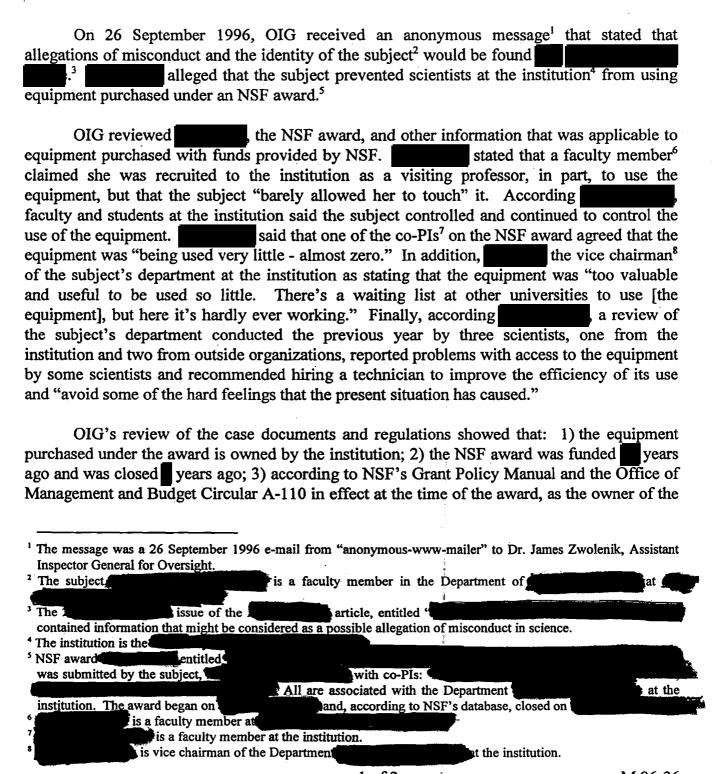
## **CLOSEOUT FOR M-96100036**



## **CLOSEOUT FOR M-96100036**

equipment, the institution is responsible for its maintenance and utilization, and the retention of relevant records for only 3 years after NSF received the final project report; and 4) the NSF program made the award knowing there were concerns about the equipment's maintenance by the subject and the co-PIs. There is evidence that the equipment was not maintained; the vice chairman said that the equipment was "hardly ever working."

We concluded that, in this case, no further inquiry by our office into the allegation that the subject prevented scientists from using the equipment was practical because so much time had elapsed since the award closed diminishing both the likelihood that records pertaining to the equipment's usage would be available and that individual memories of events we years ago would be reliable. Moreover, because the evidence suggests that poor management practices contributed to the equipment's lack of availability, we concluded that this would be better handled as a management matter. There is some question as to whether the program presently has ongoing management responsibility for the equipment, but because mentioned ongoing concerns about access to high tech equipment within the department, OIG mentioned this concern to the program.

This case is closed and no further action will be taken.

cc: staff scientist, AIG-Oversight, legal, IG