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*Office of the Ambassador*

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March 7, 1988

Rabbi Morton M. Rosenthal  
823 United Nations Plaza  
New York, NY. 10017

Dear Rabbi Rosenthal:

I am writing regarding your concern with the case of Professor Boris Weisfeiler, who disappeared in Chile in 1985. I received both your letter and the February, 1988, ADL "Latin American Report."

When you first requested information about this case, the Embassy provided copies of reports on the searches conducted both by the police and the Navy. The intensive investigation suggests that Professor Weisfeiler had probably fallen into a river. The search for the body was unsuccessful.

It is with great regret that we now witness the tragic case of Professor Weisfeiler being intentionally transformed into an issue with ethnical-political connotations as suggested in the February "Latin American Report." Allow me to be very clear on this matter: There is no responsibility on the part of Chilean authorities either for Professor Weisfeiler's presumed death or for the impossibility of recovering his body. Although anybody may be free to speculate in the case of a disappearance, there are some facts which need to be stressed.

In the first place, Professor Weisfeiler did not follow basic security procedures when he began a hiking adventure in a dangerous region unknown to him with neither guide nor assistance. There are a number of cases similar to his, experienced hikers who have disappeared in the Chilean Andes. This reckless attitude was not duly emphasized at the time, because the focus was on conducting the search and also because of respect for a person who had met a tragic fate. Painful as it may be, this is something which needs to be addressed, especially at a time when Professor Weisfeiler's disappearance has become the subject of political exploitation, as APSI has made it.

Following Professor Weisfeiler's disappearance, there was ample proof of the authorities' will to investigate thoroughly. Several search

parties were sent to the zone. A special group of divers sent by the Navy conducted a search in the junction of the rivers Ñuble and Los Sauces. Unfortunately, they were unable to locate him.

There are no grounds for the allegations which attempt to link Professor Weisfeiler's disappearance with Colonia Dignidad.

Regarding Colonia Dignidad, the authorities have closely observed its activities. No credible evidence of illegal conduct within the premises has been produced in the Courts. Allegations of Colonia Dignidad being a Nazi center used by government interrogators to torture and detain Chilean citizens are absolutely unrealistic and untrue.

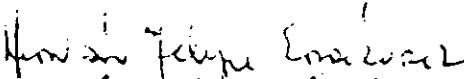
Chile rejects all types of racial discrimination. The ties of the Chilean government with the Jewish community are close, friendly and cooperative. As you may know, members of the Jewish community in Chile hold high positions in our government. Their integration into our society is an undeniable fact.

Chile, a country with an extended and influential Arab community, has a record of consistent admiration for the Jewish people and support for Israel in international organizations, considerably more than that of most countries in the world. Therefore, it is all the more disappointing to see a painful situation such as Professor Weisfeiler's given a political content and the ADL "Latin American Report" convey an erroneous and unwarranted impression to the American Jewish community.

I sincerely hope that in the future matters related to Chile will be treated with the necessary balance and that unsubstantiated allegations will not be reported in your organization's publications without previous presentation of evidence.

Finally, I want to thank you for your letter and the occasion it has afforded me to discuss matters of interest to your organization and to Chile. I hope to have the opportunity visiting with you on one of my trips to New York so that we can converse about matters of mutual interest.

Sincerely yours,

  
Hernán Felipe Errázuriz  
Ambassador