

# Canada Weekly

Volume 4, No. 7

February 16, 1976  
EXTERIOR AFFAIRS  
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Ottawa, Canada.

## Prime Minister's

## Visit

to

Mexico,

Cuba

and

Venezuela

On his return from an 11-day official visit of Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela on February 2, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau said he was very optimistic about the prospect of closer relations between Canada and Latin America.

Mr. Trudeau, accompanied by his wife, their youngest son Michel, four months old, an official party and some 50 members of the press, arrived at Mexico City on January 23. They were met by President Luis Echeverria, his wife and senior government officials, and were accorded the sort of official welcome usually reserved for a head of state, including a welcoming address by the President, a 21-gun salute and an inspection of a guard of honour. A fair sized crowd at the airport added its own enthusiastic welcome.

At a luncheon later, Mr. Trudeau, in Spanish, thanked his hosts for the warm reception and outlined some of the topics which he expected to be reviewed in official discussions. Mrs. Trudeau gave an impromptu address to Mrs. Echeverria, commenting on the important contribution women could offer in international affairs. In the

afternoon the President of Mexico and the Prime Minister of Canada presided at a wreath-laying ceremony.

During the next two days, the Prime Minister held talks with the President and senior officials and visited places of interest. His tour of the Mexican Petroleum Institute appeared to arouse significant public interest, receiving extensive coverage on television news bulletins.

At a meeting in Los Pinos on January 25 a cultural agreement was signed in Mr. Trudeau's presence between Canada and Mexico.

Later, the Canadians flew to Palenque, one of the outstanding centres of Mexico's ancient origins, where they visited the archaeological site, then on to Cancun, where the Prime Minister visited an exhibition of Mexican crafts.

### Mexico joint communiqué

Excerpts follow from the text of a joint communiqué issued by President Echeverria and Prime Minister Trudeau in Mexico City on January 25:

\* \* \* \*



Canadian Prime Minister is showered with blue and white carnations and

confetti on arrival in Mexico City on January 23.

“The President and the Prime Minister noted the increased volume and diversification of trade and financial flows and the surge in tourism.

“They also noted the importance that Mexico attaches to achieving a better balance in its trade with Canada through expansion and further diversification of its exports to Canada as well as Canada’s wish to match Canadian export capabilities and technology to Mexico’s development requirements.

“Consideration was also given to the progress reached in the consultations between the two governments concerning export quality certificates for agricultural products and the hope was expressed that it might permit a prompt resolution of the problem.

**Economic relations**

“Both leaders were agreed that the two governments should stimulate further growth in economic relations through an active exchange of special missions and other measures. A ministerial mission will be visiting Canada in the near future to identify the application of the CANDU reactor system to Mexico’s nuclear power as well as to discuss co-operation in electrical industry development. Officials of the Mexican Federal Housing Community Development Agency have recently completed a trip to Canada as well as



CP photo

*An impromptu speech by Margaret Trudeau draws smiles from President*

*Echeverria (centre) and Prime Minister Trudeau, in Mexico City, January 23.*

consultations with the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, with a view to determining the applicability of the Canadian low-cost timber frame housing system in Mexico’s housing needs. They also discussed Mexico’s desire to enhance its rail and air transportation systems. In this connection the Prime Minister emphasized Can-



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*Prime Minister Trudeau (right) admires an ancient Mayan sculpture presented to him by Governor Valasco-Suarez of Chiapas, Mexico, on January 25.*



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*Mrs. Trudeau (left) presents a small gift to Mrs. Echeverria while their*

*husbands discuss official business in Mexico City, January 23.*

ada’s work on the development of the new STOL aircraft. The Mexican side said this matter was under active consideration. A cattle development program, a proposed joint venture in the manufacture of railway passenger cars, further joint ventures in the mining sector, and the tourist industry were

the principal areas of immediate interest.

"It was agreed to explore further the possible conclusion of a double taxation agreement.

