



THE WITHERSPOON INSTITUTE

13 September 2007

**The Honorable Mariano Fernández  
Ambassador to the United States  
Embassy of Chile  
1732 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036**

**Dear Ambassador Fernández:**

**As fellows of the Witherspoon Institute and members of the Princeton community, we write to you about the distinguished mathematician Boris Weisfeiler, who disappeared while hiking in southern Chile in January 1985. Professor Weisfeiler taught at Penn State University from 1976 to 1985. His first academic position in the United States, however, was here in Princeton at the Institute for Advanced Study in 1975-76.**

**Much evidence suggests that Weisfeiler was abducted by General Pinochet's security forces based in or near the interrogation and torture center known as Colonia Dignidad. Paul Schaefer, the ex-Nazi who founded Colonia Dignidad, was arrested in March 2005 in Argentina and deported to Chile. Schaefer was later convicted, but despite the greater knowledge about Colonia Dignidad because of Schaefer's trial, Professor Weisfeiler's fate is still unknown. We shall thus be grateful if you use your good offices and ask your government to expedite their investigations and provide definitive answers about Weisfeiler. Because of your exile from Chile during the Pinochet era, we expect that you appreciate our concerns.**

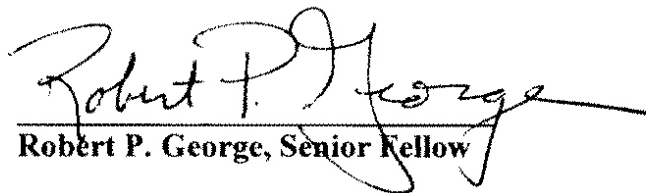
**More than twenty-two years after his disappearance, it is hard to believe that Professor Weisfeiler's fate remains unknown. So that answers may at last be obtained, we respectfully ask that you press for the full cooperation of the Chilean military. Such cooperation must include opening any files potentially relevant to Weisfeiler's disappearance.**

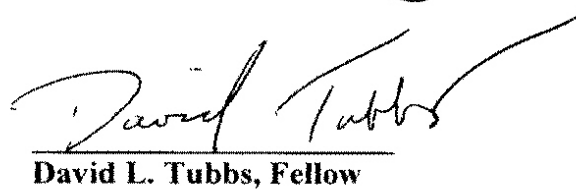
**Professor Weisfeiler is the only U. S. citizen among the more than 1,100 *desaparecidos* in Chile. Chile's democratization in the post-Pinochet era is inspiring, but it will be incomplete unless there is full disclosure about human rights violations under the Pinochet regime.**

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**Thank you for help with these matters. We look forward to hearing from you.**

**Yours sincerely,**

  
**Robert P. George, Senior Fellow**

  
**David L. Tubbs, Fellow**