

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 14, 2004

The Honorable Colin L. Powell
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:

I urge the Department to recommend that President Bush raise the case of Boris Weisfeiler with President Lagos of Chile when they meet on July 19. Boris Weisfeiler is the only American citizen among the more than 1,000 Chileans who disappeared during the repressive Pinochet regime. Boris Weisfeiler's sister lives in Massachusetts and she and her family have suffered a great deal in this long ordeal. I have frequently corresponded with the Department on this case, most recently in November 2002, urging action and resolution of this case.

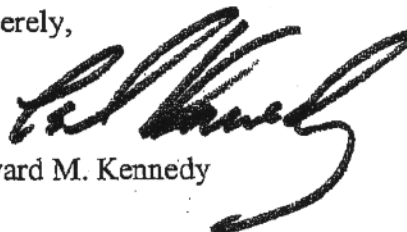
There is some evidence, including more than 250 documents declassified by the State Department in June 2000, suggesting that Mr. Weisfeiler may have been alive for some time after his disappearance in 1985. The evidence supports the theory that he was arrested by a Chilean military patrol and taken for interrogation to the infamous torture and detention center in Colonia Dignidad under the Pinochet regime.

The circumstances surrounding Mr. Weisfeiler's disappearance have been under investigation in the Chilean courts for the past four years. In 2002, the Chilean Supreme Court transferred the Weisfeiler case to a new judge, which provided an opportunity to obtain additional information, but no additional information has been learned so far.

It might make all the difference if President Lagos hears from President Bush that our country is very interested in resolving this case, and that appropriate FBI investigative and technical assistance from our country could be available to help resolve it, as has been done in other high profile crimes against Americans abroad.

With respect and appreciation, and I know that Mr. Weisfeiler's family would be very grateful.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy