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James G. Arthur, President
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February 8, 2005

His Excellency
Dr. Ricardo Lagos Escobar
President of Chile
Palacio de la Moneda
Santiago, Chile

Dear President Lagos:

I am writing to you in my capacity as the President of the American Mathematical Society. The American Mathematical Society, founded in 1888, has a membership base of over 30,000, and is the largest professional society in Mathematics in the world today.

The principal subject of my letter is the case of the mysterious disappearance of Boris Weisfeiler on Chilean soil in January of 1985. Dr. Weisfeiler, a renowned Professor of Mathematics at the Pennsylvania State University, was taking a hiking trip in southern Chile in the area surrounding Colonia Dignidad when he suddenly disappeared without a trace. He has never been heard from since.

After an apparently cursory investigation in 1985, Chilean authorities concluded that Dr. Weisfeiler had drowned in the Ñuble River during his trip, even though his body had never been found. On the other hand, numerous reports surfaced later, to the effect that Dr. Weisfeiler had been arrested by the Chilean Military under Augusto Pinochet's regime, and taken to Colonia Dignidad for interrogation, where he might have been held captive as late as 1987. Recently, various US Government documents released by the Department of State under the Chile Declassification Project seemed to lend credence to this theory.

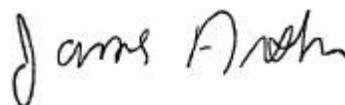
Members of the US mathematical community and colleagues at Penn State University are only among the many who are deeply concerned about Dr. Weisfeiler's unknown fate. Others who have written to you regarding Weisfeiler's disappearance included US Senator Edward Kennedy, Congressman Barney Frank, as well as various human rights organizations. The touching story of the 17-year long tenacious search of Dr. Olga Weisfeiler for her missing brother Boris and her numerous tireless fact-finding trips to Chile has especially drawn attention and sympathy worldwide.

I join all others concerned about the fate of Prof. Weisfeiler and possible violations of his human rights in urging you to use the full power of your office to ascertain the truth behind his disappearance in 1985, and to give a thorough account of what happened to him after that. In the unfortunate event that Dr. Weisfeiler had met with foul play, in Colonia Dignidad or elsewhere, all perpetrators of the crime must be brought to justice and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Although the Chilean judiciary re-opened the investigation of the Weisfeiler case in the year 2000, apparently only minimal progress has been made to date. Since the case was already twenty years old by January of this year, it is imperative that this investigation receive the highest priority so that it can be brought to a full resolution as quickly as possible.

Your vital assistance in expediting this important matter and bringing closure to the case of Dr. Boris Weisfeiler will be greatly appreciated by us all.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James G. Arthur". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

James G. Arthur
President

cc: Ambassador Craig Kelly