

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**EXCISE**U.S. Department of State
Release _____ Excise ☒ Deny _____
Declassify: In Part ☒ In Full _____
Exemption(s) B1PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 05308 01 OF 06 231618Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	CIAE-00
	H-01	ARA-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2414
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 06 SANTIAGO 05308

EO 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PREL, CI
SUBJ: W/W CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER, COLONIA DIGNIDAD --
NEW INFORMATION

REF: SANTIAGO 4667 AND PREVIOUS

1. ☒ - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY A MAN CLAIMING TO BE A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE CHILEAN ARMY THAT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR BORIS WEISFEILER WAS ALIVE AND BEING HELD IN THE GERMAN IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT CALLED COLONIA DIGNIDAD AS RECENTLY AS EARLY JUNE, 1987. THE SOURCE, WHO HAS SO FAR REFUSED TO GIVE HIS NAME, CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF AN ARMY PATROL WHICH ARRESTED WEISFEILER AND DELIVERED HIM TO THE COLONIA, WHICH CONSIDERED HIM A QUOTE JEWISH SPY UNQUOTE. SOURCE LATER SAW WEISFEILER ONCE INSIDE THE COLONIA, AND PRIOR TO HIS PATROL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE AREA WAS TOLD BY A MEMBER OF THE COLONIA'S GUARD THAT WEISFEILER WAS BEING TORTURED. THE NON-COM WAS RECENTLY TOLD BY A MEMBER OF HIS PREVIOUS PATROL WHO IS ONCE AGAIN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIAGO 05308 01 OF 06 231618Z

PATROLLING NEAR THE COLONIA THAT HE HAD SEEN WEISFEILER IN THE COLONIA IN EARLY JUNE OF THIS YEAR. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THIS INFORMATION SPURRED HIM TO CONTACT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, WHO PUT HIM IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY. SOURCE INDICATES THAT WEISFEILER WAS DELIVERED TO COLONIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Page:

Case Number: S1999000030

ORDERS FROM THE HIGH COMMAND OF THE CHILEAN ARMY, WHICH PROTECTS THE COLONIA AND, ALONG WITH THE NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER (CNI), USES IT AS A TRAINING CENTER. CHILEAN CARABINEROS (POLICE FORCE, WHO HAVE REPEATEDLY DENIED TO EMBOFFS ANY KNOWLEDGE OF WEISFEILER'S WHEREABOUTS, WERE ALLEGEDLY AWARE OF HIS ARREST BY AN ARMY PATROL AND DELIVERY TO THE COLONIA. THE SOURCE MET WITH EMBOFFS ON JULY 2 AND PROMISED TO PHONE US A WEEK LATER; HE HAS NOT DONE SO AND MAY HAVE DECIDED TO BREAK OFF CONTACT. BY SEPTTEL, WE ARE REQUESTING EMBASSY BONN TO DISCUSS THE CASE WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WHICH IS BEING SUED BY THE COLONIA. END SUMMARY.

3. THE SOURCE: SOURCE STATED THAT HE IS AN ACTIVE DUTY NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN THE CHILEAN ARMY, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (CNI). HE IS 30-35 YEARS OLD, WITH A MUSCULAR BUILD AND MODERATELY WELL EDUCATED. HE COMES ORIGINALLY FROM THE NORTH OF CHILE, AND WAS STATIONED AT THE END OF 1983 IN AN ARMY UNIT SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF SANTIAGO. SOURCE REFUSED TO PROVIDE US WITH HIS NAME OR DETAILS ON HIS POSTINGS, STATING THAT IT WOULD JEOPARDIZE HIS AND OTHERS' SECURITY. HE FORMED PART OF A SEVEN-PERSON PATROL, DRAWN FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT UNITS, WHICH WAS GUARDING THE NORTHEAST PORTION OF THE PERIMETER OF THE GERMAN PERFECTIONIST RELIGIOUS COLONY COLONIA

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05308 01 OF 06 231618Z

DIGNIDAD. (COMMENT: THE AREA IN QUESTION LIES BETWEEN 71.00 AND 71.45 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE AND BETWEEN 36.15 AND 36.45 DEGREES SOUTH LATITUDE. END COMMENT) HIS OWN AND OTHER PATROLS IN THE AREA WERE UNDER STANDING ORDERS FROM THE VICE-COMMANDER OF THE CHILEAN ARMY TO ARREST ANY STRANGERS FOUND IN THE AREA AND TO DELIVER THEM TO THE COLONIA, AS WELL AS TO FACILITATE THE GOINGS AND COMINGS OF COLONIA PERSONNEL. THE ONLY REASON HE WAS OFFERED FOR THESE UNUSUAL POLICIES WAS THAT THE COLONIA WAS "A GOOD ALLY."

