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Case Number: S1999000030

Chile Project (#S199900030)
U.S. Department of State
Release Excise _____ Deny _____
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Exemption(s) _____

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ACTION OCS-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1159

~~UNCLAS~~ SANTIAGO 1232

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: CASC, CI (WEISFEILER, BORIS)
SUBJECT: WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS: CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER

REF: A) SANTIAGO 1080, B) SANTIAGO 0901, C) SANTIAGO 0768

1. CONOFF JOURNEYED BY VEHICLE TO SAN CARLOS ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 11 AND UPON ARRIVAL CONVERSED WITH JUDGE GILBERTO CORNEJO OF THE SECOND CRIMINAL COURT. JUDGE CORNEJO INFORMED CONOFF THAT A BODY HAD BEEN DISCOVERED THAT MORNING, AROUND 0900, IN A BRANCH OF THE NUBLE RIVER FROMED BY AN ISLAND, APPROXIMATELY 70 KILOMETERS DOWNRIVER FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LOS SAUCES RIVER. THE SITE IS ABOUT 6 KILOMETERS FROM CACHAPOAL, WHICH IS ON THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN SAN CARLOS AND SAN FABIAN DE ALICO, AT A POINT NAMED FLOR DE QUINHUA. THE JUDGE AND CONOFF MADE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN AUTOPSY OF THE CADAVER, SHOULD IT PROVE TO BE THAT OF WEISFEILER, AND THEN PROCEEDED AROUND 1600 TO THE SAN CARLOS MORGUE TO VIEW THE CADAVER. CONOFF EXAMINED THE CADAVER, WHICH DID NOT APPEAR TO BE THAT OF WEISFEILER. SHORTLY AFTERWORDS THE CADAVER WAS IN FACT POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED BY A BROTHER, WHO ARRIVED AT THE MORGUE, WHILE CONOFF WAS STILL THERE, VIEWED THE CADAVER, AND IDENTIFIED IT AS HIS BROTHER. CONOFF LEARNED THAT THE DECEASED HAD FALLEN INTO THE NUBLE RIVER AND DROWNED FIVE DAYS EARLIER, DUE TO THE CURRENT UNSEASONABLY

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HOT WEATHER IN THE REGION OF THE UBLE RIVER, THE CADAVER WAS ALREADY BADLY DECOMPOSED, WITH NUMEROUS BRUISES AND WELTS WHERE IT HAD APPARRANTLY IMPACTED AGAINST ROCKS IN THE RIVER WHILE BEING CARRIED DOWNSTREAM BY THE POWERFUL RIVER CURRENT. CONOFF NOTED THAT THE SKIN OF THE FINGERPRINTS HAD PEALD

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OFF, AND THE JUDGE INDICATED THAT WHILE THE LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES WOULD TRY TO OBTAIN FINGERPRINTS THEY FEARED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN USEABLE PRINTS. THE SUBSEQUENT IDENTIFICATION OF THE DECEASED BY HIS BROTHER, HOWEVER, MADE IT UNNECESSARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING MORNING CONOFF TRAVELED ALONG THE ROAD TO SAN FABIAN DE ALICO, PASSING PAST THE TOWN AND PROCEEDING UP TO THE MOUNTED CARABINEROS STATION AT EL ROBLE, THUS BIRTUALLY REPEATING THE PREVIOUS JOURNEY OF JANUARY 23 THROUGH 25. CONOFF TOOK NUMERUSSPHOTOGRAQHS OF THE NUBLE AND LOS SAUCES RIVERS, AS WELL AS THE CARABINEROS STATION AT EL ROBLE, WITH IT'S CABLE-CAR SYSTEM FOR CROSSING THE LOS SAUCES RIVER. PRINTS OF THESE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE BEING POUCHED TODAY TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE CASE IN THE DEPARTMENT. CONOFF WAS UNFORTUNATELY UNABLE TO CROSS THE LOS SAUCES TO OBTAIN PHOTOS OF THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER, WHERE WEISFEILER IS PRESUMED TO HAVE DROWNED, AS ALL OF THE CARABINEROS WERE OUT ON PATROL AND NO ONE WAS AT THE STATION TO OPERTE THE CABLE-CAR, WHICH WAS ON THE BANK OPPOSITE THE ONE ALONG WHICH THE ROAD RUNS.

