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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO RUEHC / SECSTATE WASHDC 5315

INFO RUEHOL / AMEMBASSY BONN 1077

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SANTIAGO 01107

FOR CA/OCS/EMR/ARA AND ARA/SC

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: CASC, CI (WEISFEILER, BORIS)

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF WEISFEILER DISAPPEARANCE CASE:
DEVELOPMENTS SINCE JUNE 1987

REFS: (A) 87 SANTIAGO 4667, (B) 87 SANTIAGO 5308,
(C) 87 STATE 392312, (D) 87 BONN 28144,
(E) 87 BONN 36234, (F) 86 TORONTO 4473,
(G) 87 SANTIAGO 9017, (H) 87 SANTIAGO 9302,
(I) 87 BONN 38440, (J) TORONTO 88, (K) SANTIAGO 275,
(L) SANTIAGO MEMORANDUM DATED JAN. 11, 1988

1. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~ - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY. THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES EMBASSY'S EFFORTS RE THE WEISFEILER CASE SINCE THE LAST SUMMARY SENT (REF A) IN JUNE 1987. THREE YEARS AFTER BORIS WEISFEILER DISAPPEARED WHILE HIKING IN CHILE, THE CASE REMAINS OPEN AND SANTIAGO CONTINUES TO PURSUE ALL LEADS IN AN EFFORT TO FIND SOME INFORMATION WHICH MAY HELP TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. SINCE JUNE 1987 WE HAVE FOCUSED OUR EFFORTS ON DETERMINING THE CREDIBILITY OF TWO REPORTS ABOUT WEISFEILER'S FATE: ONE STATING THAT HE WAS DELIVERED TO COLONIA DIGNIDAD AND IS STILL BEING HELD PRISONER THERE; AND ONE STATING THAT HE WAS KILLED BY AN ARMY PATROL AT THE TIME OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE. WE PURSUED ALL POSSIBLE LEADS IN THE REPORT ON COLONIA DIGNIDAD, AND CONTINUE TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS THERE. WE HAVE ALSO GONE BACK TO THE CARABINEROS FOR MORE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO CLEAR UP DISCREPANCIES AND GAPS IN THE INFORMATION IN THEIR ORIGINAL REPORTS. DESPITE OUR EFFORTS, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM OR DENY ANY OF THE REPORTS OR THEORIES ABOUT WEISFEILER'S FATE, INCLUDING THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF PROBABLE DEATH BY DROWNING. END SUMMARY.

3. UNTIL MID-JUNE 1987 WE HAD NO FIRM LEADS ON WEISFEILER'S FATE AND KNEW ONLY THAT INFORMATION IN THE GOC'S INVESTIGATION WAS INCOMPLETE AND CONTRADICTORY (REF A). REPORTS OF MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA, AS WELL AS THEORIES THAT WEISFEILER HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE CARABINEROS OR THE ARMY, OR THAT HE HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO COLONIA DIGNIDAD, SEEMED ONLY TO BE SPECULATION.

4. IN MID-JUNE 1987 THE FOCUS OF OUR EFFORTS SHIFTED

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CLASS: CONFIDENTIAL
CHRG: PROG:02-08-88
APPRV: CHARGE:GFJONES
DRFTD: CONS:MTCURTIN:
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2. ADCM:MMCAFE
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AFTER A PERSON APPEARED WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE INFORMATION THAT WEISFEILER WAS STILL ALIVE AND BEING HELD PRISONER AT COLONIA DIGNIDAD (REF B). THE SOURCE, WHO CLAIMED TO BE A [NON-COMMISSIONED] CHILEAN ARMY [OFFICER] ASSIGNED TO THE [CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE] SAID HE WAS PART OF AN ARMY PATROL WHICH PICKED WEISFEILER UP AND DELIVERED HIM TO COLONIA DIGNIDAD. (SOURCE CALLED HIMSELF [DANIEL] AND WILL BE REFERRED TO AS SUCH.) HE PRESENTED HIMSELF TO [MAXIMO PACHECO], VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND A LAWYER FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN ITS SUIT AGAINST COLONIA DIGNIDAD, CLAIMING HIS CONSCIENCE WAS BOTHERED BY HIS KNOWLEDGE OF WEISFEILER'S FATE. [DANIEL] WAS INTERVIEWED TWICE IN JUNE BY [PACHECO] AND ONCE ON JULY 2 BY TWO CONSULAR OFFICERS. HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH MANY OF THE DETAILS OF THE CASE AND POSSESSED WHAT SEEMED EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIA DIGNIDAD. WE TOOK SERIOUSLY THE POSSIBILITY OF [DANIEL'S] VERACITY AND MADE EVERY EFFORT TO CHECK HIS INFORMATION BEFORE TRYING TO DECIDE HOW TO ACT ON THE REPORT SHOULD WE BE CONVINCED OF IT.

