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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4774  
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15 Jan 88  
Weisfeiler File  
WAB

CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL  
CHRG: PROG:01-14-88  
APPRV: DCM:GFJONES  
DRFTD: CONS:PLANTWEILER:BB  
CLEAR: CONS:WHBARKELL  
CONS AMB DAO

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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ \* SANTIAGO 00275

DEPT FOR CA/OCS/EMR/ARA AND ARA/SC

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: CASC, CI (WEISFEILER, BORIS)  
SUBJECT: DISAPPEARANCE OF BORIS WEISFEILER: INTERVIEW  
OF CARABINEROS INVOLVED

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

REF: 87 STATE 04657

1. (CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 8, 1988, CONOFF SEPARATELY INTERVIEWED FOUR CHILEAN CARABINEROS CONCERNING THE EVENTS SURROUNDING BORIS WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE. WEISFEILER WOULD HAVE HAD TO PASS THE CARABINEROS OUTPOST IN THE AREA SOMETIME AFTER 1500, AND DISAPPEAR OR DROWN BEFORE 2000 TO HAVE REMAINED UNSEEN BY OTHERS MOVING THROUGH THE AREA. ALL CARABINEROS STATED THAT THEY SAW FOOTPRINTS NEAR THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LOS SAUCES AND NUBLE RIVERS. ONE, HOWEVER, ALSO INDICATED THAT THE FOOTPRINTS CONTINUED PAST THE CONFLUENCE TO WITHIN 500 METERS OF THE CABLEWAY NORMALLY USED TO CROSS THE RIVERS. CONOFF ALSO ACQUIRED THE NAMES OF THE FOUR MEMBERS OF AN ARMY PATROL IN THE AREA THE DAY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE. THE CARABINEROS APPEARED PRIMED FOR THIS LINE OF QUESTIONING. THE ACCOUNTS GIVEN DO NOT AGREE ON THE ISSUE OF EXACTLY WHEN THE ARMY PATROL ARRIVED IN THE AREA. REPORTEDLY, NO ONE CONNECTED WITH COLONIA DIGNIDAD ASSISTED WITH THE SEARCH OR WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE. THE HIGHER RANKING CARABINEROS APPEARED APPREHENSIVE OF CONOFF'S VISIT AND MADE EVIDENT THEIR SENTIMENTS THAT BORIS WEISFEILER WAS SOMETHING MORE THAN A MERE TOURIST. OVERALL, THE INTERVIEWS ADDED CONSIDERABLE DETAIL TO THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE EVENTS OF JANUARY 4 AND 5, 1985, BUT LEFT UNRESOLVED THE MORE PUZZLING ASPECTS OF THE CASE. END SUMMARY.

3. THE MORNING OF JANUARY 8, 1988, FOUR CHILEAN CARABINEROS WERE INTERVIEWED IN THE PREFECTURA NUBLE IN CHILLAN. A LENGTHY DISCUSSION ENSUED CONCERNING THE FORM THE INTERVIEWS WOULD TAKE; A DISCUSSION WHICH EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN PRIVATE, INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS OF EACH CARABINERO, AS THE EMBASSY HAD REQUESTED. SECOND SARGENT SOTO, NOW RETIRED, FAILED TO APPEAR, REPORTEDLY STATING THAT HE HAD NOTHING MORE TO ADD. CAPTAIN FERNANDEZ, SECOND SARGENT COFRE AND LT. ARIAS EACH

INDICATED THAT WEISFEILER SLIPPED PAST THE EL ROBLE CARABINEROS OUTPOST UNDETECTED BY WALKING THROUGH THE WOODS BETWEEN THE OUTPOST AND THE NUBLE RIVER, RATHER THAN USING THE NORMAL PATH WHICH RUNS ALONG THE OUTPOST'S EAST SIDE. IN ORDER TO HAVE AVOIDED CROSSING PATHS WITH LT. ARIAS, WHO LEFT THE OUTPOST AROUND 1500 ON JANUARY 4TH HEADED FOR THE CABLEWAY, YET STILL BE SIGHTED BY LUIS ALBERTO LOPEZ AT 1700, WEISFEILER WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE PASSED THE OUTPOST NO LATER THAN AN HOUR AFTER ARIAS'S DEPARTURE, THEN RETURN TO THE NORMAL PATH, DISAPPEARING BEFORE 2000 HOURS TO NOT BE SEEN BY OTHERS MOVING ABOUT THE AREA.

4. FERNANDEZ, COFRE AND ARIAS EACH STATED THAT THEY SAW FOOTPRINTS MADE BY A HEAVY, MILITARY OR MOUNTAINEERING TYPE BOOT AROUND THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LOS SAUCES AND NUBLE RIVERS. COFRE WENT ON TO STATE THAT THE PRINTS CONTINUED TO WITHIN 500 METERS OF THE CABLEWAY NORMALLY USED TO CROSS THE RIVERS, BEFORE REVERSING DIRECTION. COFRE, SOTO AND ARIAS WERE ASSISTED IN THE INITIAL SEARCHES FOR WEISFEILER BY A NUMBER OF LOCALS, AS WELL AS BY FOUR MEMBERS OF AN ARMY PATROL THEN ASSIGNED TO THE CHACABUCO REGIMENT OF CONCEPCION. THE NAMES OF THESE FOUR WERE PROVIDED TO CONOFF BY COFRE. REPORTEDLY, NO ONE FROM COLONIA DIGNIDAD ASSISTED WITH THE SEARCH OR WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT THE CASE. COFRE SAID THAT HE COMMANDEERED THE ARMY PATROL'S JEEP AND DRIVER IN ORDER TO TRAVEL TO SAN FABIAN DURING THE NIGHT OF JANUARY 4-5 AND ALERT CAPTAIN FERNANDEZ TO THE PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO COFRE AND ARIAS, THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMY PATROL SAID THAT THEY HAD SEEN NO STRANGERS IN THE AREA, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED DURING SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATIONS. THE ACCOUNTS OF ARIAS AND COFRE ABOUT THE ARRIVAL OF THE ARMY PATROL ARE NOT CONSISTENT. THAT OF ARIAS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THE PATROL MIGHT HAVE ARRIVED IN THE AREA BEFORE THE TIME WEISFEILER DISAPPEARED, PRESUMABLY DROWNED ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL ACCOUNT, WHILE THAT OF COFRE WOULD HAVE THE PATROL ARRIVING AFTER THE PRESUMED TIME OF DROWNING, BUT ASSISTING HIM WITH THE SEARCH IN PITCH DARKNESS.

5. THE CARABINEROS SEEMED APPREHENSIVE OF CONOFF'S VISIT, PERHAPS THINKING THAT IT REPRESENTED THE FIRST

STEP IN AN EMBASSY REQUEST TO REOPEN JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS. THEY ALSO COMMUNICATED THEIR FEELING THAT WEISFEILER WAS SOMETHING MORE THAN A MERE TOURIST. OVERALL, THE INTERVIEWS ADDED CONSIDERABLE DETAIL TO THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE EVENTS OF JANUARY 4 AND 5, BUT LEFT UNRESOLVED THE MORE PUZZLING ASPECTS OF THE OFFICIAL ACCOUNT AND, INDEED, OF THE ENTIRE CASE.

6. MEMORANDUM REGARDING INTERVIEWS BEING POUCHED UNDER COVER OF AIRGRAM TO CA/OCS/EMR/ARA AND ARA/SC. BARNES

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