



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1979

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REPORT ON THE QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY

THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT HAS COMPILED A REPORT ON A QUARTERLY BUSINESS SURVEY HELD LAST MONTH.

ABOUT 750 FIRMS FROM VARIOUS INDUSTRIES, FORMING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, WERE ASKED ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS EXPERIENCE IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1978 AND THEIR BUSINESS EXPECTATION FOR THE FIRST QUARTER THIS YEAR.

THE SURVEY SUGGESTS THAT THE HONG KONG ECONOMY EXPERIENCED MUCH IMPROVEMENT IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 1978 COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER BUT FIRMS WERE RATHER CONSERVATIVE IN THEIR VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1979, PARTLY BECAUSE OF SEASONAL FACTORS.

WITHIN THE MANUFACTURING DIVISION, 'WATCHES AND CLOCKS', 'ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, APPLIANCES AND SUPPLIES' AND 'FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS' REPORTED IMPROVED PERFORMANCE AND ARE CONFIDENT OF FURTHER ADVANCES.

'ELECTRONICS' AND 'MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES' EXPECT A RELATIVELY CALM FIRST QUARTER AFTER SUBSTANTIAL RECENT ADVANCES.

'WEARING APPAREL' AND 'TEXTILES' BOTH REPORTED IMPROVEMENT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER BUT EXPECT BUSINESS IN THE FIRST QUARTER EITHER TO SLOW DOWN OR TO REMAIN THE SAME COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. THE SAME APPLIES TO 'PRINTING'.

THE 'FOOD, BEVERAGE, TOBACCO' SECTOR, AFTER EXPERIENCING SOME DETERIORATION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER, IS EXPECTING AN UPTURN.

THE 'PLASTICS' SECTOR ALSO HAD A POORER FOURTH QUARTER AND THE BALANCE OF OPINION WITHIN THE SECTOR IS THAT A FURTHER SLOW DOWN IS LIKELY.

AS FOR NON-MANUFACTURING SECTORS, 'WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE', 'RESTAURANTS' AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE 'HOTELS' SECTORS HAD A PROSPEROUS FOURTH QUARTER BUT EXPECT A LOWER FIRST QUARTER.

BUT 'GAS, ELECTRICITY AND WATER' INDUSTRY EXPECTS A HIGHER FIRST QUARTER AFTER A FALLING FOURTH QUARTER. THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REPORTED IMPROVEMENTS AND EXPECTS FURTHER MILD ADVANCE.

THE OTHER SERVICES SECTORS DID REMARKABLY WELL AND, LOOKING INTO THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THE 'MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS SERVICES' SECTOR FEELS APPRECIABLE OPTIMISM.

THE 'BANKS' SECTOR EXPECTS MORE OR LESS THE SAME BUSINESS AND 'TRANSPORTATION' EXPECTS A MILD SLOW DOWN.

/+THE DATA,

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+THE DATA, OBTAINED WITH A MINIMUM TIME LAG, ARE BASICALLY INTENDED TO FACILITATE A QUICK ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN HONG KONG, + A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY). APART FROM A LIMITED NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REQUIRING ANSWERS IN QUANTITATIVE TERMS, FIRMS WERE ASKED TO COMPARE THE QUARTER JUST PAST WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER AND SIMILARLY FOR THE FORTHCOMING ONE, AND ONLY HAD TO INDICATE WHETHER, IN THEIR OPINION, A CERTAIN VARIABLE WAS 'UP', 'SAME' OR 'DOWN'.

THE SPOKESMAN CAUTIONED THAT IN A SURVEY OF THIS NATURE, CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE IN THE INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS, AS IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION OF THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ACCORDS WITH THE UNDERLYING TRENDS, AND THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE PROBABLY AFFECTED CONSIDERABLY BY SEASONALITY.

COPIES OF THE REPORT, CONTAINING AN ANALYSIS OF, AND STATISTICAL TABLES ON, VARIOUS ECONOMIC VARIABLES, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO FIRMS TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY AND OTHER BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS.

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DEATH SENTENCES COMMUTED

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THE GOVERNOR, SIR MURRAY MACLEHOSE, AFTER TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ADVICE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED ON MAY 13, 1977, ON CHONG MAN AND TANG CHI-KEUNG SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR 20 YEARS AND THE DEATH SENTENCES PASSED ON LAW MING-TAK AND YICK CHUNG ON THE SAME DATE SHOULD BE COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

THE FOUR WERE FOUND GUILTY OF THE MURDER ON JULY 18, 1973, OF LAU WAH.

THE GOVERNOR HAS ALSO COMMUTED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON CHAU WING-WAH FOR THE MURDER ON FEBRUARY 9, 1975, OF CHOW HONG-YAU. CHAU WAS SENTENCED ON DECEMBER 29, 1977.

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TEXTILE QUOTA REVIEW PLANNED

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THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT ITS MAJOR REVIEW OF THE TEXTILE EXPORT QUOTA CONTROL SYSTEM WILL BE POSTPONED TO LATER THIS YEAR.

THE FULL SCALE REVIEW WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 1979 BUT STAFF SHORTAGES AND INCREASED WORKLOAD FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S TEXTILES CONTROL DIVISION HAS MADE THE POSTPONEMENT NECESSARY.

ADDITIONAL STAFF HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR THE DIVISION AND IT IS HOPED THE REVIEW CAN START LATER IN THE YEAR.

THE PRESENT QUOTA CONTROL SYSTEM WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1976. AT THAT TIME THE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED IT WOULD CONDUCT ANOTHER REVIEW AFTER THE COMPLETION OF TWO FULL YEARS' OPERATION OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM.

THE TEXTILES CONTROL DIVISION OF THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT PROCESSED OVER ONE MILLION TEXTILE EXPORT LICENCES AND DOCUMENTS IN 1978 COMPARED WITH ABOUT HALF A MILLION IN 1976. QUOTA HOLDERS HAVE INCREASED FROM FEWER THAN 9,000 IN 1976 TO 19,000 LAST YEAR.

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METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT EXTENDED TO FEMALE DRUG ADDICTS
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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS EXTENDING ITS METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT FACILITIES TO FEMALE DRUG ADDICTS WHO REQUIRE A DAILY DOSE OF METHADONE FOR A LONG PERIOD.

NEW FEMALE ADDICTS NOW CAN BE ACCEPTED FOR TREATMENT, ON AN OUT-PATIENT BASIS, IN THE MAINTENANCE CENTRES IN EASTERN STREET ON HONG KONG ISLAND, ROBERT BLACK AND HO MAN TIN CENTRES IN KOWLOON AND LADY TRENCH CENTRE IN TSUEN WAN.

FEMALE PATIENTS UNDER THE METHADONE DETOXIFICATION PROGRAMME ARE ALSO ALLOWED TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE MAINTENANCE CENTRE IF THEY WISH.

THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCURRENTLY PROVIDING TWO TYPES OF METHADONE TREATMENT TO DRUG ADDICTS -- DETOXIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE.

THE METHADONE DETOXIFICATION PROGRAMME IS FOR DRUG ADDICTS WHO HAVE A MOTIVATION TO GET OFF THE HABIT BUT ARE NOT PREPARED TO STAY IN A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTRE FOR A RELATIVELY LONG PERIOD FOR VARIOUS REASONS SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT AND FAMILY PROBLEMS.

THE METHADONE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME IS FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT BENEFIT FROM THE DETOXIFICATION PROGRAMME BUT WISH TO GIVE UP TAKING NARCOTICS AND TO LIVE A USEFUL LIFE.

THE METHADONE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME STARTED IN DECEMBER 1972 AS A THREE-YEAR PILOT STUDY ACCEPTING ONLY MALE PATIENTS AT THE EASTERN STREET CENTRE.

BECAUSE OF THE VERY GOOD RESPONSE RECEIVED, THE DEPARTMENT DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAMME AND SUBSEQUENTLY SET UP THREE MORE CENTRES TO COPE WITH THE DEMAND FOR THE TREATMENT FACILITIES.

MORE THAN 4,000 PATIENTS ARE NOW RECEIVING THIS TYPE OF TREATMENT.

IN VIEW OF THE SUCCESS OF THE METHADONE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT, THE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHED A MASSIVE METHADONE DETOXIFICATION PROGRAMME, OFFERING A COMPLETELY NEW MODE OF TREATMENT FOR BOTH MALE AND FEMALE ADDICTS.

UNLIKE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT WHICH REQUIRES THE PATIENTS TO BE MAINTAINED INDEFINITELY ON METHADONE, DETOXIFICATION IS AIMED AT WEANING A PATIENT OFF DRUGS BY GRADUALLY REDUCING THE DAILY DOSAGE OF METHADONE OVER A NUMBER OF WEEKS.

THE FIRST METHADONE DETOXIFICATION CENTRE WAS OPENED AT THE VIOLET PEEL CLINIC IN WAN CHAI ON JUNE 1, 1976. THE NUMBER OF DETOXIFICATION CENTRES HAS NOW INCREASED TO 17. THEY ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 3,500 PATIENTS BEING TREATED IN THE DETOXIFICATION CENTRES.

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RECRUITMENT FOR FIREMEN
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THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR 160 PHYSICALLY FIT YOUNG MEN.

ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY (TUESDAY), A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT SAID THEY WILL BE HOLDING A FIVE-DAY RECRUITMENT EXERCISE FROM NEXT MONDAY (FEBRUARY 19).

+THE JOB OF A FIREMAN, A CHALLENGING ONE, PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY,+ THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

TWO RECRUITMENT CENTRES WILL BE SET UP - AT THE HARBOUR ROAD AND TSIM SHA TSUI FIRE STATIONS - FROM MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 TO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

THE HARBOUR ROAD CENTRE, NEAR THE WAN CHAI FERRY PIER, WILL OPEN FROM 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M. AND THE TSIM SHA TSUI CENTRE, IN CANTON ROAD, FROM 9 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID APPLICANTS SHOULD BE AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 30 AND HAVE LIVED IN HONG KONG FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS.

+APPLICANTS SHOULD SPEAK FLUENT CANTONESE AND BE ABLE TO READ AND WRITE CHINESE. THEY SHOULD BE AT LEAST FIVE FOOT SIX, WEIGH MORE THAN 120 LBS AND HAVE A GOOD PHYSIQUE AND NORMAL EYESIGHT.

+THE RECRUITS WILL BE TRAINED FOR GENERAL FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE DUTIES,+ THE SPOKESMAN ADDED.

A FIREMAN STARTS WITH A MINIMUM SALARY OF \$1,315 RISING TO A MAXIMUM OF \$1,925. AN INCREMENT WILL BE AWARDED ON SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF SIX MONTHS OF BASIC TRAINING.

APPLICANTS CALLING AT THE CENTRES SHOULD TAKE ALONG THEIR IDENTITY CARDS, A COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM (G.F. 340) OBTAINABLE FROM ANY CITY DISTRICT OFFICE, ACADEMIC DOCUMENTS, RUBBER GYMNASIIC SHOES AND SHORTS.

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NEW NORTH POINT PASSENGER FERRY PIER 60 PER CENT COMPLETE

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WORK ON THE NEW NORTH POINT PASSENGER FERRY PIER, BEING BUILT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HONG KONG ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR, IS ABOUT 60 PER CENT COMPLETE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (TUESDAY) THE \$10.5 MILLION TWIN-DECK FERRY PIER WILL HAVE A COVERED WALKWAY LINKING WITH THE BUSY BUS TERMINUS WHICH WILL ALSO BE COVERED.

ON COMPLETION TOWARDS THE END OF THE YEAR, THE NEW PIER WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING ONE.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE PIER HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO ALLOW FOR AN EXTRA DECK SHOULD IT BECOME NECESSARY AT A LATER DATE.

MEANWHILE, PILING WORK FOR THE NEW NORTH POINT VEHICULAR FERRY PIER IS IN PROGRESS.

THE NEW PIER IS ABOUT 30 METRES EAST OF THE EXISTING VEHICULAR FERRY PIER WHICH WILL BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE ELEVATED COASTAL ROADWAY.

AT THE EASTERN END OF THE CAUSEWAY BAY TYPHOON ANCHORAGE, RECLAMATION WORK IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST STAGE OF THE EASTERN CORRIDOR IS PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE \$10 MILLION CONTRACT, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 390-METRE SEAWALL, WAS MORE THAN HALF COMPLETE.

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NEW APPROACH ROAD TO KAU WA KENG

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THE GOVERNMENT IS ABOUT TO IMPLEMENT A \$24.5 MILLION ROAD SCHEME IN KAU WA KENG, TSUEN WAN, TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW AND THE DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

ENGINEERING WORK ON THE FIRST STAGE OF THE SCHEME IS EXPECTED TO START IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS YEAR AND WILL TAKE ABOUT TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE.

