

3/29/85

UNCLASSIFIED EXCISE

KJ121A

March 29, 1985

Senator Edward Kennedy
J.F. Kennedy Building
Government Center
Boston, MA 02115

Chile Project (#S199900030)
U.S. Department of State
Release _____ Excise Deny _____
Declassify: In Part _____ In Full _____
Exemption(s) B6

Dear Senator Kennedy,

I am writing on behalf of the Mathematics Department of Harvard University concerning a mathematician, Boris Weisfeiler, a visitor to our department who is, at present, missing in Chile. Professor Weisfeiler has been engaged, for many years, in scientific collaboration with members of our department. He is a naturalized U.S. citizen who holds a permanent appointment at Pennsylvania State University.

On December 25, 1984 Professor Weisfeiler went to the mountains in Chile for a hiking vacation. He was last seen on January 5. Some of the local residents notified the police that there was a foreigner in the area (as it is, apparently, the custom to do) and two policemen on horseback went to search for him on January 5, apparently in vain. Ten days later his knapsack was recovered. No other trace of him has turned up.

Subsequently, some of Professor Weisfeiler's friends and colleagues engaged a private investigator (in Chile) to make a detailed investigation of the case. A xerox of the report of the private investigator is enclosed.

Members of the mathematical community in the United States feel that to pursue the matter further it would be valuable to have a first-hand report from the two Chilean police officers who went searching for Professor Weisfeiler on January 5.

We also wonder whether we can prevail upon you to request that the State Department representatives in Chile undertake the task of obtaining this first-hand report.

We would be delighted to have the opportunity to discuss this matter personally with you or with one of your staff.

Sincerely yours,

d.c.g.
P.O. b. Moscow, USSR

passport #
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Encl.

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