5. AFTER HIS JULY 2 MEETING WITH CONSULAR OFFICERS, [DANIEL] BROKE OFF CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY UNTIL MID-AUGUST WHEN HE CALLED AND REQUESTED A MEETING WITH ONE OF THE CONSULAR OFFICERS. AT THE MEETING HE GAVE THE CONSULAR OFFICER THE NAMES OF THE FOUR CARABINEROS WHO SEARCHED FOR WEISFEILER AFTER THE INITIAL REPORT OF HIS PRESENCE IN THE AREA. (REF A FOR COMPLETE BACKGROUND ON CASE.) HE ALSO ADDED INFORMATION THAT JOSEF MENGELE WAS VISITING COLONIA DIGNIDAD AT THE TIME OF WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE AND THAT WEISFEILER WAS WORKING FOR A NAZI-HUNTING ORGANIZATION.

6. THE JOSEF MENGELE ANGLE CAST IMMEDIATE DOUBT ON [DANIEL'S] CREDIBILITY, AND ALTHOUGH WE TOOK SERIOUSLY THE POSSIBILITY OF THE TRUTH OF HIS INFORMATION AND SINCERITY OF HIS MOTIVES, WE BEGAN TO REALLY DOUBT HIS CREDIBILITY OVER THE COMING MONTHS. INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS FAMILIAR WITH COLONIA DIGNIDAD REVEALED THAT SOME OF [DANIEL'S] INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMUNITY WAS WRONG. [DANIEL] CLAIMED TO HAVE GOTTEN HIS INFORMATION THAT WEISFEILER WAS STILL ALIVE FROM A GUARD ON THE PERIMETER OF THE COLONIA'S PROPERTY. ALL FORMER RESIDENTS INTERVIEWED SAID IT WOULD

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BE UNTHINKABLE FOR A GUARD TO PULL DUTY ALONE, CASTING DOUBT ON DANIEL'S SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND THUS ON HIS MOTIVES AND WHOLE STORY. FURTHERMORE, IN EARLY NOVEMBER DANIEL APPEARED AGAIN AT MAXIMO PACHECO'S OFFICE, WARNING PACHECO THAT HIS LIFE WAS THREATENED. HE THEN ACCOMPANIED PACHECO IN A TAXI TO A FUNERAL OF A PROMINENT CHILEAN GENERAL. SOURCE HAD ALWAYS CLAIMED TO BE IN FEAR FOR HIS LIFE SHOULD THE CHILEAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE KNOW THAT HE WAS TALKING TO PACHECO AND TO THE US EMBASSY. NEVERTHELESS, HE RODE TO THE FUNERAL, WHICH WAS HEAVILY ATTENDED BY SECURITY FORCES, WITH PACHECO, A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE. THIS RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER DANIEL FEARED THE SECURITY FORCES OR WAS SENT BY THEM TO MISLEAD THE EMBASSY IN THE CASE.

7. BY WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN STRANGE COINCIDENCE, HEINZ KUHN, A FORMER COLONIA DIGNIDAD RESIDENT, APPEARED AT MAXIMO PACHECO'S OFFICE AT THE END OF JULY. HE DID NOT CLAIM TO HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT WEISFEILER, BUT RATHER SAID HE WANTED TO GIVE PACHECO INFORMATION ABOUT TORTURE AND ABUSE AT THE COLONIA. PACHECO IS REPRESENTING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN A LIBEL SUIT FILED AGAINST IT BY COLONIA DIGNIDAD FOR A REPORT BY ITS GERMAN CHAPTER ON TORTURE AT THE COLONIA. KUHN LEFT THE COLONIA IN 1968, BUT STILL LIVES NEAR BY AND STILL HAS CONTACT WITH RESIDENTS. HE CLAIMED THAT IT WAS USED AS A TORTURE CENTER AFTER THE 1973 COUP AND THAT MILITARY INCLUDING PINOCHET AND FORMER DINA CHIEF, MANUAL CONTRERAS, VISIT THERE REGULARLY. A CONSULAR OFFICER INTERVIEWED KUHN TWICE, BUT HE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT ANYONE FITTING WEISFEILER'S DESCRIPTION. KUHN ALSO TALKED TO THE CONSULAR OFFICER AGAIN IN NOVEMBER ABOUT HIS RECENT TRIP TO GERMANY WHERE HE TALKED TO COURT OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING COLONIA DIGNIDAD IN CONNECTION WITH THE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CASE. KUHN SAID THAT INTRUDERS WERE OCCASIONALLY KILLED BY COLONIA SECURITY FORCES AND GAVE THE CONSULAR OFFICER A TAPE WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS A RADIO CONVERSATION BETWEEN TWO COLONIA RESIDENTS ABOUT THE KILLING OF AN INTRUDER IN APRIL 1985. KUHN APPARENTLY GAVE THE SAME TAPE TO GERMAN AUTHORITIES (REF C). THE CONVERSATION IS SO ELLIPTICAL; HOWEVER, THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW IF THIS IS WHAT IS BEING DISCUSSED. THUS, ANY RELATION OF THIS TAPE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT WEISFEILER WAS KILLED AT THE COLONIA AS AN INTRUDER CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED. AGAIN, AS WITH DANIEL, WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT KUHN'S MOTIVES AND VERACITY. MUCH OF THE INFORMATION HE PROVIDED ABOUT THE COLONIA (INCLUDING A STORY THAT AN ORPHAN NEPHEW OF A CHILEAN CARABINERO IS BEING KEPT THERE) FITS WITH DANIEL'S INFORMATION. SOME OF THE DETAILS CONFLICT. KUHN'S CONTINUING CONTACT WITH THE COLONIA REMAINS SUSPICIOUS, AND GERMAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THEIR DOUBTS REGARDING KUHN'S CREDIBILITY. IN ANY CASE, KUHN HAD NO HARD INFORMATION ABOUT WEISFEILER.

8. OUR MAJOR FOCUS IN TRYING TO CHECK DANIEL'S REPORTS WAS TO ASK EMBASSY BONN AND CONSULATE TORONTO TO CONTACT PERSONS FAMILIAR WITH COLONIA DIGNIDAD TO SEE

IF THEY HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT WEISFEILER AND IN GENERAL TO CHECK DANIEL'S INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIA DIGNIDAD. NO ONE INTERVIEWED HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT ANYONE FITTING WEISFEILER'S DESCRIPTION.

9. IN SEPTEMBER, BONN CONSULAR OFFICER MET WITH DR. HELMUT NEUMANN, THE GERMAN LAWYER HANDLING AMNESY INTERNATIONAL'S CASE, AND HELMUT FRENZ, FORMERLY LUTHERAN BISHOP IN CHILE (REF D). (BOTH NAMES WERE GIVEN US BY PACHECO) NEUMANN CHECKED THE NAMES OF THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN SWORN STATEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAW SUIT. BUT COULD FIND NO ONE THAT WAS PRESENT IN COLONIA DIGNIDAD AFTER JANUARY 1985. FRENZ HAD NO INFORMATION EITHER, BUT ADDED THAT HE DOUBTED WEISFEILER WOULD BE THERE.

10. BONN ALSO INTERVIEWED THE FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE COLONIA CHARITABLE SOCIETY, HUGO BARR, AND HIS WIFE WALTURA LONG-TIME RESIDENTS OF COLONIA DIGNIDAD (REF E). THE BARRS LEFT IN APRIL 1985, FOUR MONTHS AFTER WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE, BUT HAD NEITHER HEARD OF NOR SEEN ANYONE FITTING HIS DESCRIPTION. THE BARRS CONFIRMED MANY OF THE DETAILS OF DANIEL'S DESCRIPTION OF COLONIA DIGNIDAD, BUT ALSO CONTRADICTED SOME DETAILS OF HIS STORY. THEY SAID GUARDS WOULD NEVER PULL DUTY ALONE (WHICH WOULD CAST DOUBT ON THE SOURCE'S CLAIM TO HAVE)

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SPOKEN TO A GUARD ABOUT WEISFEILER) AND DENIED ANY NAZI TIES. THE BARRS KNEW ABOUT THE REPORT THAT WEISFEILER WAS ALIVE, INFORMATION THEY PROBABLY GOT FROM DR. NEUMANN WHO HAD DISCUSSED THE REPORT WITH MAXIMO PACHECO.

11. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIA DIGNIDAD FROM GEORG AND LOTTI PACKMOR, FORMER RESIDENTS WHO NOW LIVE IN TORONTO (REF F). THE PACKMORS LIVED IN COLONIA DIGNIDAD UNTIL MARCH 1985 (AGAIN AFTER THE DATE OF WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE) WHEN THEY ESCAPED WITH THE HELP OF HEINZ KUHN. THEY WERE INTERVIEWED IN TORONTO IN 1986 AND AGAIN IN LATE 1987 (REF J) BY A CONSULAR OFFICER WHO WAS SERVING IN SANTIAGO AT THE TIME OF WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE. THE PACKMORS STATED THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF ANYONE FITTING WEISFEILER'S DESCRIPTION (THEY WERE SHOWN A PHOTO OF HIM), BUT SAID THEY DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ALL PARTS OF THE COMPOUND AND WERE NOT FULLY INFORMED OF ALL THE COMINGS AND GOINGS ON THE GROUNDS. THEY PROVIDED EXTENSIVE DETAILS ABOUT COLONIA DIGNIDAD, AND SAID ITS DIRECTOR CONTROLS ALL THE INHABITANTS AND THAT THE AREA IS HEAVILY GUARDED WITH SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THE COLONIA SERVED AS AN INTERROGATION AND TORTURE CENTER AROUND THE TIME OF THE 1973 COUP. DESPITE THEIR DETAILED INFORMATION, THEY PROVIDED NO ADDITIONAL CLUES ABOUT WEISFEILER'S FATE. (NOTE: THEY WERE ALSO INTERVIEWED BY GERMAN OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING COLONIA DIGNIDAD ON CRIMINAL CHARGES, BUT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE PROVIDED NO INFORMATION ON WEISFEILER (REF C)).

12. MEANWHILE, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN AND ACCESS TO COLONIA DIGNIDAD HAS INCREASED, AND MEDIA INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT HAS GROWN IN CHILE AND IN GERMANY. THE GERMAN CONSUL IN CHILE, WHO HAD BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO COLONIA DIGNIDAD FOR MANY YEARS, WAS PERMITTED TO VISIT AND SPEAK TO RESIDENTS IN NOVEMBER (REF G). HE SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF WEISFEILER, BUT AGAIN HE DID NOT HAVE FREE ACCESS TO ALL PARTS OF THE COMPOUND. HE SAID THE INHABITANTS, ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN, SEEMED LIKE "ROBOTS" BUT THAT NONE WANTED TO LEAVE. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, THE GERMAN CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR SHARED INFORMATION ABOUT COLONIA DIGNIDAD GAINED FROM INTERVIEWS WITH THE PACKMORS AND BARRS, BUT AGAIN HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT WEISFEILER (REF C). WHEN A DELEGATION OF GERMAN DIPLOMATS CAME TO CHILE TO INVESTIGATE COLONIA DIGNIDAD, THEY WERE DENIED ENTRY (REF E). MEDIA REPORTS IN CHILE AND A RECENT STORY IN GERMANY OFTEN CONTAIN SPECULATION ON WHETHER WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE HAD ANY CONNECTION WITH COLONIA DIGNIDAD, BUT NO HARD INFORMATION HAS EVER BEEN PROVIDED (REF I).

13. THUS, WHILE THE POSSIBILITY THAT WEISFEILER WAS OR IS BEING HELD PRISONER AT COLONIA DIGNIDAD CANNOT BE RULED OUT, INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED HAS NEVER BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO ACT UPON.

14. WE HAVE ALSO TRIED TO GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT THE GOC HAS DONE TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE. IN MID-OCTOBER A CONSULAR OFFICER INTERVIEWED FMILIC ZAMBRANO, A FORMER CARABINERO OFFICER WHO IS NOW A LAWYER IN PRIVATE PRACTICE.

ZAMBRANO WAS AT FIRST VERY RELUCTANT TO MEET WITH THE CONSULAR OFFICER, AND THEN BEGAN TO OFFER ADVICE WHICH EMBASSY THOUGHT WAS QUESTIONABLE. IN HIS FIRST DISCUSSION WITH CONOFF, ZAMBRANO REVEALED THAT IN MID-1986, WHEN HE WAS HEAD OF THE CARABINERO'S INTERNAL INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, CS-7, HE HAD CONDUCTED AN INVESTIGATION OF WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE. ACCORDING TO ZAMBRANO'S DESCRIPTION, THE INVESTIGATION WAS SKETCHY. NO ONE INTERVIEWED EVEN CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN WEISFEILER, BUT FROM ZAMBRANO'S DESCRIPTION ONLY PEOPLE LIVING IN THE TOWN OF PARRAL WERE CONTACTED. EVEN THE CARABINEROS STATIONED IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF THE DISAPPEARANCE WERE NOT INTERVIEWED. HE SAID THAT THE EMBASSY SHOULD ASK SPECIFICALLY FOR THAT PARRAL SERGEANT'S REPORT IF IT WANTED MORE INFORMATION.

15. FURTHER CONTACTS WITH ZAMBRANO LED EMBASSY TO QUESTION THE RELIABILITY OF HIS ADVICE. IN A SECOND MEETING WITH CONOFF, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE EMBASSY'S

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EFFORTS TO GAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASE SHOULD NOT BE DONE ON A DIPLOMATIC LEVEL. BUT RATHER THAT AN EMBASSY OFFICER SHOULD WRITE TO A LOWER LEVEL CARABINERO OFFICIAL WITH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CASE. HE SAID THAT CONTACTS ON THE ORDER OF A DIPLOMATIC NOTE WOULD ONLY EXCITE NATIONALISTIC PASSION AND MAKE COOPERATION LESS LIKELY. HE THOUGHT THE BEST APPROACH WOULD BE FOR AN EMBASSY OFFICER TO ACT AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN IN FILING A DEMAND FOR INFORMATION IN THE CASE. ZAMBRANO THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT COLONIA DIGNIDAD HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE. IN THE END, THE NATURE OF HIS ADVICE MADE US WARY OF HIS MOTIVES. AND CONTACTS WITH HIM WERE NOT PURSUED.