4. MOTIVATION: SOURCE CLAIMED THAT THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WEISFEILER WAS BEING HELD PRISONER TROUBLED HIM AS A CATHOLIC, WEIGHING ON HIS CONSCIENCE, AND THAT HE WAS PROVIDING THE INFORMATION IN HOPES OF SAVING THE LIFE OF THIS AND PERHAPS OTHER PRISONERS. (COMMENT: THE SOURCE NEVER NAMED THE PERSON HE HELPED ARREST AS BORIS WEISFEILER. DETAILS HE PROVIDED MATCH DR. WEISFEILER SO WELL, HOWEVER, THAT THERE APPEARS TO

UNCLASSIFIED

Page:

85

5. NATURE OF CONTACTS: WHEN THE SOURCE WENT TO THE VICARIA, STAFFERS THERE REFERRED HIM TO MAXIMO PACHECO (PROTECT), VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CHILEAN HUMAN

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05308 02 OF 06 231619Z
ACTION OCS-06 ..

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 CIAE-00
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O 231605Z JUL 87
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2415
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ L SECTION 02 OF 06 SANTIAGO 05308

EO 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PREL, CI
SUBJ: W/W ~~CASE~~ OF BORIS WEISFEILER, COLONIA DIGNIDAD --

[RIGHTS COMMISSION] BECAUSE OF [PACHECO'S] DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF COLONIA DIGNIDAD. [PACHECO] IS ONE OF TWO CHILEAN LAWYERS DEFENDING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN A LIBEL SUIT THE COLONIA HAS FILED AGAINST AMNESTY IN THE FRG. DURING HIS FIRST CONTACT WITH THE SOURCE, [PACHECO] PLACED A TAPE RECORDER IN FRONT OF HIM, AND ASKED HIM TO RECOUNT HIS STORY. [PACHECO] SET UP A SECOND MEETING AND THEN CONTACTED THE AMBASSADOR. THE EMBASSY PREPARED A SERIES OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS BASED UPON THE FIRST TAPE. THE SECOND SESSION TOOK PLACE ON JUNE 25, AND LED TO THE SCHEDULING OF A DIRECT MEETING BETWEEN THE SOURCE AND TWO EMBOFFS ON JULY 2 IN [PACHECO'S] OFFICE. SOURCE APPEARED TO BE ARMED AT ALL THREE SESSIONS. DURING THE THIRD SESSION, THE

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SOURCE GREW INCREASINGLY NERVOUS AND SKITTISH. HE HAD INSISTED THAT EACH MEETING TAKE PLACE IN PACHECO'S OFFICE, BUT PACHECO SAID FUTURE MEETINGS WOULD HAVE TO BE AT SOME OTHER SITE IN ORDER TO SHIELD HIS WORK WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THE SOURCE WOULD NOT EXPLICITLY AGREE TO A FOURTH MEETING AT ANOTHER

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05308 02 OF 06 231619Z

SITE, BUT AGREED TO CONTACT EMBOFFS BY TELEPHONE IN A PRE-ARRANGED MANNER. HE FAILED TO DO SO, HOWEVER, AND TO DATE HAS MADE NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH EITHER EMBASSY OR PACHECO.

6. WEISFEILER'S ARREST: SOURCE TOLD US THAT THE CHILEAN ARMY HAS REGULARLY PROVIDED PERIMETER PATROLS FOR COLONIA DIGNIDAD. WHAT THE SOURCE TERMED THE "EXTERIOR PERIMETER" OF THE COLONIA APPEARS TO BE A ONE-KILOMETER DEEP ZONE OUTSIDE THE PROPERTY LINE, WHICH ZONE THE ARMY PATROLS. THESE PATROLS ARE APPARENTLY LIMITED TO THE MOUNTAINOUS EAST SIDE OF THE COLONIA, WHILE THE VALLEY SIDE IS SECURED BY A WIRE FENCE. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THE EAST EXTERIOR PERIMETER NOW VIRTUALLY COINCIDES WITH THE UPPER REACHES OF THE LOS SAUCES RIVER, WHILE THE SOUTH PERIMETER RUNS THREE TO FIVE KILOMETERS TO THE NORTH OF THE NUBLE RIVER, ROUGHLY PARALLELING IT. HE STATED THAT THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE COLONIA IS ON THE WEST SIDE, ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS NW OF THE VILLAGE OF SAN FABIAN DE ALICO, CLOSE TO WHERE THE LAND BEGINS TO RISE AWAY FROM THE NUBLE RIVER VALLEY.

7. AT THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER, 1984, SOURCE WAS POSTED TO A PATROL GUARDING A SECTION OF THE NORTHEAST PERIMETER OF THE COLONIA, ON THE CORDILLERA SIDE OF THE LOS SAUCES RIVER. THIS AREA IS NORTH OF THE CABLE WAY CROSSING THAT RIVER, AS WELL AS NORTH OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE LOS SAUCES AND NUBLE WHERE THE OFFICAL ACCOUNT HOLDS THAT WEISFEILER PROBABLY DROWNED. EACH PATROL MEMBER USED A FALSE NAME AND WAS INSTRUCTED NOT TO TELL HIS REAL NAME TO HIS PATROL MATES. THE PATROL'S COMMANDER TOLD OUR SOURCE THAT ARMY PATROLS IN

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05308 02 OF 06 231619Z

THE VICINITY OF THE COLONIA HAD BEEN STRENGTHENED IN

UNCLASSIFIED
CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

Page:

Case Number: S1999000030

DECEMBER 1984 IN EXPECTATION OF AN IMPORTANT VISITOR TO THE COLONIA ARRIVING FROM BRAZIL VIA PARAGUAY, AND WHO WENT BY THE NAME OF MR. SMITH. (COMMENT: EMBASSY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TOLD BY ANOTHER SOURCE THAT THERE WAS A PARTICULARLY HEAVY MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA IN DECEMBER 1984 AND JANUARY 1985. END COMMENT.) SMITH WAS SUPPOSEDLY TO MEET A CHILEAN BUSINESSMAN AT THE COLONIA WHO WAS ARRIVING FROM THE SOUTH AND WHO WENT BY THE NAME OF RAUSS OR RAUT (PHONETIC). (COMMENT: THE NAZI WAR CRIMINAL WALTER RAUFF IS KNOWN TO HAVE LIVED IN SANTIAGO. HE SUPPOSEDLY DIED SOMETIME IN 1984 BUT NO BODY WAS EXHIBITED AT THE FUNERAL. HIS SON, BY THE SAME NAME, IS THE PRESIDENT OF A CHILEAN MARITIME BROKERAGE FIRM AND IS REPORTEDLY ACTIVE IN RIGHT-WING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THERE IS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE RAUFF FAMILY AND THE VISIT OF THE MYSTERIOUS MR. SMITH. END COMMENT.

8. IN THE FIRST HALF OF JANUARY 1985, SOURCE'S PATROL RECEIVED A RADIO CALL FROM TWO ARMY TROOPERS GUARDING THE CABLEWAY THAT THEY HAD TURNED AWAY AN INDIVIDUAL TRYING TO MAKE USE OF IT TO CROSS THE LOS SAUCES TO THE NORTH BANK OF THE NUBLE RIVER. (COMMENT: IN THE FIRST TWO SESSIONS, THE NON-COM STATED THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO REMEMBER THE DATE IN 1985 WHEN THESE EVENTS OCCURRED. I THE DIRECT INTERVIEW BY EMBOFFS HE PROVIDED THE DATES USED HEREIN. ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS ACCOUNTS OF AREA RESIDENTS, WEISFEILER WAS LAST SEEN ON JANUARY 4, 1985. END COMMENT.) THE ARMY PATROL, WHICH WAS UNDER STANDING ORDERS TO ARREST ANYONE FOUND IN THE AREA, THEN MOVED

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05308 03 OF 06 231620Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2416
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 06 SANTIAGO 05308

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UNCLASSIFIED

Page:

EO 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PREL, CI

SUBJ: W/W CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER, COLONIA DIGNIDAD --

~~SOUTH ALONG THE LOS SAUCES RIVER AND FOUND WEISFEILER ON~~
THE CORDILLERA SIDE, A BIT SOUTH OF ITS CONFLUENCE WITH
THE LOS SAUCES. THE SOURCE STATES THAT THE PERSON WAS
1.75-1.8 METERS TALL, ATHLETIC AND MUSCULAR, WITH QUOTE
CASTANO OSCURO UNQUOTE HAIR. (COMMENT: WHILE CASTANO
OSCURO LITERALLY MEANS DARK BROWN, CHILEANS INVARIABLY
DESCRIBE BLACK HAIR, WHICH WEISFEILER HAD, IN THESE
TERMS. END COMMENT.)

WEISFEILER HAD HIS BACKPACK ON HIS RIGHT SIDE, ALONG WITH
A CANTEEN, WAS WEARING A PARKA, A CHERRY COLORED
SWEATER, TAN COLORED THICK WOOL PANTS AND MOUNTAIN BOOTS
AND WAS APPARENTLY WASHING SOMETHING IN THE RIVER. THE
PATROL APPROACHED WEISFEILER AND ASKED HIM FOR HIS PERMIT
TO ENTER THE AREA, WHICH HE SHOULD HAVE OBTAINED FROM THE
CARABINEROS AT THE NEARBY EL ROBLE OUTPOST. WEISFEILER
COULD PRODUCE NO SUCH PERMIT, AND SO WAS ARRESTED. THE
PRISONER SPOKE POOR SPANISH AND APPARENTLY OFFERED NO
RESISTANCE. THE PATROL THREATENED WEISFEILER WITH THEIR
WEAPONS, MADE HIM KNEEL DOWN WITH HIS HANDS BEHIND HIS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05308 03 OF 06 231620Z

NECK AND SEARCHED HIM AND HIS BACKPACK BRIEFLY. ABOUT
THIS TIME, THREE CARABINEROS, ACCOMPANIED BY A LOCAL
RESIDENT, ARRIVED ON THE SCENE. THEY ASKED THE PATROL
COMMANDER TO TURN WEISFEILER OVER TO THEM. THE
COMMANDING LIEUTENANT REFUSED AND ORDERED THE CARABINEROS
OUT OF THE AREA, APPARENTLY BERATING THEM FOR LETTING
WEISFEILER GET PAST THEM AND ENTER A MILITARILY
RESTRICTED ZONE.

9. AMONG THE CONTENTS OF WEISFEILER'S BACKPACK WERE AN
"INFRA-RED NIGHT VIEWING DEVICE" (NFI), BINOCULARS, A
BOWIE KNIFE, A DOCUMENT OR CARD INDICATING THE PERSON
WAS A PROFESSOR AT AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, TWO PAIRS OF
MOUNTAIN BOOTS, CLOTHES, TWO BOOKS, A SLEEPING BAG, TENT
AND A DETAILED, COLORED FOLDING MAP OF THE AREA BETWEEN
CHILLAN AND PARRAL, MOST LIKELY MADE IN THE UNITED STATE
(COMMENT: THE SEARCH ITSELF WAS CONDUCTED BY THE PATROL
COMMANDER AND A CNI MEMBER ATTACHED TO IT. OUR SOURCE WAS
PRESENT, HOWEVER. HE WAS QUITE INSISTENT THAT
WEISFEILER HAD BINOCULARS AS WELL AS THE "NIGHT VISION
DEVICE." WEISFEILER WAS AT FIRST ASSUMED TO BE A RUSSIA
SPY, EITHER FROM HIS NAME OR SOMETHING FOUND IN HIS

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BACKPACK. LATER, WHEN HIS AMERICAN PASSPORT WAS FOUND INSIDE A DOUBLE FOLD OF HIS SLEEPING BAG, THE LIEUTENANT IN CHARGE OF THE PATROL ACCUSED HIM OF BEING A CIA SPY.

~~10. DELIVERY OF WEISFEILER TO THE COLONIA. THE PATROL THEN CROSSED THE NUBLE RIVER, MAKING USE OF A RUBBER BOAT KEPT AT A LOCAL'S HOUSE WHICH OVERLOOKS THE CABLEWAY CROSSING. WEISFEILER WAS TAKEN DOWNSTREAM ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS AND THEN STRIPPED AND SEARCHED MORE THOROUGHLY. THE COMMANDER OF THE PATROL AGAIN ACCUSED WEISFEILER OF BEING A SPY AND BEGAN TO KICK HIM, STRIKE~~

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 05308 03 OF 06 231620Z

HIM WITH HIS GUNBUTT, AND SUBMERGE HIS HEAD IN THE RIVER. AT THIS POINT, WEISFEILER BEGAN TO SHOUT HIS NAME, THE FIRST PART OF WHICH THE SOURCE SAID HAD TWO SYLLABLES ALONG THE LINES OF YURI OR BASIL AND ALSO BEGAN TO SHOUT TO CONTACT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. DURING THE SECOND INTERVIEW, SOURCE DREW A MAP OF THE LOCATION OF THE INCIDENT WHOSE ORIENTATION AND FEATURES CORRESPOND TO THE LOS SAUCES-NUBLE RIVER AREA. IN THE THIRD INTERVIEW HE GAVE US THE NAMES OF THE TWO RIVERS INVOLVED, INDICATING THAT HE HAD CONSULTED A MAP TO REFRESH HIS MEMORY.

11. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR STANDING ORDERS, THE PATROL THEN CROSSED TO THE NORTH SIDE OF THE NUBLE, AFTER HAVING RADIOED THEIR BASE CAMP INFORMING IT THAT THEY HAD TAKEN A PRISONER. AT A GUARD SHELTER ALONG THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THE COLONIA THEY TURNED WEISFEILER OVER TO THE COLONIA'S CHIEF OF SECURITY. THIS INDIVIDUAL, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, WAS CALLED EITHER DOCTOR OR PROFESSOR AS A NICKNAME. AT THIS POINT, WEISFEILER BEGAN TO SHOUT QUOTE ASSASSINS, NAZIS AND I KNOW HE'S HERE END QUOTE. THE PATROL'S COMMANDER AND THE COLONIA'S SECURITY CHIEF ENTERED THE COLONIA AND INTERROGATED WEISFEILER FOR A PERIOD OF SOME TWO HOURS. WHEN THE INTERROGATION WAS OVER, THE PATROL'S COMMANDER EMERGED AND STATED THAT THE PRISONER WAS NEITHER A RUSSIAN NOR A CIA SPY, BUT A JEWISH SPY INTERFERING WITH THE ARRIVAL OF MR. SMITH. SOURCE AT THIS POINT REMARKED TO EMBOFFS THAT WITH THIS SEQUENCE OF IDENTIFICATIONS WEISFEILER COULD JUST AS PLAUSIBLY HAVE BEEN LABELED A CHINESE SPY, AND THAT HE DIDN'T SEE WHY A SIMPLE TOURIST SHOULD BE TREATED IN SUCH A MANNER. MOST OF WEISFEILER'S POSSESSIONS WERE SENT TO THE CNI'S HEADQUARTERS IN SANTIAGO, WHILE OTHERS WERE

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Page:

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CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SANTIA 05308 04 OF 06 241432Z

ACTION OCS-06

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2417
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 04 OF 06 SANTIAGO 05308

CORRECTED COPY - TEXT

EO 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PREL, CI

SUBJ: W/W CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER, COLONIA DIGNIDAD --

ALLEGEDLY TAKEN TO HIGHER LEVEL ARMY COMMANDERS.
(COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN TOLD REPEATEDLY THAT WEISFEILER'S
BACKPACK WAS NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL 10 DAYS AFTER HIS
DISAPPEARANCE. END COMMENT.)

12. SUBSEQUENT SIGHTINGS AND INFORMATION: THE SOURCE'S
PATROL CONTINUED ON DUTY UNTIL MAY 1985, EXCEPT FOR A
TWO WEEK PERIOD IN FEBRUARY WHEN THEY WERE SUDDENLY
WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA. (COMMENT: A U.S. CONSULAR
OFFICER MADE A SECOND VISIT TO THE AREA FEBRUARY 11-12,
1985. END COMMENT.) THE CARABINEROS FROM THE EL ROBLE
OUTPOST WERE WITHDRAWN IN MARCH OR APRIL OF 1985,
ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE'S RECOLLECTION, AND THE NEW
GARRISON WAS UNDER STRICT ORDERS TO HAVE NO CONTACT WITH
THE ARMY PATROLS. AFTER THE PATROL'S REFUSAL TO TURN
WEISFEILER OVER TO THE LOCAL CARABINEROS, RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS APPARENTLY BECAME VERY COOL. IN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 05308 04 OF 06 241432Z

MAY, ALL THE PATROLS THEN IN THE AREA OF THE COLONIA WERE
WITHDRAWN, FOR THE OSTENSIBLE REASON THAT QUOTE: A
WOMAN WAS IN THE AREA SNOOPING AROUND. END QUOTE.
COMMENT: NO FEMALE CONSULAR OFFICER BEGAN TO WORK ON

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THE CASE, OR VISITED THE AREA UNTIL OCTOBER, 1985. WE KNOW THAT HER VISIT CAUSED ANXIETY AMONG LOCAL AUTHORITIES. BOTH THE CHILEAN MATHEMATICS SOCIETY AND THE MAGAZINE ANALYSIS ALSO CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS BUT WE DO NOT KNOW THEIR METHODS, PERSONNEL OR EXACT TIMING. END COMMENT.

13. DURING THE JANUARY-MAY, 1985 PERIOD, OUR SOURCE STATES THAT HE SAW WEISFEILER ONCE FROM A DISTANCE, DRESSED ONLY IN A SHIFT, MAKING ADOBE BRICKS NEAR A WOODEN BUILDING ON PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE COLONIA. ON TWO OTHER OCCASIONS, [THE NON-COM] ENTERED THE COLONIA TO OBTAIN WATER FROM CAMOUFLAGED WELLS THE COLONIA MAINTAINED ALONG ITS EASTERN EDGE. FOR SOME REASON THE PATROLS WERE UNDER ORDERS NOT TO USE THE RIVER WATER IN THE AREA. THIS NECESSITATED MAKING CONTACT WITH ONE OF THE COLONIA'S GUARDS WHO WOULD POINT OUT THE WELL WHICH SHOULD BE USED. ON THE TWO OCCASIONS, [SOURCE SAID HE HAD BRIEF CONVERSATIONS BOTH GOING AND COMING WITH A YOUNG (ABOUT 22 YEARS OLD) MEMBER OF THE COLONIA'S GUARD PATROL WHO IS THE NEPHEW OF AN EX-CARABINERO (CHILEAN POLICE) AND WHO GOES BY THE NAME OF [HECTOR]. ON THE FIRST ENCOUNTER, THE GUARD INITIATED THE CONVERSATION AND ASKED [OUR SOURCE] IF [HIS]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05308 04 OF 06 241432Z

PATROL HAD ARRESTED QUOTE THE JEW UNQUOTE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATIONS [OUR SOURCE] WAS TOLD BY THE GUARD THAT HE WAS DISTRESSED BY WHAT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COLONIA HAD TOLD HIM ABOUT THE ANIMAL-LIKE CONDITIONS AND TORTURE TO WHICH WEISFEILER WAS BEING SUBJECTED. [HE ALSO] LEARNED THAT THE GUARD HAD COME TO THE COLONIA FROM THE OUTSIDE WHILE IN HIS MID TO LATE TEENS, WAS OF GERMAN DESCENT, AND THAT HIS CARABINERO UNCLE HAD TRIED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO GET HIM OUT OF THE COLONIA, BOTH BY VISITING IT IN PERSON AND BY JUDICIAL MEANS. THE COLONIA HAD RESISTED THESE ATTEMPTS AND THE CARABINERO WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. THE GUARD [TOLD OUR SOURCE] THAT HE WAS NOT AFRAID TO LEAVE THE COLONIA.

