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United States Department of State

*Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20520-6258*

March 22, 2002

Ms. Olga Weisfeiler
56 Beecher Place, #1
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Weisfeiler:

The office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy has asked the Department of State to reply to your letter of January 24 inquiring about the status of the investigation into the fate of your brother Boris Weisfeiler. The case has been under the active supervision of investigating magistrate Judge Juan Guzman since January of last year. As you may know, Judge Guzman is the same judge responsible for prosecuting former president Augusto Pinochet in the well-known "Caravan of Death" case.

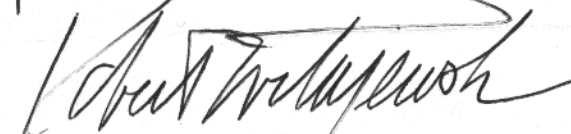
Judge Guzman has searched the premises and files of the settlement in southern Chile formerly known as Colonia Dignidad on more than one occasion for any indication that Mr. Weisfeiler might be there. So far, nothing he has found would indicate that Mr. Weisfeiler is, or ever was, present at Colonia Dignidad. More recently Judge Guzman led an expedition to the nearly inaccessible site along the banks of the Nuble River where Mr. Weisfeiler disappeared. We understand that he spoke with the local residents and plans on formally deposing them next month.

To assist in the investigation, the U.S. Government has provided Judge Guzman with documents pertaining to your brother's case. Earlier, the U.S. Government requested from the Government of Chile an accounting of the fates of the four U.S. citizens who were either killed or disappeared during the period of military dictatorship. The Embassy has been in contact with the Judge and monitors developments in the case and is ready to support him further should the need arise.

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We understand your desire to obtain closure in the case of your brother's disappearance and resolve the outstanding questions about his fate. I want to assure you that our Embassy in Santiago and the Department of State in Washington are following closely the investigation by Judge Guzman and are assisting where we can. We stand ready to answer any further questions you may have regarding this case as the investigation proceeds and any new information is developed.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Witajewski
Acting Director
Office of Brazil and
Southern Cone Affairs

Cc: Senator Edward M. Kennedy