention the significant progress being made by the Office of Presidential Libraries (NL) and Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in strengthening their stewardship of presidential artifacts.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on July 29 – 31, 2008. As part of this visit we reviewed museum operations to observe what progress had been made in implementing recommendations made in OIG Audit Report No. 08-01, Audit of the Process for Safeguarding and Accounting for Presidential Library Artifacts (dated October 26, 2007).

I am pleased to report it appears the Library has made a considerable amount of progress since the issuance of OIG Audit Report No. 08-01. Specifically:

- An inventory plan has been developed, approved and is being implemented
- Staff have been added, under term appointments, to assist in organizing and inventorying the museum collection, and approximately 50% of the records in i/O have been reconciled
- Presidential artifacts in the Reagan's private space have been identified and are now accounted for as high value objects
- The appearance and organization of the collection and controlling documentation has seen significant improvement since the time of our audit
- Interim steps have been taken to secure the artifacts against damage (e.g. shelves have been braced, netting has been installed over open shelves). In fact, during our visit the library experienced the effects of a mild earthquake without sustaining any visible damage to the artifacts
- Damaged items have been identified and documented by library staff and Nancy Davis is consulting with Library staff on preservation/conservation actions

These are encouraging improvements. However, some difficult work remains to be done, including the identification and reconciliation of anomalies identified as a result of inventorying. Additionally, the library recently obtained a quote of **Redacted b(2)** dollars for the installation of rolling shelving, a more permanent solution to securing the collection. NL faces the challenge of obtaining the funding and installing the shelving prior to 2010, when a major renovation of the public museum space will necessitate the removal and storage of all artifacts currently on display.

We will continue to monitor progress and provide updates as warranted. If you have any questions please contact me.

PAUL BRACHFELD  
Inspector General

CC:  
Sharon Fawcett, Assistant Archivist for Presidential Libraries  
Susan Ashtianie, Director, Policy and Planning Staff  
Duke Blackwood, Director, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library