

DEC 12 2005

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Peterson:

Thank you for your letters of August 23 and September 23 in which you express your concerns, and those of your constituent, David I. Tubbs, regarding Boris Weisfeiler and his 1985 disappearance in Chile. We regret the delay of our reply.

Boris Weisfeiler's disappearance remains a priority concern to the U.S. Government and to the Department of State in particular. Despite the passage of time, Mr. Weisfeiler's case continues to receive the attention of senior officials in Washington and Santiago. The U.S. Ambassador to Chile and other Embassy officials repeatedly raise this case with senior Chilean officials and regularly highlight to them the importance of this case to our Government. In May of this year, a new investigating judge, Jorge Zepeda, was assigned to this case. Embassy officers have twice met with him, and we believe that he shares our goal of solving this case. With the onset of drier weather, the judge's investigative team has recently re-commenced its searches of the grounds of *Colonia Dignidad* (now *Villa Bavaria*). Embassy officials have also offered law enforcement and other assistance, and recently visited this compound.

Our Ambassador and other Embassy officials are in regular contact with Boris Weisfeiler's sister, Olga Weisfeiler, and have kept her informed of our efforts in this case. Your constituent correctly notes that Paul Schaeffer, the former head of *Colonia Dignidad*, was recently apprehended in Argentina and is now in Chile. Chilean authorities have been interrogating him about his knowledge of the Weisfeiler case, and that of other missing persons, but so far we are unaware that he has provided any information relating to Mr. Weisfeiler.

The Honorable
John E. Peterson,
House of Representatives.

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We hope this information is helpful in addressing your constituent's concerns. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance on this or any matter of importance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeffrey T. Bergner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs