

November 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

FROM: [REDACTED]

DATE: Jun. 2, 2000

SUBJECT: Boris Weisfeiler Case

1. In November 1987, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (source) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

provided his impressions of the Weisfeiler case. Source said he was completely convinced, but could not conclusively prove, that Weisfeiler was detained by either a Carabiniero or army patrol and interrogated, fatally beaten, then thrown into the river somewhere near the confluence of the Nuble and Sauce. Source said that the current in either of the rivers would have been so strong during that month that a body could come apart in a matter of hours. [REDACTED] COMMENT: If the source's theory is correct, it is more likely that those responsible eventually recovered the body and disposed of it.]

2. Source bases his theory on the following:

a. Sometime after the Weisfeiler disappearance, source was told by a [REDACTED] Carabiniero [REDACTED] that the then Carabiniero commander of the El Roble outpost, Sergeant Jorge Cofre Vega, while drunk told him and another Carabiniero non-com that the army patrol that found Weisfeiler, fatally beat him while interrogating him then threw his body

into the river.

b. Source stated that among the many groups that were sent out to search for Weisfeiler after his disappearance was a group of CNI agents from Chillan. Source labeled these CNI people as "delinquents and assassins." Source said they were among the first to search the area. Source believes they were sent in to clean the area of any evidence that would indicate that Weisfeiler had been murdered. [REDACTED] COMMENT: This group may have also been used to plant evidence such as Weisfeiler's backpack.}

c. Source said it would have been natural for either a Carabinero or army patrol encountering a foreigner who spoke no Spanish, had a hippie-like appearance, and carried quality imported equipment and foreign currency, to assume that the person was a "subversive." This was especially true given Weisfeiler's proximity to the border as the Chilean security services are aware that leftists infiltrate Chile from Argentina in such regions. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: The fact that Weisfeiler's passport showed he was born in Moscow would have added to the patrol's suspicions.}

d. Source discounted the possibility that Weisfeiler would have been handed over to Colonia Dignidad {CD} given the distance of CD from the area where Weisfeiler disappeared and the rough terrain between that area and CD. Source did not believe either the Carabinero or army patrol would go through such trouble just to turn him over to CD.

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among many Carabineros serving in the general area where Weisfeiler disappeared at the time that Weisfeiler was murdered. Most believe that the army patrol was responsible. Source said the chief of the Carabinero commissariat at San Carlos, Major Jose Sepulveda Ross, who at the time of Wiesfeiler's disappearance was chief of the sub-commissariat at San Fabian de Alico, also believes that Weisfeiler was murdered.

3. [REDACTED] COMMENT: Source's theory, of course, completely contradicts the story provided by [REDACTED]. Despite the detail and consistency of certain facts in [REDACTED] story, [REDACTED] finds the above source's account concerning Weisfeiler's fate to be more plausible. From the beginning, doubts were surfaced when [REDACTED] mentioned the "Joseph Mengele" angle. Also, when the consulate reported that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] accompanied [REDACTED] to an event where CNI or other security personnel were likely to be present, questions arose as to why [REDACTED] would be so at ease about being seen in public with [REDACTED]. We are beginning to suspect that at best, [REDACTED] may be a fabricator. At worst, he may have been "dangled" by CNI in order to distract and confuse the embassy's investigation of the case. With his allegations, [REDACTED] has not tarnished CD's reputation any more than it has been by various individuals and organizations over the years. Moreover, others have speculated that

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Weisfeiler may have been or is being held at CD. [REDACTED] comments about what he has observed or heard about CD are the same or closely mirror many of these public allegations. The whole story contains enough truths and plausibilities to make it believable, especially given CD's reputation, while at the same time being difficult to confirm without unrestricted access to other eyewitnesses or the CD premises. About the former, our source speculated that nobody aware of what really happened to Weisfeiler would ever tell the truth. Finally, we cannot discern any motive for CD authorities to make Weisfeiler a prisoner for a prolonged period of time. There is nothing for CD to gain by maintaining Weisfeiler prisoner and much for CD to lose by such an action.

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