"The Prime Minister expressed hope that Mexico will continue to serve as a primary air gateway for Canada to Latin America. The President and the Prime Minister agreed that current revision of the bilateral air agreement be completed in order to provide further balanced expansion of air services of the two countries.

"It was agreed that the Canada/Mexico Ministerial Committee had been a most useful forum for exchanging views, particularly on trade and economic relations. It was envisaged that the next meeting of the Committee could take place in Canada in 1977.

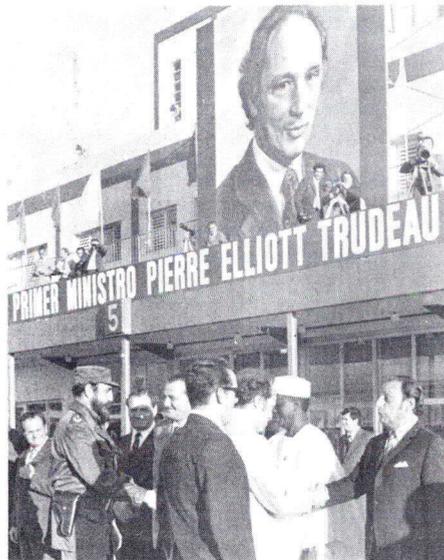
"The President and the Prime Minister noted with satisfaction the good relations existing between the business communities of the two countries and in particular the role played by the bilateral Mexican/Canadian Businessmen's Committee and the Canadian Association for Latin America. During his stay in Mexico City the Prime Minister met with representatives of the Mexican business and financial community.

"The parliamentarians of the two countries have initiated a promising dialogue. In return for the visit paid to Mexico in December 1974 by a delegation of Canadian parliamentarians, the Mexican congress will be sending to Ottawa within the next few days a delegation to discuss subjects of both bilateral and multilateral interest.

**Cultural agreement**

"The two leaders expressed their satisfaction at the signing during the Prime Minister's visit of a cultural agreement between the two countries. They resolved to put a program of activities into effect immediately in order that the people of the two countries could gain a much wider appreciation of their respective cultures. They also agreed to convene a meeting of government representatives as soon as possible to develop a longer range program. Canada proposes to participate in the International Cervantino Festival held in the City of Guanajuato as early as this year.

"The two leaders noted the progress



*Fidel Castro and Pierre Trudeau greet members of the diplomatic corps on Mr. Trudeau's arrival in Havana, January 26.*

achieved in the expansion of scientific co-operation between the two countries. Special mention was made of the joint work of the Mexican CONACYT [a scientific and technological research organization] and the Canada-based International Development Research Centre in the area of cattle feeding. The President and the Prime Minister agreed that the two governments continue consultations with a view to identifying specific areas where fur-



*On January 27, the second day of his visit to Cuba, Prime Minister Trudeau (left) tours a textile factory with Prime Minister Castro.*

ther scientific and technological co-operation could be of mutual benefit. The Prime Minister assured him of his special interest in promoting such exchanges in particular through co-operation with the University of the Third World soon to be established in Mexico.

"They also expressed their satisfaction with the agreement which updates the memorandum of understanding related to the exchange of specialists and young technicians."

\* \* \* \*

**Cuba visit**

On arrival in Havana, January 26, the Prime Minister and his party were welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Fidel Castro and numerous Cuban dignitaries. Chanting crowds and military bands greeted the visitors and large banners stating "Viva la amistad entre Cuba y Canada", together with welcome signs in English, French and Spanish, were displayed at the airport and along the three-mile route to the city. Cheering crowds lined the streets, waving the flags of both countries.

That evening, another official reception was given for the Canadians by the Cuban Government. A large crowd, including members of other delegations, attended.

The following day, activities included a wreath-laying ceremony a visit to a new housing development, where Prime Minister Castro showed the guests points of special interest, and a visit to the José Martí Pioneer Camp — which is akin to the Boy Scout movement — to which many Cuban school children belong.

Later, the Prime Minister and a small party had official talks with their hosts. During the afternoon of January 27, the Canadians were taken to a genetic farm at Valles de Picadura, where they were shown examples of Cuba's progress in animal rearing. That evening Prime Minister Trudeau, his wife and members of the delegation attended a performance of the Cuban National Ballet, where one of the items was a joint Canadian-Cuban production called "Time Out of Mind".

The next day, the visitors went to Cienfuegos, a city soon to become a province and important for its industrial development. After a tour of a new chemical plant and sugar refinery, they went on to an *acto masivo*, or mass

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rally, in the Cuban tradition, where a crowd of some 20,000 was assembled to hear speeches by the two Prime Ministers. In a 40-minute address, Prime Minister Castro described the historic relations between the two countries, pointing out the importance of Canadian aid to the country in the post-revolution years in the fields of technological assistance, primarily in agriculture. He stressed the importance of the traditional good relations between the two countries.

Mr. Trudeau, addressing the crowd in Spanish for about 20 minutes, urged a policy of frank communication in international relations. He said that Canada, which was broadening the scope of its international relations, was looking toward Latin America in this regard. He emphasized the growing importance of contacts between countries — economic, cultural and human. The prominent feature of relations between Canada and Cuba, he said, was that they demonstrated the possibility of co-operation and peaceful co-existence despite wide ideological differences, in an atmosphere of mutual respect. His speech was somewhat shortened because of the very hot sun. It ended with the “vivas” which are customary in Latin American countries.

Other activities in Cuba included a reception hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Trudeau during which Prime Minister Castro answered questions from Canadian journalists, a press conference on January 29 by Prime Minister Trudeau and a visit by both leaders to the Canadian Embassy.

Cuba joint communiqué

The following excerpts are from the text of a joint *communiqué* signed by Prime Minister Castro and Prime Minister Trudeau in Havana on January 29:

\* \* \* \*

“The two Prime Ministers held talks on bilateral, regional and international matters of mutual concern. In the spirit which has characterized the relations between the two countries in recent years, the dialogue was both frank and constructive. They agreed that the relations and talks between the two governments should continue to be imbued with the same spirit and give priority to the search for new solutions in both bilateral and multilateral mat-

ters where the two countries could make a positive contribution.

Trade

“In reviewing the economic relations between the two countries, both heads of government stressed their satisfaction with the development of trade between the two countries as shown by the threefold increase since 1972 in exports from Canada to Cuba and the sevenfold increase in exports from Cuba to Canada during the same period. They noted the active exchange of government and industrial missions which has taken place in the last couple of years, the most outstanding being the visit to Cuba in March 1975 of the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Alastair Gillespie. These visits led to the establishment in Ottawa in September 1975 of the Canada/Cuba Joint Committee on Economic and Trade Relations launched at the time of the visit to Canada of the Vice Prime Minister of the Revolutionary Government of Cuba, Dr. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez.

“Both parts [*sic*] recognized that there were opportunities to further increase and diversify this trade. The Cuban side emphasized the importance they attach to reducing the present imbalance and in particular their interest in expanding their sales of sugar to

Canada. The Canadian side appreciated the Cuban concern while noting that there had been a substantial increase in Canadian purchases not only of sugar but also of other Cuban products. In this context both parts noted with satisfaction the large and rapid increase in the Canadian tourist flow to Cuba.

“The Cuban side reiterated its interest in receiving Canadian products and its favourable disposition toward increasing Canada’s share of the Cuban market. Prospects for an increased trade interchange between the two countries were assessed as most promising given both the potential of the two countries and the spirit in which they conduct their mutual economic relations.

Importance of nickel

“Both parts also expressed their intention to look for new possibilities which will enable them to continue their collaboration in the field of industrial co-operation. Prime Minister Castro spoke of the planned expansion of nickel production in Cuba and stressed the importance of nickel export earnings to the Cuban economy. Prime Minister Trudeau noted with interest nickel developments in Cuba and agreed that opportunities for co-operation in this area should be in-



Prime Minister Fidel Castro addresses a crowd of over 20,000 at Cienfuegos, January 28, as Mr. and Mrs. Trudeau

listen (front row right). Later, Mr. Trudeau spoke to the audience in Spanish for some 20 minutes.

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vestigated.

"It was agreed that development aid constitutes an important element in the current relations between Canada and Cuba. There was also broad agreement on the importance of providing aid to the poorer developing countries where such assistance could be effective.

"Both sides noted with satisfaction the activities already undertaken under the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral co-operation and exchanges in the field of health which were signed during the visit to Cuba in April 1975 of Mr. Marc Lalonde, Minister of National Health and Welfare, and expressed their confidence that such exchanges would be further expanded in future to the benefit of both countries. Both sides also welcomed the recent signing of a memorandum outlining principles of co-operation in sports between Canada and Cuba and providing for the further development of joint sports activities between the two countries. Canadian and Cuban Olympic teams have exchanged training visits in the past two years and Cuban participation in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal is expected to be substantial.

"The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the impact on the bilateral trade of Canada and Cuba of the world trade in sugar. They agreed that the two governments should combine their efforts toward achieving a new international sugar agreement that would take into account the changes which have characterized the international marketing of this basic commodity.

\* \* \* \*

"In their talks concerning the expansion of trade between developed and developing countries, the two sides stressed the importance of the general preferential system in support of the growth and diversification of exports from developing countries. The Cuban side pressed for the inclusion in the Canadian general preferential system of a greater number of commodities and also for a more favourable treatment of the commodities already covered in order to allow for an increase in Cuban exports to the Canadian market.

"The two Prime Ministers held a frank exchange of views on recent international issues and situations with particular reference to important cur-



UPI photo

*Prime Minister Castro holds Michel Charles-Émile Trudeau, as Mrs. Tru-*

*deau looks on, at the end of a four-day visit to Cuba, January 29.*

rent problems in Africa and the Middle East. They welcomed the results of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe and stressed the significance of the agreements reached at that conference for the peace and security not only of Europe but also of the other regions of the world.

\* \* \* \*

"They also viewed it as crucial that the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea should lead to agreement on a legal system to regulate the exploitation of resources of the sea and the sea-bed. Both Prime Ministers endorsed the concept of an economic zone up to 200 miles in which the coastal state will have sovereign rights over the exploration and exploitation of renewable and mineral resources while respecting the freedom of navigation and overflight. They both supported the right of unimpeded passage through straits used in international navigation. With respect to anadromous species, such as salmon in the case of Canada, they recognized the prime interest and main responsibility for the preservation of such species of the coastal state in whose rivers they originate. Given Cuba's interest in sharing in Northwest Atlantic

fisheries, it was agreed that the two countries would negotiate a bilateral fisheries agreement.

\* \* \* \*

#### Invitation to visit Canada

"The two Prime Ministers were gratified by the results of the visit and its positive effect on the further development of bilateral relations.

"Noting that a group of Canadian Parliamentarians had visited Cuba in 1974 at the invitation of the Cuban Government, the Prime Minister discussed the possibility of an early visit to Canada by representatives of the National Assembly to be elected this year under the new Constitution of Cuba.

"Prime Minister Trudeau expressed to Prime Minister Castro his deep appreciation for the warm reception given to himself and Mrs. Trudeau by the Revolutionary Government of Cuba and the Cuban people. He invited Prime Minister Castro to visit Canada at a time to be mutually agreed upon. Prime Minister Castro accepted this invitation with heartfelt gratitude."

#### Venezuela visit

In Caracas, where the Prime Minister and his delegation arrived on January

29, President Carlos Andrés Pérez of Venezuela, his wife and Venezuelan officials were at the airport. A red carpet was laid the length of the tarmac.

The Prime Minister was present, as he had been in Mexico and Cuba, at a wreath-laying ceremony that evening and, later, he and Mrs. Trudeau were hosts at a reception attended by heads of diplomatic missions and their wives.

