



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 21, 1997

UNCLASSIFIED
MEMORANDUM

TO: ARA/BSC - Mr. David Rogus
CA/DCS - Mr. Thomas Glover

FROM: INR/IRE/CGC - Peter Modley *pm*

SUBJECT: Missing American Citizen Boris Weisfeiler

In April 1986, my office was asked for information on a complex occupied by expatriate Germans in Chile known as Colonia Dignidad in connection with a missing American case. The attached press reminded me of it.

My file on Colonia Dignidad is minimal, but I called Larry Huffman, now assigned to OES, x74689, who was assigned to Santiago in 1986. He told me the following:

American citizen Boris Weisfeiler disappeared under suspicious circumstances near Colonia Dignidad in 1984 or 1985? Murder, possibly by the Colonia Dignidad members, was suspected.

Larry remembers that Weisfeiler reportedly escaped the Soviet Union by an overland trek, possibly across Siberia, came to the United States where he had relatives (sister in Los Angeles?), and became a US citizen and professor of math at Penn State.

He was a backpacker. He flew to Santiago on Christmas eve 1984? 1985? and took a bus to Temuco, stayed overnight and took another bus to a point close to Colonia Dignidad. Why he went directly to the vicinity of Colonia Dignidad is unknown. His backpack and effects, including passport, were found near a raging stream close to Colonia Dignidad, and the GOC claimed he must have drowned. His stuff had not been water soaked. The embassy considered it possible that he had contact with Colonia Dignidad members who abducted/killed him.

At the time, the GOC was not cooperative regarding investigating possible wrong doing by Colonia Dignidad members. The attached press report suggests that this attitude has changed. INR has no new information except the press report.

Attachment:
As stated.

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