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Chile Project (#S199900030)

U.S. Department of State

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Exemption(s) \_\_\_\_\_

No. 250

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SAD 089

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile and has the honor to refer to its Note No. 72 of August 26, 1986, and previous, concerning the case of the missing United States citizen Boris Weisfeiler, reportedly last seen on January 4, 1985, in the Nuble River Valley, near the confluence of the Nuble and Los Sauces Rivers.

During the three and one-half years that have elapsed since Mr. Weisfeiler's disappearance, the Embassy has received numerous official and unofficial reports concerning his disappearance, yet none, including the Court of San Fabian's judicial inquest and the investigation conducted by the Segundo Juzgado de Letras de San Carlos, concluding probable death by drowning, have been able to satisfactorily explain what happened to Mr. Weisfeiler.

The Embassy considers the unsolved case of Mr. Weisfeiler's disappearance to be open, and in an effort to close the case acceptably, the Embassy is attempting to interview all persons who were involved in the search for Mr. Weisfeiler after learning of his disappearance. To this end, the Embassy wishes

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to convey to the Ministry the Embassy's gratitude for the full cooperation given by the Carabineros of Chile, who arranged for a consular officer to interview the Carabineros who were in the area in which Mr. Weisfeiler disappeared and who participated in the search.

During the interviews with the Carabineros, it was learned that four members of an army patrol, which was from the Chacabuco Regiment based in Concepcion, assisted the Carabineros in the search for Mr. Weisfeiler. The names of the four members of the army patrol follow.

Lt. Antonio Luis Cortes Aravena

Lt. Luis Pardo Fernandez

Sgt. Gabriel Diaz Morales

Sgt. Hector Toro Aero

In a letter dated April 14, 1988, to Brigadier General Gustavo Abarzua Rivadeneira, Director of Intelligence of the Chilean Army, the Embassy requested permission to interview each of the aforementioned members of the army patrol. In his reply of July 25, 1988, General Abarzua referred to the unsuccessful investigations conducted by the Investigations Police and Carabineros. General Abarzua then suggested that the Embassy contact the Segundo Juzgado de Letras de San Carlos for any

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further investigations or interviews which the Embassy might wish to have conducted.

The aforementioned four members of the army patrol may have important information concerning the chain of events surrounding Mr. Weisfeiler's disappearance and the subsequent search for him. Therefore, the Embassy respectfully requests the Ministry to intercede, in the Embassy's behalf, to obtain permission for an Embassy officer to interview each of the four members of the army patrol who participated in the search.

The Embassy of the United States of America avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile the assurances of its highest consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America

Santiago, August 5, 1988

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