UNCLASSIFIED

14. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT HIS ABILITY TO CONVERSE WITH THE COLONIA'S GUARD WAS VERY RESTRICTED BECAUSE BOTH HE AND THE GUARD WERE WATCHED BY OTHERS. HE ALSO SAID THAT SOMETIMES THE YOUNG GUARD SEEMED AS IF HE WERE DRUGGED OR IN ANOTHER WORLD, AND THAT HE WAS SOMETIMES INCOHERENT AND HAD TROUBLE PUTTING TOGETHER MEANINGFUL SENTENCES. COMMENT: OTHER EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS FROM THE COLONIA REPORT SIMILAR BEHAVIOR FROM ITS INHABITANTS. END COMMENT.

15. AFTER HIS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COLONIA AREA, IN MAY 1985, OUR SOURCE ASSUMED THAT WEISFEILER WAS NO LONGER ALIVE BECAUSE OF WHAT THE COLONIA'S GUARD HAD TOLD HIM. IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE, 1987, HOWEVER, HE ENCOUNTERED A MEMBER OF HIS FORMER PATROL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 04 SANTIA 05308 04 OF 06 241432Z

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05308 05 OF 06 231622Z
ACTION OCS-06

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	CIAE-00
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O 231605Z JUL 87
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2418
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 05 OF 06 SANTIAGO 05308

EO 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PREL, CI
SUBJ: W/W CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER, COLONIA DIGNIDAD --

WHO IS AGAIN ASSIGNED TO PATROL DUTIES NEAR THE COLONIA. THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS IN SANTIAGO ON AN ESCORT MISSION. HE TOLD OUR SOURCE

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
UNCLASSIFIED

THAT HE HAD JUST SEEN WEISFEILER ALIVE IN THE COLONIA, AND THAT RECENTLY AN ORDER HAD BEEN GIVEN TO QUOTE CLEAN OUT UNQUOTE AN UNDERGROUND BUNKER AREA OF THE COLONIA.

~~OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE COLONIA IS USED~~
AS A HOLDING TANK FOR EXTREMISTS CAPTURED TRYING TO ENTER THE COUNTRY CLANDESTINELY AND THAT THESE PERSONS ARE LATER SHIPPED TO OTHER PARTS OF CHILE AND USED IN STAGED SHOOT-OUTS WITH THE SECURITY FORCES. HE OFFERED THE OPINION THAT THIS ORDER TO CLEAN OUT THE COLONIA WAS PROBABLY RELATED TO THE SERIES OF SANTIAGO CONFRONTATIONS WHICH OCCURRED IN MID-JUNE AND RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF 12 PERSONS. IT WAS UNCLEAR FROM SOURCE'S ACCOUNT WHETHER THE "CLEAN-OUT" MIGHT HAVE AFFECTED WEISFEILER OR NOT.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 05308 05 OF 06 231622Z

16. ON JULY 14, THE CHARGE AND THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE CONSULAR SECTION MET WITH HANS SPOHN, THE CHARGE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, TO DETERMINE IF HE HAD ANY INFORMATION ON THE COLONIA WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO CONFIRM SOURCE'S STORY. A FORMER GERMAN AMBASSADOR PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE COLONIA AND THERE ARE SEVERAL GERMAN CITIZENS ATTEMPTING TO EXTRICATE RELATIVES FROM THE COLONIA. WHILE INTERESTED AND WILLING TO BE OF ASSISTANCE, THE CHARGE COULD ADD LITTLE TO THE KNOWLEDGE WE ALREADY HAD. SPECIFICALLY, THE GERMAN EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE ANY ACCESS OR CONTACTS INSIDE THE COLONIA WHICH COULD BE USED TO CHECK OUR SOURCE'S INFORMATION, AND THE COLONIA HAS REBUFFED ALL THEIR ATTEMPTS TO TALK TO RESIDENTS. WE ARE CURRENTLY FOLLOWING UP ON OTHER SOURCES WHICH MIGHT PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON, OR CHANNELS INTO, THE COLONIA.

17. COMMENT: WE ASSURE OUR READERS WE FIND THIS ACCOUNT EVERY BIT AS BIZARRE AS THEY DO. THE FIRST THOUGHT THAT OCCURRED TO US IS THAT THIS WAS SOME KIND OF ELABORATE, EXTREMELY DETAILED SET-UP TO ENTRAP AND EMBARRASS THE EMBASSY. ALTHOUGH WE STILL CANNOT DEFINITELY RULE THAT OUT, NEITHER CAN WE IMAGINE WHAT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, OR ANYONE ELSE, MIGHT

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HOPE TO GAIN. IF NOT A SET-UP BY PERSONS WITH
PRIOR DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THE WEISFEILER
CASE, THEN IT BECOMES DIFFICULT TO DISCOUNT
SOURCE'S STORY. AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE INCIDENT

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 05308 05 OF 06 231622Z

OF THE ARREST IS CONCERNED. HIS STORY IS SO
DETAILED AND FITS SO WELL WITH WHAT WE KNOW
FROM MANY OTHER SOURCES OF WEISFEILER'S
WHEREABOUTS, PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION, AND WHAT
HE WAS CARRYING, THAT IT SEEMS TO US LIKELY
THAT SOURCE DID IN FACT PARTICIPATE IN
WEISFEILER'S ARREST AND DELIVERY TO THE
COLONIA. FROM THAT POINT ON, THE STORY
BECOMES MUCH MORE IFFY -- WEISFEILER MAY NOT
HAVE BEEN THE MAN SOURCE SAW AT A DISTANCE --
AND BASED ON HEARSAY FROM THE COLONIA GUARD
AND THE SOLDIER WHO RECENTLY WAS IN THE AREA.
WE THEREFORE ARE LESS CONFIDENT OF WHERE
WEISFEILER IS NOW.

18. THE STORY ALSO POSED A DILEMMA. IF WEISFEILER IS
IN FACT ALIVE AND A PRISONER IN THE COLONIA OR ANYWHERE
ELSE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GOC, ANY INVESTIGATION
WE UNDERTAKE WHICH COMES TO THE GOC'S ATTENTION RUNS
THE RISK OF HIS BEING KILLED TO COVER UP THE AFFAIR.
ON THE OTHER HAND, TO TAKE NO ACTION COULD BE EQUIVALENT
TO ABANDONING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN TRAPPED IN THE HANDS
OF PERSONS FOR WHOM PARANOID IS ONE OF THE KINDER
ADJECTIVES.

19. AS INDICATED ABOVE, WE OPTED FOR (1)
ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE
SOURCE - AT WHICH WE MAY HAVE FAILED; (2)
CONSULTING WITH THE GERMAN EMBASSY; AND (3)
SPEAKING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE AND TRUSTWORTHY
PERSONS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH RECOMMENDED
BY PACHECO. IN ADDITION, BY SEPTTEL, WE WILL

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05308 06 OF 06 231622Z
ACTION OCS-06

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Case Number 101999000030

INFO	LOG-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	CIAE-00
	H-01	ARA-00	NSAE-00	SSO-00	HA-09	L-03	INRE-00
	CA-02	USSS-00	FBIE-00	DS-01	DSE-00	SCT-02	/035 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 06 OF 06 SANTIAGO 05308

EO 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PREL, CI

SUBJ: W/W CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER, COLONIA DIGNIDAD --

REQUEST EMBASSY BONN TO SPEAK WITH TWO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS IN THE FRG WHO MAY HAVE ACCESS TO PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN INSIDE THE COLONIA WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS. IF SO, THEY MAY BE ABLE TO CONFIRM OR REFUTE PARTS OF SOURCE'S ACCOUNT.

20. AFTER EXPLORING EVERY POSSIBLE AVENUE OF CONFIRMATION OF SOURCE'S STORY, WE MAY WISH TO APPROACH THE GOC AT A SENIOR LEVEL. BEFORE DOING SO, WE WILL REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE.

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