16. THE OTHER MAJOR POSSIBILITY WHICH WE HAVE HAD TO CONSIDER (ASIDE FROM ACCIDENTAL DROWNING) IS THAT WEISFEILER WAS KILLED BY EITHER AN ARMY OR CARABINERO PATROL IN THE AREA. IN LATE NOVEMBER, ANOTHER EMBASSY ELEMENT SOURCE REPORTED THAT A CARABINERO NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO POSTS IN THE GENERAL AREA WHERE WEISFEILER DISAPPEARED SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT WEISFEILER WAS DETAINED BY EITHER A CARABINERO OR ARMY PATROL, INTERROGATED, AND BEATEN TO DEATH. SOURCE SAID A FELLOW CARABINERO NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER TOLD HIM THAT SERGEANT JORGE COFRE VEGA, ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PATROL THAT SEARCHED FOR WEISFEILER, SAID THAT THE ARMY PATROL THAT FOUND WEISFEILER FATALLY BEAT HIM WHILE INTERROGATING HIM. SOURCE SAID IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NATURAL FOR THE ARMY PATROL TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF A FOREIGNER TRAVELLING IN THE AREA AND TO THINK SUCH A PERSON COULD BE A SPY INFILTRATING CHILE FROM ARGENTINA. HE FURTHER STATED THAT AMONG THE GROUPS SENT OUT TO SEARCH FOR WEISFEILER WAS A GROUP OF CNI AGENTS WHOM SOURCE BELIEVES WERE SENT TO CLEAN THE AREA OF ANY EVIDENCE OF WEISFEILER'S MURDER. SOURCE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT WEISFEILER WOULD HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO COLONIA DIGNIDAD, GIVEN THE DISTANCE OF THE COLONIA FROM THE AREA WHERE WEISFEILER DISAPPEARED. SOURCE SAID IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE CARABINEROS SERVING IN THE AREA THAT WEISFEILER HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE ARMY PATROL.

17. ALTHOUGH WE COULD NOT VERIFY OR DISCOUNT ANY OF THE STORIES ABOUT WEISFEILER'S FATE, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE GOC INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE HAD BEEN INCOMPLETE AND THAT ASPECTS OF REPORTS AND CONCLUSIONS IN GOVERNMENT REPORTS WERE CONTRADICTORY. ON NOVEMBER 12, 1987, IN A MEETING WITH GENERAL STANGE, HEAD OF THE CARABINEROS, THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE ISSUE OF WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE. HE SAID THAT THE EMBASSY FELT THERE WERE STILL MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS AND WOULD LIKE THE CARABINEROS TO REOPEN THE INVESTIGATION. HE LEFT WITH STANGE A LIST OF POSSIBLE AREAS OF FURTHER INQUIRY IN THE CASE, INCLUDING SUGGESTIONS THAT THERE BE SEPARATE INTERVIEWS WITH ALL THE CARABINEROS INVOLVED; INTERVIEWS WITH THE ARMY PATROL AT THE SITE; AN INTERVIEW WITH THE THIRD PERSON WHO SPENT THE NIGHT WITH WEISFEILER AND LOPEZ; AND THAT THE CARABINEROS FOLLOW ANY OTHER LEADS THEY MAY HAVE IN THE CASE. STANGE SUGGESTED THAT THE EMBASSY CONTACT GENERAL

GABRIEL ORMENC, CURRENTLY HEAD OF CARABINEROS IN SANTIAGO DISTRICT, WHO PREVIOUSLY WAS IN CHARGE OF THE CARABINEROS IN THE EIGHTH REGION AND HAD AT ONE POINT VISITED THE AREA WHERE WEISFEILER DISAPPEARED.

18. CONSUL GENERAL AND ARMY ATTACHE MET WITH ORMENC ON NOVEMBER 19 AND AGAIN ON DECEMBER 11, 1987. AT BOTH MEETINGS HE APPEARED TO BE FORTHCOMING AND INTERESTED IN HELPING. HE IMMEDIATELY ADMITTED THREE POSSIBILITIES: THAT WEISFEILER HAD DROWNED, DIED AT THE HANDS OF CARABINEROS, OR BEEN IMPRISONED AT COLONIA DIGNIDAD. IN THE FIRST MEETING HE SAID THAT REPORTS THAT ARMY PATROLS WERE SEEN IN THE AREA WERE IN ERROR, AND THAT THESE MUST HAVE BEEN CARABINEROS IN TRAINING WHO APPEARED TO BE ARMY TO PERSONS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THEIR UNIFORMS. AT THE SECOND MEETING HE REFERRED TO THE PRESENCE OF ARMY PATROLS WITHOUT EXPLAINING WHY HE PREVIOUSLY ASSERTED THERE WERE NO MILITARY IN THE AREA: BY THE TIME OF THE SECOND MEETING ORMENC HAD ALSO REVIEWED THE STATEMENTS MADE BY ALL FOUR OF THE CARABINEROS IN THE SEARCH TEAM. (IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO US PREVIOUSLY THAT EACH HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED SEPARATELY AT THE TIME OF THE INVESTIGATION IN 1985), AND HAD LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED THE THIRD PERSON.

