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11/10/86

LS0034

(R)

n/a
Case Number: S199900030

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 FBIE-00 /009 W
-----103255 101533Z /38

R 101527Z NOV 86
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8751
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 01 OF 02 SANTIAGO 07803

MONTEVIDEO FOR LEGATT

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

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

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

2. ON NOVEMBER 4, CONGEN WAS VISITED BY LEGATT MICHAEL L'ALLIER, BASED IN MONTEVIDEO, WHO REPORTED THAT ASSISTANT LEGATT JOSEPH KAAV BROOKS HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY THE CARABINEROS IN REGARD TO THE WEISFEILER CASE, SUBSEQUENT TO BROOKS' VISIT TO SANTIAGO TO DISCUSS THE PARTICIPATION OF A CARABINERO OFFICER IN A PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE FBIGACADEMY.

3. BROOKS RECEIVED A LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 3, 1986, FROM COLONEL CLAUDIO E. BLAMEY PIZARRO OF THE CARABINEROS WHICH READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR CONVERSATION HERE IN SANTIAGO, I AM SENDING YOU A LIST OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION THAT I NEED FOR THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR MR. BORIS WEISFEILER (MISPELLED "WEINSFEILDER"):

A. TO ESTABLISH A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SUBJECT
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- NOTE: AMONG THE BELONGINGS FOUND APPARENTLY ONLY HIS PASSPORT IS MISSING.
-
- B. TO ESTABLISH THE MOTIVE FOR HIS TRIP TO CHILE.
- NOTE: - WHAT COULD BE OF SUCH GREAT INTEREST TO A MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR TO HAVE HIM TRAVEL FROM THE U.S. TO CHILE ON DECEMBER 24?
-
- WHY, IF HE HAD NEVER BEEN IN THIS COUNTRY, WOULD HE HEAD FOR SUCH A REMOTE AND ISOLATED AREA WHERE THERE ARE NO PLACES OF INTEREST FOR TOURISTS?
-
- HOW DID HE FIND OUT HOW TO TRAVEL TO THAT PLACE, CONSIDERING THAT IT IS NOT SO EASY (TO GET TO)?
-
- C. IS IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A PHOTOGRAPH AND HIS PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION?
-
- D. WHAT INFORMATION EXISTS ABOUT THE PLACE WHERE HE HAD HIS DOMICILE?
-
- E. WHAT INFORMATION IS THERE ABOUT THE PLACES WHERE HE WORKED?
-
- F. IS IT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER SOMEONE WITH THE SUBJECT'S NAME HAS ENTERED/DEPARTED SOME COUNTRY DURING HIS (PAST) YEAR?

I HOPE TO HAVE RESPONSES ADEQUATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GAINING TOTAL CLARIFICATION ABOUT A NORTH AMERICAN CITIZEN IN SUCH STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES. I

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REMAIN IN THIS MATTER AT YOUR SERVICE. SINCERELY,
(SIGNED CLAUDIO E. BLAMEY PIZARRO, CARABINEROS CORONEL)
UNQUOTE.

4. BEFORE COMMENTING ON THE QUESTIONS POSED BY COLONEL BLAMEY, IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOC, VIA THE CARABINEROS, IS TRYING TO INVOLVE THE FBI IN THIS

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CASE. THE ASSISTANT LEGATT RECOGNIZED THAT THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT A MATTER FOR THE FBI TO BECOME INVOLVED IN AND THEREFORE HAS PASSED ON THE LETTER TO THE CONSULAT FURTHER, THE ASSISTANT LEGATT REMARKED ON THE SUBJECTIVE NATURE OF THE QUESTIONS MANY OF WHICH HE FOUND INAPPROPRIATE GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE AUTHORITIES OF CHILE BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING OUT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE WEISFEILER CASE WITHOUT IMPUNING QUESTIONABLE MOTIVES TO HIS TRIP TO CHILE.

5. IT MIGHT ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT COLONEL BLAMEY'S LETTER WAS SENT TO BROOKS THE WEEK AFTER THE EMBASSY SENT A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, DATED AUGUST 26, TO WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE. PERHAPS THE REQUEST FOR FBI ASSISTANCE WAS STIMULATED BY THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR A REPORT ON THE CASE.