3. CONOFF RETURNED BACK DOWN THE ROAD TO SAN FABIAN DE ALICO AND SPOIE TO CAPTAIN GUILLERMO LUIS FERNANDEZ CATALAN OF THE CARABINERO STATION AT SAN FABIAN DE

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ALICO, REQUESTING INFORMATION BOUT THE SEARCH FOR WEISFEILER BY CHILEAN AUTHORITES. CAPTAIN FERNANDEZ STATED THAT DUE TO THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY JUDGE CORNEJO (SEE REFTELS B AND C), A HELICOPTER HAD SEARCHED THE AREA OF WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE THROUGH FEBRUARY 5, AND THEN HAD RETURNED TO ITS BASE. THREE DIVERS FROM THE CHILEAN NAVAL BASE AT TALCAHUANO, ACCOMPANIED BY A NURSE AND A DRIVER, HAD ALSO ARRIVED ON FEBRUARY 5, AND HAD DIVED IN THE MOST OBVIOUS LOCATIONS WHERE WEISFEILER'S BODY MIGHT BE FOUND, THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY 5TH, 6TH AND 7TH, SEARCHING FOR HIS BODY. THEY HAD RETURNED TO TALCAHUANO ON FEBRUARY 8. THE RIVERBANK HAD ALSO BEEN SEARCHED BY THIRTY CARABINEROS OF THE CARABINEROS TRAINING SCHOOL IN CONCEPCION FROM FEBRUARY 5TH THROUGH FEBRUARY 8TH; THIS GROUP LIVED IN THE FIELD THE ENTIRE FOUR DAYS OF THEIR SEARCH, SUBSISTING ON MILITARY FIELD RATIONS SIMILAR TO AMERICAN C-RATIIONS. CONOFF INFORMED CAQTAIN FERNANDEZ OF

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JUDGE CORNEJO'S BELIEF THAT THIS LAST GROUP HAD DISCOVERED THE BODY DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 1, AND CAPTAIN FERNANDEZ REPLIED THAT, TO THE CONTRARY, IT WAS A REGULAR PATROL FROM HIS OWN STATION IN SAN FABIAN DE ALICO THAT HAD DISCOVERED AND REPORTED THE BODY. CONOFF NOTED THAT THE SPECIAL SEARCHES DESCRIBED ABOVE HAD NOW APPARENTLY ALL BEEN TERMINATED, AND ASKED IF SPECIAL SEARCHES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INSTITUTED IN THE FUTURE. CAPTAIN FERNANDEZ STATED THAT, DUE TO THE EXPENSE OF MAKING SUCH SPECIAL SEARCHES, THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE WOULD NOT ALLOW A REPETITION OF THE SPECIAL SEARCHES DESCRIBED ABOVE, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE NEGATIVE RESULTS OF THE SEARCHES THAT WERE MADE. THE CAPTAIN PRESUMED FROM PRIOR EXPERIENCE THAT WEISFEILER'S BODY WAS TRAPPED BY ROCKS IN A DEPTH OF THE NUBLE RIVER, AND THE NATURAL PROCESS OF

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DECOMPOSITION WOULD, IN HIS EXPERIENCE THEN BRING IT TO THE SURFACE ABOVE FIVE MONTHS AFTER IT MIGHT HAVE ENTERED THE WATER. AT PRESENT THE CARABINEROS OF THE EL ROBLE, CACHAPOAL AND SAN FABIAN DE ALICO CARABINEROS STATIONS ARE STILL SEARCHING ON A REGULAR BASIS FOR WEISFEILER'S BODY AND/OR INFORMATION AS TO HIS WHEREABOUTS. CONOFF ASKED IF A HIGHER AUTHORITY WOULD BE ABLE TO AUTHORIZE A CONTINUATION OF SOME OR ALL OF THE SPECIAL SEARCHES AND THE EXPENSES ATTENDENT THEREON, AND CAPTAIN FERNANDEZ GAVE CONOFF THE NAME AND ADDRESSES OF THOSE OFFICERS WHO COULD AUTHORIZE A CONTINUATION OF SPECIAL SEARCHES. POST HAS SUBMITTED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE CONTAINING THE NAMES AND POSITIONS OF THESE AUTHORITIES TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, REQUESTING A CONTINUATION OF THE SPECIAL SEARCHES.

4. FOR PURPOSES OF IDENTIFICATION, POST REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT OBTAIN AND FORWARD TO POST THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT WEISFEILER: 1) A COMPLETE CLINICAL PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION, TO INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF ANY SURGICAL OR OTHER SCARS, TATTOOS, AND OTHER DISTINGUISHING PHYSICAL MARKS; 2) A COMPLETE ODONTOLOGICAL REPORT COVERING ALL DENTAL WORK; 3) A FINGERPRINT REPORT; AND 4) AN ANTHROMORPHIC REPORT COVERING ANY SPECIAL DISTINGUISHING BONE STRUCTURES.

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