



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES
BEACONSFIELD HOUSE, HONG KONG. TEL: 5-233191

TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1980

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PRESERVING HONG KONG'S HERITAGE

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THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD HAS EXAMINED A LARGE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL MONUMENTS, BUT HAS SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO SECURE THE DECLARATION OF COMPARATIVELY FEW OF THEM, IT WAS DISCLOSED IN THE BOARD'S REPORT FOR 1979 WHICH HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED. DECISIONS ARE STILL AWAITED IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES.

THE REPORT SAID THAT THE BOARD LAID CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS LAST YEAR ON ITS EFFORTS TO SECURE THE PRESERVATION OF 11 OLD NEW TERRITORIES BUILDINGS.

+UNFORTUNATELY, THESE BUILDINGS ARE ALL PRIVATELY OWNED AND THEIR OWNERS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY OPPOSE DECLARATION AS MONUMENTS BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT THIS WILL REDUCE THEIR RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP,+ SAID THE REPORT.

THE REPORT POINTED OUT THAT THE BOARD WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED IN THE LACK OF PROGRESS BECAUSE MANY OF THESE BUILDINGS WERE SUPERB EXAMPLES OF THE ART OF STONEMASONRY, WOODEN DECORATION AND TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE, IN ADDITION TO THEIR HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

AS REGARDS ARCHAEOLOGY IN HONG KONG, THE REPORT SAID THE BOARD HAS BEEN CONSULTED LAST YEAR ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A POLICY AS A GUIDE FOR THE URBAN AND NT AUTHORITIES IN PROTECTING THE TERRITORY'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES- IN EXERCISING CONTROL OVER EXCAVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND IN THE ISSUE OF LICENCES TO EXCAVATE SUCH SITES.

+THE BOARD WAS ALSO CONSULTED BEFORE THE ESTABLISHMENT, WITHIN THE URBAN COUNCIL'S MUSEUM OF HISTORY, OF A CENTRAL REPOSITORY FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL. THIS REPOSITORY IS ORGANISED SO AS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE VARIOUS STAGES OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE TERRITORY, WITH ALL THE MATERIAL COLLECTED IN ONE PLACE.+

THE REPORT POINTED OUT THAT THE BOARD HAS DECIDED TO USE ELLIPTICAL-SHAPED METAL COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES TO MARK THE LOCATIONS OF FORMER WELL-KNOWN BUILDINGS OR LANDMARKS.

+THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION HAS KINDLY AGREED TO THE INSTALLATION OF A PLAQUE ON THE OUTSIDE OF ITS HEAD OFFICE TO MARK THE SITE OF THE ORIGINAL CITY HALL,+ SAID THE REPORT.

/THE EXCELSIOR

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THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL HAS ALSO KINDLY AGREED TO THE INSTALLATION OF A PLAQUE ON THE OUTSIDE OF ITS HEAD OFFICE, TO MARK THE SITE OF THE FIRST PLOT OF LAND SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION IN 1843 AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HONG KONG AS A COLONY.

THE REPORT POINTED OUT THAT MORE PLAQUES WILL BE ERECTED IN DUE COURSE AND THE BOARD WELCOMES SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR THE POSSIBLE SITING OF SUCH PLAQUES.

DURING THE YEAR, THE BOARD WAS CONSULTED ON THE RESITING OF A CEREMONIAL ARCH MARKING THE FORMER SMALLPOX HOSPITAL OPERATED BY THE TUNG WAH HOSPITAL IN KENNEDY TOWN AND THE ARCH IS NOW PERMANENTLY SITED WITH A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE IN A SMALL URBAN COUNCIL REST GARDEN IN THE SAME AREA.

ALSO, THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE URBAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS SECTION, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL HAS AGREED TO PRESERVE A NUMBER OF HISTORICALLY INTERESTING POSTAL BOXES WITH THE DESIGNATIONS 'V.R.' OR 'G.R.'. A KING EDWARD VII POSTBOX IS IN THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY.

THE HONG KONG ELECTRIC COMPANY TOO HAS AGREED TO DONATE A NUMBER OF OLD STREET LAMPS TO THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY WHICH DATED BACK FROM NEAR THE TURN OF THE CENTURY AND ARE OF CONSIDERABLE HISTORICAL INTEREST.

THE FOUR GAS LAMPS BY THE SIDES OF THE DUDELL STREET STEPS WERE DONATED DURING THE YEAR TO THE GOVERNMENT BY THE HONG KONG AND CHINA GAS COMPANY WHICH ALSO GENEROUSLY TRAINED CERTAIN USD STAFF IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LAMPS. THESE ARE THE LAST WORKING GAS LAMPS IN THE TERRITORY.

IN CONCLUSION, THE REPORT SAID THAT PRESERVATION ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH- IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO MAKE THE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC TO SEE AND ENJOY, AND TO ACCOMPANY IT WITH EXPLANATORY TEXTS TO INDICATE THE BACKGROUND, THE PURPOSE OF THE MATERIAL AND HOW IT RELATES TO MODERN HONG KONG.

THE ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD IS A STATUTORY BODY SET UP UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES AND MONUMENTS ORDINANCE CHAIRED BY MR BRIAN WILSON, WHO IS THE DIRECTOR OF URBAN SERVICES.

THE 1979 ANTIQUITIES ADVISORY BOARD REPORT AT \$13 A COPY IS AVAILABLE AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE GPO BUILDING IN CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG.

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RAPID GROWTH IN IRD BUSINESS

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THE INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT COLLECTED A RECORD \$7 600 MILLION IN TAX IN THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR, AN INCREASE OF NO LESS THAN FORTY-ONE TIMES THE YIELD IN 1957, THE COMMISSIONER OF INLAND REVENUE, MR VICTOR LADD SAID TODAY (TUESDAY).

SPEAKING AT A LUNCHEON MEETING OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG NORTH-WEST, MR LADD RECALLED THAT IN 1957, WHEN HE JOINED THE DEPARTMENT, ITS TOTAL COLLECTION WAS A MERÉ \$185 MILLION.

THE DEPARTMENT'S TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT THEN WAS JUST OVER 300 OFFICERS AND THE TOTAL COST OF THE DEPARTMENT WAS SOME \$3.6 MILLION, EQUAL TO TWO PER CENT OF THE REVENUE COLLECTED.

TODAY, THE TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT IS AROUND 2 600 AND THE COST LAST YEAR AMOUNTED TO ABOUT \$80 MILLION - OR JUST OVER ONE PER CENT OF TOTAL COLLECTIONS, HE SAID.

INEVITABLY, HOWEVER, WITH GROWTH HAVE COME PROBLEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT TEAM, MR LADD SAID.

HE NOTED THAT TWENTY YEARS AGO, LESS THAN 20 000 SALARIES TAX ASSESSMENTS WERE RAISED ANNUALLY AND LESS THAN 17 000 BUSINESSES WERE CHARGEABLE TO TAX.

+BY CONTRAST, WE HAVE JUST ISSUED SOME 425 000 SALARIES TAX RETURNS AND 100 000 BUSINESS RETURNS, AND OTHER AREAS WITHIN OUR RESPONSIBILITY - PROPERTY TAX, INTEREST TAX, PERSONAL ASSESSMENT, BUSINESS REGISTRATIONS AND SO ON - HAVE ALL EXPERIENCED SIMILAR GROWTH PATTERNS,+ HE SAID.

TO MEET THESE INCREASING DEMANDS IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO EXPAND THE STAFF ESTABLISHMENT CONSIDERABLY AND TO RELY MORE ON COMPUTERISATION, MR LADD EXPLAINED.

HE SAID THAT LATER THIS YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE DELIVERY OF ITS OWN COMPUTER AND DURING THE COURSE OF THE FOLLOWING 18 MONTHS OR SO A FULLY INTEGRATED DATA BASE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

ANOTHER PROBLEM AREA WHICH CAME WITH EXPANSION WAS THAT OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION.

MR LADD SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT NOW OCCUPIED SOME 330 000 SQUARE FEET IN WINDSOR HOUSE, FROM THE FIRST FLOOR RECEPTION LOBBY THROUGH TO THE 27TH FLOOR.

+I DO NOT THINK THAT THERE CAN BE VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT THE MOVE TO WINDSOR HOUSE HAS BEEN A GOOD THING - GOOD IN THE SENSE THAT IT MAKES FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO BE HOUSED UNDER ONE ROOF AND GOOD TOO IN THAT THE FACILITIES FOR THE RECEPTION OF THE TAX-PAYING PUBLIC ARE BETTER THAN THEY EVER HAVE BEEN IN THE HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT,+ MR LADD SAID.

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MP'S VISIT SHA TIN, CALL ON HEUNG YEE KUK
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THE TWO CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, DR KEITH HAMPSON AND MR DAVID HUNT, WHO ARE ON A 10-DAY VISIT TO HONG KONG, TOURED SHA TIN NEW TOWN THIS AFTERNOON (TUESDAY) AND CALLED ON THE HEUNG YEE KUK.

THE TWO MP'S FIRST CALLED AT NEW TERRITORIES ADMINISTRATION HEADQUARTERS FOR A 30-MINUTE BRIEFING BY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR DAVID AKERS-JONES, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES, MR AUGUSTINE CHUI KAM.

THEY THEN TRAVELLED TO LEK YUEN ESTATE, SHA TIN, FOR LUNCH WITH THE DISTRICT OFFICER, DR PATRICK HASE, AND PROJECT MANAGER, MR KENNETH KWOK. ALSO PRESENT WERE EIGHT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

AFTER LUNCH, THE TWO MP'S VISITED THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UNIT IN LEK YUEN ESTATE, ACCOMPANIED BY SHA TIN DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, MR IVAN SCOTT, AND THE WO CHE ESTATE COMMERCIAL COMPLEX.

THE NEXT CALL WAS AT THE SHUI WO COURT HOME OWNERSHIP SCHEME LOOKOUT POINT WHERE DR HASE TOLD THE VISITORS THAT SHA TIN SHOULD BE A MAJOR NEW TOWN FOR THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION PEOPLE BY 1989, BUILT TO THE HIGHEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS. IT WOULD HAVE 16 PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, SIX OR SEVEN MAJOR PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES AND LARGE AREAS OF HIGH CLASS RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION. HE SAID THE NEW TOWN WOULD BE WELL WOODED, EQUIPPED WITH A WIDE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES SUFFICIENT TO MAKE IT A MAJOR SHOPPING CENTRE IN THE EASTERN NEW TERRITORIES.

THE VISITORS ALSO TOURED THE FO TAN VALLEY FOR A BRIEFING ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW TOWN.

AFTER SPENDING MORE THAN TWO HOURS IN SHA TIN, THE MP'S WENT TO THE HEUNG YEE KUK HEADQUARTERS IN KOWLOON TONG, WHERE THEY WERE MET BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR STEPHEN WONG AND THE VICE CHAIRMAN MR LAU WONG-FAT. A RANGE OF TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED.

DURING THEIR VISIT TO HONG KONG, THE MP'S WILL MEET OFFICIALS FROM THE TRADE, INDUSTRY AND CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT, THE HOME AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE. THEY SPENT THIS MORNING WITH THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND WILL ATTEND A RECEPTION AT THE HONG KONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THIS (TUESDAY) EVENING.

THEY WILL ALSO MEET THE GOVERNOR, URBAN COUNCILLORS AND UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

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LEGCO QUESTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

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UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS WILL RAISE NINE QUESTIONS ON VARIOUS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST INCLUDING THREE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AT THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING TOMORROW (WEDNESDAY).

THE REPORT OF THE UMELCO POLICE GROUP FOR 1979 WILL ALSO BE TABLED.

THE HON CHEN SHOU-LUM WILL ASK FOR A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON THE PRESENT STATE OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN AREAS SUCH AS KWUN TONG AND TSUEN WAN, AND THE IMMEDIATE STEPS TAKEN TO ALLEVIATE THE PROBLEM.

THE HON ANDREW SO KWOK-WING WILL WANT TO KNOW THE STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF WORKERS AND RESIDENTS IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS FROM INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION.

DR THE HON RAYSON HUANG WILL ASK WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE EXPERTISE TO IDENTIFY TOXIC GASES AND FUMES WHICH MIGHT BE PRESENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO COUNTER THESE HEALTH HAZARDS.

OTHER QUESTIONS WILL BE ON MEASURES TO PREVENT HIGH-SPEED MOTOR BOATS FROM BRINGING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS INTO HONG KONG, PROGRESS OF THE SCHEME WHICH ENABLES ELIGIBLE CIVIL SERVANTS TO BUY THEIR OWN HOMES, AND IMPROVEMENT TO TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL.

THERE WILL ALSO BE QUESTIONS ON THE INSTALLATION OF COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION MACHINES IN COURTS, UPGRADING THE LEVEL OF MUSIC TEACHING IN ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE PROVISION OF PLACES FOR TAXIS AND PRIVATE CARS TO PICK UP OR SET DOWN PASSENGERS AT ALL MTR STATIONS.

ALTOGETHER, FIVE BILLS WILL BE INTRODUCED FOR FIRST AND SECOND READINGS. THEY ARE THE STAMP (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE BUSINESS REGISTRATION REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980, THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 AND THE MONEY LENDERS BILL 1980.

DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE INLAND REVENUE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 AND THE FIRE INVESTIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1980 WILL RESUME.

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LOCAL FARMERS TO LEARN FROM JAPAN

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A GROUP OF 17 VEGETABLE FARMERS FROM THE NEW TERRITORIES WILL LEAVE ON SUNDAY (JUNE 1) FOR A NINE-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN TO STUDY THE LATEST AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES FROM THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS.

THE VISIT IS SPONSORED BY THE VEGETABLE MARKETING ORGANISATION AND ORGANISED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

THE GROUP WILL BE LED BY MR KO HOK, CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERATION OF VEGETABLE MARKETING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES, AND ACCOMPANIED BY MR PAO CHUN-SHEN, AN AGRICULTURAL OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT.

THE FARMERS WILL TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT JAPAN TO STUDY INTENSIVE VEGETABLE CULTIVATION, THE USE OF SMALL FARM MACHINERY, THEIR CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT, AND VEGETABLE MARKETING SYSTEM.

LAST YEAR, A DELEGATION OF NINE NT FARMERS VISITED HOLLAND AND BRITAIN FOR TWO WEEKS TO STUDY THE VEGETABLE MARKETING TECHNIQUES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEPARTMENT SAID THAT SOME OF THE FARMERS WHO WENT ON LAST YEAR'S TRIP ARE NOW GOING TO JAPAN WHERE THE FARMING SITUATION IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF EUROPE BUT SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO HONG KONG'S.

+THEY SHOULD LEARN A LOT FROM THESE TWO VISITS,+ HE ADDED.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

THE DELEGATION OF FARMERS WILL LEAVE HONG KONG FOR JAPAN ON CHINA AIRLINES FLIGHT CI 012/802, ETD 10.45 AM ON SUNDAY (JUNE 1). PRESS REPRESENTATIVES MAY BE ABLE TO INTERVIEW THEM IN THE DEPARTURE HALL OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL AFTER 8.30 AM.

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RESTRICTED COUNTRY AREAS NOT FOR CYCLING
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THE COUNTRY PARKS AUTHORITY IS CONCERNED OVER THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PEOPLE CYCLING IN THE RESTRICTED AREAS OF COUNTRY PARKS.

IN THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, NEARLY 80 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUMMONSED TO APPEAR IN COURT FOR RIDING BICYCLES IN AREAS OTHER THAN PUBLIC ROADS WITHIN THE PARKS.

A NUMBER OF OFFENDERS HAVE ALREADY APPEARED IN COURT AND WERE EACH FINED \$200.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE AUTHORITY SAID THAT THE OFFENCES WERE COMMITTED IN THE PLOVER COVE, SHING MUN, SAI KUNG AND MA ON SHAN COUNTRY PARKS.

HE URGED PEOPLE NOT TO RIDE BICYCLES IN RESTRICTED AREAS SUCH AS NEAR RESERVOIRS, BARBECUE PITS OR ON FOREST PATHS.

+COUNTRY PARKS ARE FOR PEOPLE TO ENJOY THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THERE AND NOT FOR CYCLING,+ HE SAID, +WHY SPOIL THE FUN FOR OTHERS AND AT THE SAME TIME LAY YOURSELF OPEN TO PROSECUTION AND POSSIBLE FINE.+

THE CYCLING RESTRICTIONS HOWEVER DO NOT APPLY TO VILLAGERS WHO LIVE WITHIN THE AREAS.

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COMPENSATION CLAIMS FOR ROAD CLOSURE
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PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MTR WORKS IN ELEGANCE ROAD, KWUN TONG BETWEEN FEBRUARY 25, 1978 AND AUGUST 16 LAST YEAR MUST SUBMIT ALL CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION IN WRITING TO REACH THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 16 THIS YEAR.

AN ORDER WAS MADE ON FEBRUARY 2, 1978 UNDER THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY (LAND RESUMPTION AND RELATED PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE FOR CLOSING THE ROAD TO FACILITATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MTR.

THE ROAD WAS REOPENED ON AUGUST 16 LAST YEAR WHEN THE WORKS WERE COMPLETED.

A COPY OF THE PLAN SHOWING THE AFFECTED AREA IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT THE MASS TRANSIT OFFICE IN ROOM 416, MURRAY BUILDING, GARDEN ROAD, HONG KONG.

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WATER CUT
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WATER SUPPLY TO AN AREA OF YAU MA TEI WILL BE INTERRUPTED FOR SIX HOURS OVERNIGHT ENDING AT 6 AM ON THURSDAY (MAY 29).

THE AREA IS BOUNDED BY WATERLOO ROAD, NATHAN ROAD, PUBLIC SQUARE STREET AND SHANGHAI STREET.

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