



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1978

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SOCIAL CENTRES ESSENTIAL TO THE ELDERLY

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A SENIOR SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID TODAY OLD PEOPLE'S SOCIAL CENTRES ARE OF GREAT VALUE IN ENABLING THE ELDERLY TO MAINTAIN THEIR SOCIAL LIFE AND OBTAIN A SENSE OF FULFILMENT.

OFFICIATING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE LUTHERAN CENTRE FOR THE AGED AT CHOI HUNG ESTATE, MRS. ROSE GOODSTADT, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ELDERLY SERVICES DIVISION, SPOKE OF THE VARIOUS ROLES THAT SOCIAL CENTRES PLAY IN ENRICHING THE LIVES OF OLD PEOPLE.

+APART FROM SERVING AS CONVENIENT FOCAL POINTS FOR EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMES, THE CENTRES ALSO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE ELDERLY TO TAKE PART IN SERVICES FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY,+ SHE SAID.

MRS. GOODSTADT SAID SUCH ORGANISED VOLUNTARY SERVICE IS NOT ONLY A MEANINGFUL OCCUPATION FOR RETIRED PEOPLE BUT THE PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WOULD ALSO HELP DISPELL THE FEELING OF ISOLATION AND FILL THE PSYCHOLOGICAL VACUUM EXPERIENCED BY A MAJORITY OF THE AGING POPULATION.

+VOLUNTARY SERVICES BY THE ELDERLY, IF ADEQUATELY DEVELOPED, CAN BECOME AN ESSENTIAL CONTRIBUTION IN WELFARE SERVICES,+ SHE ADDED.

CITING EXAMPLES, MRS. GOODSTADT SAID TEAMS OF OLD PEOPLE FROM EXISTING SOCIAL CENTRES ARE NOW ENGAGED IN VALUABLE SERVICES RANGING FROM INTEREST GROUPS FOR YOUNGSTERS, TUTORIAL CLASSES FOR STUDENTS, VISITS TO HOSPITALS AND AGED HOMES TO HOME HELP SERVICE FOR THE HANDICAPPED.

+THE NEED FOR THESE CENTRES BECOME MORE APPARENT AS SOCIAL CHANGES AND OTHER PRESSURES BRING ABOUT THE BREAKDOWN OF TRADITIONAL FAMILY TIES, THUS COMPELLING MORE OLD PEOPLE TO LOOK OUTSIDE FOR LEISURELY PURSUITS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES,+ SHE SAID.

MRS. GOODSTADT NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD RECOGNISED THE NEED FOR THIS KIND OF FACILITY, AND THE LONG-TERM GOAL OF SETTING UP A SOCIAL CENTRE FOR EVERY 20,000 OF THE POPULATION, HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE GREEN PAPER ON SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY PUBLISHED LATE LAST YEAR.

SHE THANKED THE LUTHERAN CHURCH -- HONG KONG SYNOD FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN THIS SERVICE. IT HAS BEEN OPERATING ANOTHER SOCIAL CENTRE IN WONG TAI SIN SINCE 1974.

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SWD THANKS VOLUNTEERS FOR PROBATIONERS

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TWENTY-ONE CIVIC-MINDED CITIZENS WERE TODAY REWARDED FOR HELPING THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S PROBATION OFFICERS TO PROVIDE TREATMENT AND CARE TO YOUNG PROBATIONERS IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

AT A CEREMONY THIS AFTERNOON AT FURAMA HOTEL, THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PROBATION AND CORRECTIONS DIVISION, MR. CARLOS LEUNG, PRESENTED EACH OF THEM WITH A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICES.

THE VOLUNTEERS, FROM VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE, HAVE JUST COMPLETED THEIR SIX-MONTH ASSIGNMENT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS WHICH WAS INTRODUCED TWO YEARS AGO AS A COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT.

THEY ARE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED BETWEEN 17 AND 29. THE GROUP INCLUDES STUDENTS, CLERKS, SOCIAL WORKERS, TEACHERS, COMPUTER OPERATOR, SHIPPING SUPERVISOR, LAND INSPECTOR AND WOMAN POLICE INSPECTOR.

IN THANKING THE VOLUNTEERS, PRINCIPAL PROBATION OFFICER, MR. PETER LIN, PRAISED THEM FOR THEIR COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN JOINING THE SCHEME AND GIVING UP THEIR FREE TIME TO HELP YOUNG PROBATIONERS THROUGH TUITION, SOCIALISATION AND ADVICE.

AT PRESENT, 13 OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE CARRYING OUT THEIR ASSIGNMENT WITH PROBATION OFFICERS, AND ANOTHER 59 HAVE JUST UNDERGONE AN ORIENTATION COURSE AND ARE AWAITING ASSIGNMENT.

AT THE CEREMONY, THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT'S CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, MRS. LAU NG HO-YEE, ALSO GAVE A TALK ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENTS.

MRS. LAU SAID YOUNG OFFENDERS WERE FOUND TO BE CHARACTERISTICALLY BACKWARD SOCIALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY.

SHE SAID THEY USUALLY TEND TO COME FROM POOR HOMES WITH PARENTS WHO DO NOT EXERCISE ADEQUATE SUPERVISION AND SOME OF THEM HAVE SHOWN TO HAVE DIFFICULTY IN ADJUSTING TO SCHOOL LIFE OR THEIR PLACE OF WORK BEFORE THEY COMMITTED AN OFFENCE.

MRS. LAU SAID THAT YOUNG OFFENDERS SHOULD BE GUIDED AND INFLUENCED BY A MODEL OF PROPER BEHAVIOUR IN ORDER TO CORRECT THEIR OLD WAYS.

IN THIS RESPECT, SHE SAID, THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE VOLUNTEER SCHEME FOR PROBATIONERS MAY BE INVALUABLE.

SHE SUGGESTED CERTAIN PREVENTIVE MEASURES WHICH INCLUDE REMEDIAL EDUCATION SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO SHOW AN EARLY SIGN OF MAL-ADJUSTMENT IN SCHOOL, AS WELL AS EDUCATING ADOLESCENTS IN PARENTHOOD AND CHILD-HANDLING.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

GOVERNOR TO VISIT DISTRICT OFFICES OF SWD
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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, WILL VISIT TWO DISTRICT OFFICES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 6) TO GAIN AN INSIGHT INTO THE PROVISION OF DIRECT SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES.

ACCOMPANIED BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MR. THOMAS LEE, SIR MURRAY WILL TOUR THE EASTERN DISTRICT SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT AND THE HONG KONG DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION, BOTH ON THE 7TH FLOOR OF THE CAUSEWAY BAY MAGISTRACY BUILDING.

YOU ARE INVITED TO SEND YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TO COVER THE GOVERNOR'S VISIT. MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE AT THE EASTERN DISTRICT SOCIAL SECURITY FIELD UNIT BEFORE 10.15 A.M. ON MONDAY.

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ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRE TO OPEN IN SHA TIN
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THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT WILL OPEN AN ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRE IN SHA TIN TO SERVE AS ANOTHER FOCAL POINT OF ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS IN THE FAST-GROWING NEW TOWN.

THE CENTRE AT SHA TIN TSUNG TSIN SCHOOL IN LEK YUEN ESTATE WILL COME INTO OPERATION ON NOVEMBER 14. INITIALLY IT WILL PROVIDE 16 COURSES FOR ADULTS AT EVENINGS RANGING FROM HOBBY PURSUIT TO LANGUAGE STUDIES.

IT WILL OPEN FROM 7.30 P.M. TO 9.30 P.M. EVERY EVENING FROM TUESDAY TO FRIDAY EXCEPT SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FOR PEOPLE AGED 18 AND ABOVE. ALL COURSES PROVIDED ARE FREE OF CHARGE.

MR. CHAN CHUEN-AH, AN EDUCATION OFFICER IN THE ADULT EDUCATION SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT SAID MORE COURSES WILL BE ORGANISED IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO CATER FOR VARIOUS INTERESTS OF RESIDENTS IN SHA TIN.

HE ALSO REVEALED THAT A SURVEY IS NOW UNDERWAY TO DETERMINE THE INTERESTS OF RESIDENTS IN THE DISTRICT AND MORE THAN 5,000 QUESTIONNAIRES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE RESIDENTS SEEKING THEIR VIEWS ON THE KIND OF COURSES THEY WOULD PREFER.

THE OPENING OF THE SHA TIN CENTRE WILL BRING TO 16, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE AIM OF PROVIDING A PROPER OUTLET FOR ADULTS TO SPEND THEIR LEISURE TIME IN THE EVENING.

THE CENTRE, THE FOURTH IN THE NEW TERRITORIES, IS ALSO IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO PROVIDE MORE RECREATIONAL AND AMENITY FACILITIES IN DEVELOPING NEW TOWNS.

THE ADULT EDUCATION AND RECREATION CENTRE SCHEME, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN 1955, HAS PROVED TO BE VERY POPULAR.

THE EXISTING 15 CENTRES HAVE A COMBINED REGISTERED MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN 47,000 AND THEY PROVIDE ABOUT 50 KINDS OF ACTIVITIES.

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CHIEF SECRETARY OPENS SALVATION ARMY WEEK

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MOST PEOPLE ASSOCIATED THE SALVATION ARMY WITH ITS CHEERFULNESS AND UNREMITTING EFFORTS TO HELP AND SAVE ANYONE IN DISTRESS - THE DOWN AND OUTS, THOSE WHO NO ONE ELSE BOTHERED ABOUT, THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR. JACK CATER, SAID TODAY (SATURDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF THE SALVATION ARMY WEEK AT OCEAN TERMINAL, MR. CATER SAID PEOPLE KNEW TOO THAT MANY SEA-GOING FOLK HAD BEEN GRATEFUL TO FIND A HAVEN ON SHORE IN A STRANGE PORT- WHEN THEY SAW THE SALVATION ARMY HOSTEL SIGN THEY KNEW THAT THEY HAD FOUND SHELTER AND KINDNESS.

+OTHERS ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE REASON TO BLESS THE ARMY FOR TRACING MISSING RELATIVES - THE SALVATION ARMY CONTINUES TO SEARCH, AND SO OFTEN SUCCESSFULLY, WHEN OTHER AGENCIES HAVE GIVEN UP,+ MR. CATER SAID. +YET OTHERS ONLY REMEMBER THE SALVATION ARMY WHEN THEY WISH TO DISPOSE OF UNWANTED CLOTHES OR FURNITURE.+

MR. CATER SAID THE SALVATION ARMY WAS TO BE FOUND IN MANY PARTS OF THIS TERRITORY- IT OPERATED 15 CORPS CENTRES, EIGHT NURSERIES, SEVEN KINDERGARTENS, FIVE PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND FOUR HOMES FOR THE AGED, IN ADDITION TO CRECHES, YOUTH CENTRES, A BOYS' HOME AND A GIRLS' HOME. THERE WAS A SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR NEARLY 1,000 CHILDREN AT TZE WAN SHAN AND A YOUTH CAMP AT MA WAN.

SOON, A NEW HOME FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED WOULD COME INTO BEING AT LAI KING, SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO LOOK AFTER 100 RESIDENTIAL YOUNG FOLK AND ALSO TO PROVIDE DAY CARE TRAINING PROGRAMMES. THIS NEW HOME WOULD REPLACE THE ONE ON CHEUNG CHAU.

EXTENDED NURSERY SERVICES WERE PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR, IN PARTICULAR AT WO CHE IN SHA TIN AND THERE WOULD ALSO BE INCREASED PLACES IN THE HOMES FOR THE AGED.

+CLEARLY, HERE IN HONG KONG, MEMBERS OF THE ARMY WELL AND TRULY LIVE UP TO GENERAL BRAMWELL BOOTH'S CLAIM THAT SALVATIONISTS ARE 'THE SERVANTS OF ALL',+ MR. CATER SAID.

MR. CATER SAID THE SALVATION ARMY WEEK WAS INTENDED TO TURN A SPOTLIGHT ANNUALLY ON THE WORK OF THE HONG KONG COMMAND OF THE SALVATION ARMY. FOR ONE WEEK EACH YEAR THE ARMY HELD A SERIES OF PUBLICITY EVENTS TO ENSURE THAT AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE WERE MADE AWARE OF THE SERVICES CARRIED OUT: CARRIED OUT WITH SUCH A QUIET AND DEDICATED EFFICIENCY THROUGHOUT ALL THE REST OF THE YEAR.

+AND PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE SAID 'THROUGHOUT ALL THE YEARS' BECAUSE THIS YEAR MARKS THE 48TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALVATION ARMY'S PRESENCE IN HONG KONG,+ MR. CATER SAID. FOR NEARLY HALF A CENTURY THEY HAD WORKED HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY FOLLOWING THEIR WELL-KNOWN SLOGAN: 'WHERE THERE'S NEED, THERE'S THE SALVATION ARMY'.

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TIME TABLES OF MERCHANT SHIPPING EXAMINATIONS
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THE MARINE DEPARTMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THE TIME TABLES OF VARIOUS EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY IN THE MERCHANT NAVY WHICH WILL BE HELD IN 1979.

EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AS MASTERS AND FIRST MATES WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 8, FEBRUARY 19, JUNE 25, AUGUST 13 AND OCTOBER 1- WHILE THOSE FOR SECOND MATES WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 22, APRIL 23, MAY 14, JULY 16, SEPTEMBER 3, OCTOBER 15 AND DECEMBER 10.

APPLICATIONS FOR ANY OF THESE EXAMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ALONG WITH ALL RELEVANT DOCUMENTS IN PERSON ON THE MORNING OF ANY FIRDAY AT LEAST TEN DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF EXAMINATION.

CANDIDATES FOR TRAWLER MASTER EXAMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ON ANY OF THE ABOVE DATES PROVIDED THAT APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE.

EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY AS EXTRA MASTER WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY AND JULY AND INTENDING CANDIDATES SHOULD GIVE AT LEAST TWO MONTHS NOTICE.

EXAMINATIONS FOR FIRST AND SECOND CLASS MARINE ENGINEERS WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND CANDIDATES SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATION IN PERSON AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE DATE OF THE EXAMINATION THEY WISH TO ATTEND.

THOSE WHO HOLD NATIONAL CERTIFICATES IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING OR OTHER QUALIFICATIONS ON WHICH EXEMPTION FROM SOME PART OF THE EXAMINATION MAY BE CLAIMED, AND CANDIDATES FOR FIRST OR SECOND CLASS ENGINEER COMBINED CERTIFICATE, SHOULD APPLY AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE EXAMINATION DATE.

FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO OBTAIN EXTRA FIRST CLASS ENGINEER CERTIFICATE, EXAMINATIONS WILL BE HELD IN JANUARY AND JULY.

ALL EXAMINATIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE EXAMINATION CENTRE OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AT RUMSEY STREET MULTI-STOREY CAR PARK, 10TH FLOOR, CONNAUGHT ROAD CENTRAL.

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KEEP BATHROOMS PROPERLY VENTILATED

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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT TODAY REMINDED THE PUBLIC OF THE NEED TO MAINTAIN SUFFICIENT VENTILATION IN BATHROOMS WHEN USING WATER HEATERS BURNING GAS FUEL.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FIRE SERVICES MADE THE APPEAL WITH THE ADVENT OF COOL WEATHER WHEN MORE PEOPLE USE HOT WATER FOR BATHING.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID: +DESPITE REPEATED WARNINGS, ACCIDENTS STILL OCCUR EACH YEAR AS A RESULT OF PEOPLE USING WATER HEATERS IN BATHROOMS WITHOUT PROPER REGARD TO VENTILATION.

+THESE ACCIDENTS ARE FATAL AT TIMES BECAUSE THE VICTIMS MAY DIE FROM SUFFOCATION.+

HE NOTED THAT THESE MISHAPS OFTEN OCCUR IN OLDER BUILDINGS WHICH HAVE NO PROPER VENTILATION FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT OR IN POORLY VENTILATED CUBICLES WHERE GAS HEATERS ARE INSTALLED.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID GOOD AIR FLOW IN A ROOM WHERE A HEATER IS IN USE CAN BE MAINTAINED BY KEEPING A WINDOW OR DOOR OPEN OR BY INSTALLING A DOOR LOUVRE OR VENTILATION CHUTE.

+GAS APPLIANCES SHOULD ALSO BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED,+ HE ADDED.

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FIRE SERVICES DIRECTOR TO ATTEND
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SINGAPORE

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THE DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES, MR. FRED WATSON, WILL LEAVE FOR SINGAPORE TOMORROW (SUNDAY) EVENING TO ATTEND THE 10TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION OF ASIA.

THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE BEGINS ON MONDAY.

THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION AIMS TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS AMONG FIRE CHIEFS IN ASIA, TO PROMOTE THE STUDY OF TECHNIQUE AND MEASURES FOR PROTECTING LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE AND DISASTER AS WELL AS TO EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION ON THE FIRE SERVICE AND THUS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRE SERVICES IN ASIA.

MR. WATSON WILL RETURN TO HONG KONG ON WEDNESDAY (NOVEMBER 8) EVENING.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT
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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE SECTION OF EASTERN STREET BETWEEN FIRST STREET AND SECOND STREET IN WESTERN DISTRICT WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY NORTHBOUND FROM 10 A.M. ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 6) TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

APPROPRIATE TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT
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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN SHA TIN AND THE MID-LEVEL WILL BE STOPPED FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON MONDAY (NOVEMBER 6) TO FACILITATE WORK BY THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT.

IN SHA TIN, PREMISES AT SHEUNG WO CHE, HA WO CHE, FO TAN TSUEN, THE SHA TIN RACE COURSE, HO TUNG LAU AND THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WILL BE WITHOUT WATER FOR TEN HOURS FROM 8 P.M. ON MONDAY.

IN THE MID-LEVEL, THE AREA BOUNDED BY LYTTTELTON ROAD, BABINGTON PATH, OAKLANDS PATH INCLUDING BREEZY PATH, PO YUEN LANE, BREEZY TERRACE, 12 TO 30 BONHAM ROAD, 6A TO 10 PARK ROAD, HONITON ROAD AND THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG WILL HAVE NO WATER SUPPLY FOR SEVEN HOURS FROM 11 P.M. ON MONDAY.

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