



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

OCT 16 2003

Dear Mr. Frank:

Thank you for your September 25 letter directed to Robert P. Jackson of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. We also want to thank you and your staff for arranging the August 1 meeting between Olga Weisfeiler, sister of missing American citizen Boris Weisfeiler, and representatives from the Department of State. While there have been no significant breakthroughs to date, we remain committed to the resolution of this tragic case, and stand ready to assist Ms. Weisfeiler in any way we can.

During this meeting, as noted in your letter, Ms. Weisfeiler made several requests for assistance in the ongoing investigation of her brother's 1985 disappearance in Chile. These included a request that we contact former U.S. Embassy officials regarding their recollections of the case and directly provide Chilean investigators any information that might help establish the identity of informants. In 2000, we provided a large set of declassified documents on this case directly to the investigating judge, with only minor redactions to protect intelligence sources and the privacy of U.S. citizens and residents. Our Embassy in Santiago remains in contact with the investigating judge and is ready to assist to the fullest extent possible. We have contacted former members of Embassy staff; regrettably, none was able to clearly identify an individual or recall details that might lead to an identification of the informants. Should the judge wish to seek information from these or other former U.S. officials, however, we would be pleased to help facilitate the request.

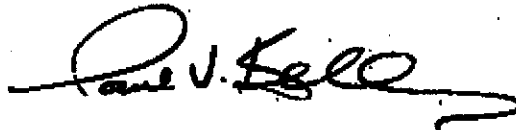
Ms. Weisfeiler also voiced concern that the Federal Bureau of Investigation might not be providing all possible support to Chilean investigators. Please be assured that our Legal Attache's Office in Santiago continues to offer its support and assistance to the investigating judge to the full extent allowed by law. It is our understanding

The Honorable
Barney Frank,
House of Representatives.

that FBI headquarters fully supports this initiative. Ms. Weisfeiler also asked for our consideration of posting a reward for information on her brother's disappearance. There appears to be no legal authority for the U.S. to post such a reward, but the Embassy is seriously examining all avenues in our effort to obtain information about Mr. Weisfeiler's fate. In August, the Chilean government proposed a new law that may offer reduced penalties for those providing evidence that helps resolve remaining human rights cases. If this proposal does become law, it may encourage those with information about the Weisfeiler case to cooperate and help resolve it.

Again, while there have been no significant breakthroughs to date, we remain committed to the resolution of this tragic case, and stand ready to assist Ms. Weisfeiler in any way we can. The Government of Chile is aware of our interest in clarifying the fate of Boris Weisfeiler, and we intend to continue raising this matter bilaterally. Please do not hesitate to contact us again on this or any other matter of concern.

Sincerely, ..

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul V. Kelly", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs