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October 27, 2004

The Honorable Ricardo Lagos President of Chile c/o The Embassy of Chile 1732 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. President.

I understand that the case of Dr. Boris Weisfeiler -- a distinguished U.S. mathematician who disappeared in southern Chile while on a winter vacation hiking trip in January 1985 - was raised during your visit to the White House this past July.

Over the many years since his disappearance, various eyewitness accounts received by the U.S. embassy in Chile indicate that Mr. Weisfeiler was seized by Chilean security forces and taken to Colonia Dignidad.

Next month, Boris Weisfeiler's sister Olga Weisfeiler, along with her daughter, will be traveling to Chile to continue her 17-year search for the truth about the fate of her brother.

I write to express my continuing and very strong support for her efforts and for the work of the Action Committee on Colonia Diginidad to redress human rights crimes in Chile associated with Colonia Dignidad.

The Action Committee on Colonia Dignidad is a group of Chilean members of Congress and human rights and social organizations that include representatives of Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Servicio de Paz y Justicia, Corporacion Ayun, Comite Memoria, Comision Etica Contra la Tortura, Cotiach, former Colonia Dignidad members, Corporacion Mujeres Alemanas – and concerned citizens who for years have closely monitored developments in relation to Colonia Dignidad.

I urge you to ask all your government's relevant cabinet ministers to help solve the case of Boris Weisfeiler and for you to take whatever actions are necessary to help uncover the truth about his fate and that of numerous other human rights victims at Colonia Dignidad.

Barney FRANK