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# United States Senate

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January 23, 2006

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The Honorable Jeffrey T. Bergner  
Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs  
U.S. Department of State  
Harry S. Truman Building, Room 7327  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Bergner:


I write today concerning the status of Dr. Boris Weisfeiler, a professor of mathematics at the Pennsylvania State University, who disappeared while visiting Chile in late 1984/early 1985. I have recently been contacted by several constituents who are eager to see his case re-examined by the U.S. Department of State.

As you may know, Dr. Boris Weisfeiler was born in the Soviet Union and, subsequently, became a naturalized U.S. citizen. It has been reported that Dr. Weisfeiler disappeared shortly after Christmas 1984 while hiking in the region of El Salto Del Laja, Chile, a region roughly 300 hundred miles south of Santiago. By all accounts, he was an experienced hiker and outdoorsman who had taken walking trips in Peru and Nepal.

Reports also indicate that Boris Weisfeiler was last seen while hiking in the Nuble River region by a Chilean shepherd on January 3, 1985. It is my understanding that Boris Weisfeiler's backpack was found downstream from the location on the bank of the Nuble River where he was last seen by the shepherd. Please know that some of my constituents believe that Dr. Weisfeiler may have been abducted by either Chilean intelligence/police personnel or by individuals living in the region of Chile known as Colonia Dignidad.

While it has been concluded by local Chilean authorities that Boris Weisfeiler likely died as a result of drowning in the Nuble River, I would appreciate an update from the Department on the status of Dr. Weisfeiler and a description of activities undertaken by the Department of State and U.S. Embassy in Santiago, Chile relative to his disappearance. While I am hopeful that Dr. Weisfeiler may still be alive, his family and friends deserve to have his status as a missing person resolved as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of additional assistance to you on this matter.

Sincerely,  
  
Rick Santorum  
United States Senate

RJS/gmb

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