6. AS TO THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COLONEL BLAMEY, THE EMBASSY LONG AGO PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPHS AND A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF WEISFEILER, INCLUDING DENTAL X-RAYS. MOREOVER, HIS PICTURE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. IT HAS ALSO LONG BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT OTHER ITEMS WERE MISSING FROM WEISFEILER'S BACKPACK AND

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AMAD-01 CA-02 FBIE-00 /010 W
-----103272 101716Z /72 38

R 101527Z NOV 86
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8752
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 02 SANTIAGO 07803

MONTEVIDEO FOR LEGATT

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

THIS POINT WAS RAISED IN A DIPLOMATIC NOTE SENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. REGARDING HIS MOTIVE, FOR TRAVEL TO CHILE, IT IS KNOWN THAT WEISFEILER HAD A PENCHANT FOR SOLITARY BACK-PACKING TRIPS IN FAR-AWAY PLACES SUCH AS NEPAL, ALASKA AND PERU. AS A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, HE WOULD LOGICALLY HAVE AN EXTENDED WINTER VACATION BEGINNING IN LATE DECEMBER AFTER THE END OF THE FALL SEMESTER. TYPICALLY FACULTY WIND UP THEIR WORK BY DECEMBER 21 OR 22 AND THEN DEPART FOR THEIR VACATION. THEREFORE, WHY NOT TRAVEL TO CHILE ON DECEMBER 24? BESIDES, WEISFEILER WAS SINGLE, HAD NO FAMILY IN THE U.S. AND BEING JEWISH, WAS PROBABLY NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS. HE HAD THE HABIT OF RESEARCHING THE PLACE TO WHICH HE PLANNED TO TRAVEL IN REGARD TO CLIMATE, TERRAIN AND SO FORTH. JANUARY IN CHILE IS THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER, WITH WARM WEATHER, NO RAIN, AND LIGHT UNTIL MID-EVENING--IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR HIKING. WEISFEILER ACQUIRED MAPS OF THE AREA WHERE HE PLANNED TO HIKE--A FACT KNOWN TO ALL THE AUTHORITIES WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE INQUIRY

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INTO HIS DISAPPEARANCE. HE WAS A VERY RESOURCEFUL MAN AS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT HE MANAGED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO ESCAPE FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN 1975 ON FOOT

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AND BY WALKING A LONG DISTANCE. GIVEN HIS INTELLIGENCE AND RESOURCEFULNESS, IT IS NOT IMPROBABLE THAT WEISFEILER WOULD FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET HIMSELF TO THE CHILLAN-NUBLE AREA.

WEISFEILER'S NAME ENTERED OR DEPARTED SOME OTHER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CARRYING OUT AN INVESTIGATION THIS CASE LIES WITH THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES WHOSE CAN BE COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO

7. IN CONCLUSION, WE WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THAT WE RECENTLY FOUND OUT THAT THE KEY WITNESS IN THE CASE, A YOUNG MAN NAMED LUIS ALBERTO LOPEZ BENAVIDES, COMMITTED SUICIDE WITHIN THE PAST FEW MONTHS. WE DO NOT YET KNOW THE EXACT DATE, BUT WE DO KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES: HE HANGED HIMSELF BY MEANS OF A ROPE TIED OVER THE CABLE BRIDGE THAT SPANS THE RIVER ABOUT ONE-HALF MILE UPSTREAM FROM THE SPOT WHERE WEISFEILER PRESUMA DISAPPEARED OR, ACCORDING TO THE CARABINEROS, PERHAPS DROWNED. BECAUSE THE CABLE BRIDGE IS WHAT WEISFEILER WOULD HAVE USED TO CROSS THE RIVER HAD HE MANAGED TO REACH IT, IT IS ONE OF THE FOCAL POINTS IN THE CASE. LUIS ALBERTO ALLEGEDLY KILLED HIMSELF AT NIGHT FOR HE WAS DISCOVERED HANGING FROM THE BRIDGE BY SOME LOCAL PEOPLE THE FOLLOWING MORNING. WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT WHETHER THIS OCCURRED BEFORE OR AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON THE WEISFEILER CASE. THIS DEATH MIGHT WELL BE ANOTHER MATTER FOR THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER, AND WE WILL MAKE THIS POINT IN OUR NEXT CONTACT WITH THE CARABINEROS. BARNES#
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8. THIS MESSAGE DRAFTED AFTER LEGATT'S DEPARTURE. LEGATT MAY WISH TO COMMENT FROM MONTEVIDEO ON HIS MEETING WITH COL. BLAMEY. BARNES