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Case Number: S1999000030

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 SSO-00 AMAD-01 PPT-01 CA-02 /010 W  
-----225141 231935Z /38

O 231847Z JAN 85  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 908  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

Chile Project (#S1999000030)

U.S. Department of State

Release ☒ Excise ☐ Deny ☒

Declassify: In Part ☐ In Full ☒

Exemption(s) ☐

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 0653

E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, CI (WEISFEILER BORIS)  
SUBJECT: WELFARE/WHEREABOUTS: CASE OF BORIS WEISFEILER

REF: STATE 018587

1. POST RECEIVED AT 1600 ON JAN. 22 A LETTER FROM  
GENRAL OF CARABINEROS (POLICE) CLAUDIO ALBERTO CALDERON  
MORAGA DATED JAN. 21, 1985, CONCERNING BORIS WEISFEILER.  
THE LETTER STATES THAT ON JAN. 15 CARABINEROS PATROLLING  
THE NORTH BANK OF THE NUBLE RIVER EIGHTY KILOMETERS  
(FIFTY MILES) TO THE EAST OF THE CITY OF CHILLAN IN  
CHILE'S EIGHTH REGION DISCOVERED NEAR A SITE NOWN AS  
QUOTE THE POINT UNQUOTE, SAN CARLOS, IN THE FOOTHILLS  
OF THE ANDES MAOUNTAINS, A GREEN NYLON BACKPACK CONTRAINING  
DOCUMENTATION, PERSONAL EFFECTS, AND OTHER ITMES  
BELONG TO BORIS WEISFEILER. THE BACKPACK AND CONTENTS  
WER E HANDED OVER BY THE PATROL WHICH DISCOVERED THEM TO  
THE LOCAL POLICE COURT OF SAN FABIAN DE ALICO,  
A SMALL COMMUNITY LOCATED SOME FORTY KILOMETERS (TWENTY-  
FIVE MILES TO THE EAST OF CHILLAN IN THE DIRECTION  
OF THE ANDES MOUNTAINS. THIS COURT AT PRESENT STILL  
RETAINS CUSTODY OF THESE ITEMS. THE LETTER NOTES  
THAT THE TOURIST CARD ISSUED TO WEISFEILER BY  
CHILEAN AUTHORITIES UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN CHILE WAS  
AMONG THE ITEMS IN THE BACKPACK. IT INDICATED THAT

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WEISFEILER HAD ENTERED CHILE ON DEC. 25, 1984 AT  
ARTURO MERINO BENITEZ INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SANTIAGO  
CHILE.

2. IN THE AFTERNOON OF JAN. 22 CONOFF CONTACTED  
POLICE LIEUTENANT JORGE OLIVARES AT THE CHILLAN

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POLICE STATION, AFTER ATTEMPTING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO CALL THE POLICE STATION IN SAN FABIAN DE ALICO. OLIVARES EXPLAINED THAT ONLY TELEPHONE IN SAN FABIAN DE ALICO IS A PUBLIC PAY TELEPHONE, AND CALLS TO THAT LOCALITY HAD TO BE ARRANGED IN ADVANCE. HE AGREED TO ARRANGE FOR THE POLICE IN SAN FABIAN DE ALICO TO BE AVAILABLE TO RECEIVE A CALL DURING THE MORNING OF JAN 23. CONOFF SUCCESSFULLY CALLED POLICE CAPT. GUILLERMO FERNANDEZ CATALAN OF THE SAN FABIAN DE ALICO POLICE STATION ON THE MORNING OF JAN. 23. A LANDOWNER LIVING NEAR THE POLICE STATION AT EL ROBLE, SEVENTY KILOMETERS EAST OF CHILLAN AND SOME TEN KILOMETERS FROM THE SITE WHERE THE BACKPACK WAS DISCOVERED, TALKED TO A FOREIGNER ON JAN 4TH OR 5TH. THE LANDOWNER REPORTED THE FOREIGNER TO THE POLICE STATION IN EL ROBLE, STATING THAT HE APPEARED TO BE NORTHAMERICAN, HAD A BEARD, AND THAT HE SPOKE VERY LITTLE SPANISH. THE TWO POLICE OFFICERS ALSO CLARIFIED THE LOCATION WHERE THE BACKPACK WAS FOUND, AND NOTED THAT IT HAD BEEN DISCOVERED ON THE RIVERBANK, AND AT THE TIME OF DISCOVERY IT AND ALL OF ITS CONTENTS WERE WET. THE BACKPACK WAS NOT A METAL-RAME BACKPACK, BUT WAS A FULL-SIZED GREEN NYLON BACKPACK CONTAINING NUMEROUS ITEMS INCLUDING CLOTHES, EATING UTENSILS, ETC. IT DID NOT, HOWEVER, CONTAIN WEISFEILER'S PASSPORT. IT IS THE BELIEF OF ALL CHILEAN OFFICIALS CONTACTED TO DATE THAT

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WEISFEILER ENTERED OR FELL INTO THE RIVER AND DROWNED.

3. CONOFF WILL TRAVEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SAN FABIAN DE ALICO TO OBTAIN THE RECOVERED EFFECTS AND EXAMINE THE SITE OF THEIR DISCOVERY. POST IS ALSO CHECKING LOCAL TOURIST FACILITIES TO DETERMINE IF AND WHEN WEISFEILER CHECKED INTO VARIOUS FACILITIES. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT THE CITY OF CHILLAN IS SEVEN HOURS TO THE SOUTH OF SANTIAGO, AND REQUIRES A FULL DAY TO TRAVEL TO, AND ANOTHER DAY TO RETURN FROM. THE TOWN OF SAN FABIAN DE ALICO IS TWENTY-FIVE MILES TO THE EAST OF CHILLAN, AND CAN BE REACHED ONLY BY TRAVELING ALONG A ROUGH MOUNTAIN ROAD. POST WILL, THEREFORE, PROBABLY REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF TWO DAYS TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION. POST WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT ASAP OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

MATTHEWS

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