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ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 ARA-00 L-03 CA-02 /012 W  
-----326156 232027Z /63 38

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6278

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DEPT FOR CA/OCS/EMR - JERITCHIE

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

REF: (A) STATE 25812 (B) 85 STATE 358277

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

1. (~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. ON MAY 15, 1986, CONOFF MET WITH EDWIN HARRINGTON, THE FREE-LANCE JOURNALIST WHO WROTE THE REVISTA ANALISIS ARTICLE ON WEISFEILER THAT WAS PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 3, 1986. WE CONTACTED HIM FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRYING TO EXPAND OUR SOURCES OF INFORMATION REGARDING THIS CASE. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE CONTACT TWO OTHER CHILEAN JOURNALISTS WHO WORK IN SANTIAGO WHO ALSO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WEISFEILER DISAPPEARANCE AND WHO PROVIDED HIM WITH BACKGROUND WHEN HE WAS RESEARCHING THE ARTICLE.

3. IN REGARD TO THE CONCERN ON THE PART OF WEISFEILER'S COLLEAGUES IN THE U.S. AND THEIR PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS IN CHILE, HARRINGTON INDICATED THAT PROFESSOR BARRY MAZUR OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE U.S. MATH SOCIETY INTEND TO PURSUE FURTHER INVESTIGATION INTO WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE. THE U.S. SOCIETY IS PREPARED TO PAY THE COST OF WHATEVER HELP THEY CAN GET. PROFESSOR

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MAZUR IS IN CONTACT WITH PROFESSOR RICARDO BAEZA, PRESIDENT OF THE CHILEAN MATH SOCIETY AND A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE. PROFESSOR BAEZA AND HIS ASSOCIATES, IN COORDINATION WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE U.S., PLAN TO PETITION THE CHILEAN COURTS TO REOPEN THE CASE.

4. CONTACT WAS THEN MADE WITH PROFESSOR BAEZA, TO

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DETERMINE WHAT INFORMATION HE MIGHT HAVE RELATIVE TO THE WEISFEILER CASE. IT MAY BE RECALLED THAT IN THE PAST THE SOCIETY WAS IN TOUCH WITH WEISFEILER'S UNIVERSITY COLLEAGUES IN THE UNITED STATES AND HAD HIRED A PRIVATE DETECTIVE TO INVESTIGATE HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

5. BAEZA ALONG WITH HIS FELLOW MATHEMATICIAN AT THE UNIVERSITY, JORGE SOTO, HAD MET WEISFEILER WHILE ATTENDING MATH CONFERENCES IN THE U.S. AND HAD ALSO SUBSEQUENTLY CORRESPONDED WITH HIM. DESPITE THIS PROFESSIONAL CONTACT, WEISFEILER DID NOT LET EITHER MAN KNOW ABOUT HIS TRAVEL PLANS FOR CHILE NOR DID HE CONTACT THEM UPON ARRIVAL. RATHER THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS PRESENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY ONLY UPON HEARING THE NEWS OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE. BAEZA HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SPECIFIC REASON FOR WEISFEILER'S CHOICE OF TRAVEL TO CHILE OR THE PARTICULAR AREA OF THE COUNTRY HE SELECTED. HE DID, HOWEVER, ENLIGHTEN US CONSIDERABLY ABOUT WEISFEILER'S PERSONALITY AND HIS PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND. THE FORMER MAY HAVE PLAYED A PART IN HIS DECISION TO HIKE IN A REMOTE AND SOMEWHAT UNCHARTED AREA ALONG THE CHILEAN/ARGENTINE BORDER.

6. WEISFEILER WAS AN EXTREMELY RECLUSIVE AND PRIVATE MAN, HAVING PERHAPS ONLY TWO OR THREE FRIENDS WITH WHOM HE SHARED CONFIDENCES, ACCORDING TO BAEZA. FOREMOST AMONG

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THESE IS VICTOR KATZ, A PREEMINENT MATH PROFESSOR AT MIT, WHO IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A RESEARCH PROJECT IN FRANCE BUT WHO NONETHELESS IS IN ALMOST WEEKLY TOUCH TELEPHONICALLY WITH BAEZA RELATIVE TO WEISFEILER'S UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCE. KATZ AND WEISFEILER'S FRIENDSHIP GOES BACK A LONG TIME TO THEIR DAYS IN THE SOVIET UNION, BOTH HAVING BEEN KNOWN UNIVERSITY MATH PROFESSORS, BOTH TURNING AGAINST THE SYSTEM AND MIGRATING TO THE UNITED STATES. IN BAEZA'S WORDS, WEISFEILER WAS A "STRONG CONSERVATIVE" AND ANTI-SOVIET DUE TO HIS EXPERIENCES BEHIND THE "CURTAIN". ALLEGEDLY, WEISFEILER WALKED OUT OF THE USSR THRU SIBERIA, AND WENT TO SPAIN WHERE HE STAYED UNTIL TRAVELLING TO THE UNITED STATES. FREQUENTLY, HE SOUGHT THE SOLITUDE OF LONG AND DIFFICULT HIKES STARTING WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED TREK. HE HAD DONE LIKE TRAVEL IN ALASKA, PERU AND CHINA. IT IS THOUGHT BY BAEZA AND OTHERS THAT KNEW HIM THAT DUE TO HIS ANTI-SOCIABILITY, HE WOULD HAVE CHOSEN A REMOTE AREA TO HIKE AS HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN STRONG IN HIS DESIRE NOT TO ENCOUNTER TOURISTS OF ANY STRIPE ON HIS TRIPS.

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7. BAEZA SAID THAT THE SOCIEDAD DE MATEMATICAS DE CHILE IS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN PETITIONING THE COURTS TO REOPEN THE WEISFEILER CASE AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE U. S. EMBASSY IN THIS ENDEAVOR. THOUGH THE U. S. MATH SOCIETY HAS OFFERED FUNDS TO SUPPORT LEGAL ACTION, BAEZA HAD DECLINED FEARING THAT ACCEPTANCE MIGHT DEMONSTRATE INTEREST IN THE CASE FOR MONETARY REASON ONLY. INSTEAD HE IS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING CONTACT WITH A YOUNG LAWYER IN HIS FATHER'S FIRM WHOM HE THINKS

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WILL DO IT PRO BONO.

3. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER DEPARTMENT HAS REACHED DECISION ON PROCEDURE DISCUSSED REFTELS. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE TRAVELLING TO WASHINGTON MID JUNE AND PLANS TO TAKE UP THE ENTIRE CASE WHILE ON CONSULTATION IN THE DEPARTMENT.  
BARNES

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