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1/2/86

(JH004)

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

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Chile Project (#S199900030)

U.S. Department of State

Release Excise _____ Deny _____

Declassify: In Part _____ In Full

Exemption(s) _____

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AMAD-01 PPT-01 CA-02 /010 W
-----154751 031902Z /38

P 021848Z JAN 86
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4939

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E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: CASC (WEISFEILER, BORIS), CI
SUBJECT: W/W: CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER

REF: (A) STATE 025812 (B) SANTIAGO 539

1. AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST, CHILEAN LAWYER, ALFREDO ETCHEBERRY, CALLED JANUARY 31 ON GENERAL RODOLFO STANGE, CHIEF OF THE CARABINEROS AND MEMBER OF THE JUNTA, TO DISCUSS THE WEISFEILER CASE. HE STATED HE WAS REPRESENTING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, WHO WANTED HIM TO BRING THE MATTER TO GENERAL STANGE'S PERSONAL ATTENTION. STANGE SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS INFORMALLY BUT SAID HE REMEMBERED THE CASE ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS. ACCORDING TO HIS RECOLLECTION, THE CARABINERO ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE WITH EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND WITH THE ASSIGNED JUDGE IN INVESTIGATING WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE.

2. ETCHEBERRY STATED THAT THE EMBASSY WAS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE LACK OF ANY SOLUTION TO WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE AND SAID THERE DEFINITELY WAS SOME QUESTIONABLE EVIDENCE IN THE CASE. AMONG OTHERS HE CITED THE FINDING OF THE KNAPSACK WITH ALL THE CONTENTS INTACT EXCEPT WEISFEILER'S UNITED STATES PASSPORT. STANGE COUNTERED ASKING WHETHER CONSULAR OFFICIALS HAD THOUGHT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPERSONATION. ETCHEBERRY WAS QUITE TAKEN ABACK AND ASKED THE GENERAL
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FOR AN EXPLANATION. STANGE WENT ON TO SAY THAT POSSIBLY THE REAL WEISFEILER HAD NEVER TRAVELLED TO CHILE BUT INSTEAD A CHILEAN DISSIDENT MIGHT HAVE ENTERED THE COUNTRY WITH WEISFEILER'S COMPLICITY. ETCHEBERRY POINTED OUT THAT PHOTOS OF WEISFEILER HAD BEEN SHOWN TO AND RECOGNIZED BY LOCAL CITIZENRY IN THE AREA OF LAST SIGHTING. IN ADDITION, WEISFEILER HAS CERTAINLY DISAPPEARED FROM THE U.S.

3. ETCHEBERRY MENTIONED CURRENT CHILEAN PRESS INTEREST (REF. B) AS TO WHAT WAS CURRENTLY BEING DONE BOTH BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EMBASSY TO SOLVE THIS DISAPPEARANCE. STANGE VOLUNTEERED TO APPOINT A SPECIAL TEAM TO LOOK INTO THE ENTIRE MATTER IN DEPTH. HE REITERATED HIS THANKS TO ETCHEBERRY FOR BRINGING THE CASE TO HIS ATTENTION INFORMALLY AND SAID, "AS YOU KNOW, I AM NOT A MAN FOR A COVER-UP." ETCHEBERRY AND STRANGE PROMISED TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH ONE ANOTHER. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE TWO TO THREE WEEKS BEFORE WE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT TO HEAR BACK FROM STANGE. BARNES

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