+THE PROJECT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA WHICH INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE,+ THE CHIEF ENGINEER OF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT'S TSUEN WAN TOWN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, MR. NORMAN TUCKER SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

+UNDER THE SCHEME, A THREE-LANE SINGLE-CARRIAGE APPROACH ROAD WILL REPLACE THE PRESENT TEMPORARY ROAD LINKING LAI WAN ROAD AND LAI KING ROAD.+

MR. TUCKER ADDED THAT IT WILL EVENTUALLY LINK UP WITH THE ROAD SYSTEM TO THE PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATE AND GIVE ACCESS TO KAU WA KENG VALLEY AND IMPROVE ITS DRAINAGE OUTLET.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL RESUME 19,728 SQUARE METRES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND AND 445 SQUARE METRES OF BUILDING LAND FOR THE PROJECT.

THE TSUEN WAN TOWN MANAGER, MR. JAMES HAYES, SAID THE RESUMPTION WOULD INVOLVE THE CLEARANCE OF FIVE TEMPORARY DOMESTIC STRUCTURES, OCCUPIED BY EIGHT FAMILIES, AND SEVEN OTHER TEMPORARY STRUCTURES USED AS STORAGES, KITCHENS-LATRINES AND A SWITCH ROOM.

+DEPENDING ON THEIR ELIGIBILITY, DISPLACED FAMILIES WILL BE OFFERED EITHER PUBLIC HOUSING OR TEMPORARY PUBLIC HOUSING,+ MR. HAYES SAID.

+AS THE LAND TO BE RESUMED LIES WITHIN THE TSUEN WAN-KWAI CHUNG OUTLINE ZONING PLAN, LANDOWNERS CONCERNED WILL BE OFFERED THE ALTERNATIVE OF LAND EXCHANGE ENTITLEMENTS OR CASH COMPENSATION,+ HE ADDED.

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CHOLERA HEALTH MEASURES LIFTED

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THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT HEALTH MEASURES IMPOSED EARLIER AGAINST ARRIVALS FROM SINGAPORE ON ACCOUNT OF CHOLERA HAVE BEEN LIFTED.

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ACCESS ROAD CLOSED

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE ACCESS ROAD FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH FANLING PLAYGROUND ROAD LEADING TO THE POLICE TACTICAL UNIT WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL PRIVATE OMNIBUSES, UNLESS AUTHORISED IN WRITING, FROM 10 A.M. NEXT MONDAY (FEBRUARY 19).

THE RESTRICTION IS TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC FLOW.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE PRIVATE OMNIBUS OPERATORS.

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DORSET CRESCENT RE-ROUTED ONE-WAY

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THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT DORSET CRESCENT WILL BE RE-ROUTED ONE WAY WESTBOUND FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH WATERLOO ROAD FROM 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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NO THROUGH TRAFFIC AT SAI YEUNG CHOI ST.

THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT THE SECTION OF SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET, BETWEEN THE JUNCTIONS OF ARGYLE STREET AND NELSON STREET IN MONG KOK, WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FROM THURSDAY TO FEBRUARY 21.

THE CLOSURE, LASTING FROM 1 A.M. TO 5.30 A.M. DAILY, IS TO FACILITATE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY WORKS IN THE AREA.

MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO USE NATHAN ROAD AS AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE DURING THOSE PERIODS.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF KWUN TONG ROAD

THE SECTION OF KWUN TONG ROAD BETWEEN SHING SHUN ROAD AND LAI YIP STREET WILL BE CLOSED TO ALL TRAFFIC BETWEEN 1.30 A.M. AND 5.30 A.M. FOR A WEEK FROM THURSDAY TO FEBRUARY 22, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY).

THE ARRANGEMENT IS TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOOT-BRIDGES ACROSS KWUN TONG ROAD AT THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY KOWLOON BAY STATION.

DURING THE CLOSURE, SOUTHBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO NGAU TAU KOK ROAD WHILE NORTHBOUND TRAFFIC WILL BE DIVERTED TO WAI YIP STREET VIA LAI YIP STREET.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE SET UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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WATER CUT

THE WATER SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (TUESDAY) THAT WATER SUPPLY TO A NUMBER OF PREMISES IN KWUN TONG WILL BE SUSPENDED FROM MIDNIGHT TO 6 A.M. ON FRIDAY FOR NIGHT LEAKAGE TESTS.

THE AFFECTED AREA IS BOUNDED BY 1 AND 13-19 KWUN TONG ESTATE BLOCK, TSUI PING ROAD.

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