ORMENO SAID THAT IN THE INTERVIEWS ALL OF THE CARABINEROS TOLD THE SAME STORY AND NONE KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT WEISFEILER'S FATE. THEY SAID THAT AFTER LOUIS LOPEZ REPORTED A STRANGER IN THE AREA, THE FOUR CARABINEROS SET OUT FOLLOWING FOOTPRINTS. ONE, COFRE, TOOK A HIGHER ROAD ALONG THE RIVER AND FOLLOWED THE PRINTS UNTIL HE CAME TO THE RIVER. AT THAT POINT HE SAW AN ARMY PATROL ACROSS THE RIVER. HE JOINED THEM AND THEY ALL DROVE INTO SAN FABIAN TO REPORT THE INCIDENT. ORMENO DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY HE NOW AGREES THERE WAS AN ARMY PATROL IN THE AREA. HE ALSO DID NOT CLEARLY EXPLAIN EXACTLY WHAT EACH CARABINERO DID WHILE SEARCHING, WHERE THE FOOTSTEPS ENDED, OR GIVE DETAILS ABOUT COFRE'S DECISION TO JOIN THE ARMY PATROL AND RIDE INTO SAN FABIAN TO REPORT THE INCIDENT. THE CARABINEROS INTERVIEW WITH THE THIRD PERSON WHO SPENT THE NIGHT WITH WEISFEILER REVEALED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. HE REPORTED THE SAME STORY AS LOPEZ, THAT IS, THAT THE THREE SPENT THE NIGHT TOGETHER AND THEN WEISFEILER WENT ON HIS WAY THE NEXT MORNING.

19. ON JANUARY 8, 1988, A CONSULAR OFFICER INTERVIEWED THREE CARABINEROS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE SEARCH FOR WEISFEILER ON JANUARY 4, 1985 (TWO WHO WERE POSTED AT THE EL ROBLE RETEN AND THE CAPTAIN IN THE SAN FABIAN TO WHOM THEY REPORTED). THE THIRD CARABINERO POSTED TO THE EL ROBLE RETEN REFUSED TO BE INTERVIEWED, SAYING HE HAD ALREADY TOLD ALL HE KNEW (REFS K AND L). EACH CARABINERO WAS INTERVIEWED INDIVIDUALLY, IN PRIVATE, BY THE CONSULAR OFFICER. EACH DESCRIBED HIS RECOLLECTION OF THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY AND PROVIDED DETAILS ABOUT THE SEARCH FOR WEISFEILER. FROM THE INTERVIEWS WE ACQUIRED THE NAMES OF THE ARMY PATROL MEMBERS WHO ALLEGEDLY AIDED IN THE SEARCH, A MORE DETAILED PICTURE OF THE CARABINEROS' ACTIVITIES THE DAY WEISFEILER DISAPPEARED, AND A CLEARER IDEA OF THE TIME FRAME DURING WHICH HE DISAPPEARED. NEVERTHELESS, THE MORE PUZZLING ASPECTS OF THE CASE REMAIN UNCLEAR. THE CARABINEROS SAID THAT NO ONE FROM COLONIA DIGNIDAD ASSISTED WITH THE SEARCH OR WAS QUESTIONED ABOUT THE CASE, AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ARMY PATROL AND THEIR REASONS FOR BEING IN THE AREA REMAIN UNCLEAR.

20. CONCLUSION. DESPITE THE NUMBER OF LEADS THAT DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE NO FIRMER KNOWLEDGE OF WEISFEILER'S FATE THAN BEFORE. OUR CURRENT EFFORTS ARE DIRECTED AT GETTING AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE FROM THOSE INVOLVED IN THE INITIAL SEARCH FOR WEISFEILER. EMBASSY PLANS TO ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMY PATROL WHO WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME OF WEISFEILER'S DISAPPEARANCE. WE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. JONES
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