The next day, President Pérez and Mr. Trudeau met for talks, which lasted some two hours. In the afternoon the Canadians visited the National Congress. At a banquet given by the President and his wife, Mr. Trudeau addressed officials, dignitaries and guests, describing Canada's role in the affairs of the hemisphere. He stressed the need for further co-operation between Canada and Venezuela, particularly in the economic sphere.

His speech, and the President's, were broadcast in full on national television. The visit of Mr. Trudeau had received considerable advance publicity in Venezuela; notably, an issue of a leading magazine *Resumen* had been largely devoted to an interview with Mr. Trudeau by the magazine's director, which had taken place in Ottawa the previous week and to articles on Canadian culture and history and economic relations with Venezuela. A TV program on Canada was broadcast the first night of the visitors' arrival in Caracas.

On January 31, Prime Minister Trudeau addressed delegates at the fifth conference of the Canadian Association for Latin America (CALA V). He emphasized the importance of promoting closer links between Canada and Latin America, one of the most vital means of achieving this, he said, being the promotion of closer commercial associations.

The banquet given in honour of President Pérez and his wife that evening was chiefly distinguished for being the scene of a song by the Prime Minister's wife — a tribute to Mrs. Pérez for her work in social reform.

On February 1, the Prime Minister and his party visited Camp Ucaima, a private development in the Venezuelan jungle, where they lunched and were shown some of the flora and fauna of the region. The return flight took in some spectacular natural features, including Angel Falls, the highest in the

world, which involved some impressive aeronautical acrobatics as the aircraft soared low down to a ravine known as Devils' Canyon.

On his last day in Venezuela, the Prime Minister again met President Pérez for discussions, following which a joint *communiqué* was read and signed by the two. Later, the Prime Minister gave a press conference and visited the Canadian Embassy. At the airport, *en route* for Canada, the party were received by President and Mrs. Pérez before the official departure ceremony.

#### Venezuela joint communiqué

Excerpts follow from the text of the joint *communiqué* signed by President Pérez and Prime Minister Trudeau in Caracas on February 2:

\* \* \* \*

"In their conversations, the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister of Canada analyzed various aspects of the current international situation, giving special emphasis to those which have particular interest either with respect to hemispheric relations or those of a bilateral nature. They agreed with satisfaction that the relations between Venezuela and Canada have experienced substantial growth and they expressed their conviction that this visit has strengthened

the desire of the respective governments to diversify these relations with a view to arriving at a new partnership attuned to the position of both countries in the western hemisphere and in the world.

\* \* \* \*

"The two leaders agreed on the importance which the Latin American Economic System (SELA) might acquire for the adequate channelling of economic and technological co-operation with the countries of the region and in particular for identifying and implementing projects and programs of interest to their further economic and social development.

"The two leaders were agreed on the need to preserve the marine environment which constitutes the heritage of future generations and is vital to the very survival of the human race; to develop the utilization of the sea and ocean spaces in a spirit of justice and equality that takes into account the notion that the resources of the sea beyond the areas of national jurisdiction constitute a common patrimony of mankind; and to preserve the living resources of the sea. Conscious of the need to preserve the legitimate rights of coastal states, including their rights over fisheries, and to harmonize them with the interests of the international community, they agreed to co-operate



President Pérez and Mrs. Pérez of Venezuela (right) meet Prime Minister

Trudeau and his wife on arrival in Caracas on January 29.

UPI photo

actively with a view to ensuring that the next stage in the elaboration of a new framework of the Third United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, results in a satisfactory and durable outcome.

\* \* \* \*

Paris meeting co-chairmen

“They expressed their satisfaction with the successful conclusion of the first meeting of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation held last December in Paris and of which the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Venezuelan Minister of State for International Economic Affairs acted as co-chairmen. They expressed the intention of their governments to join efforts in order to contribute to the achievement of concrete results for the benefit of all peoples in this Conference which was occasioned by the demand for the early establishment of a new international economic order based on equity and sovereign equality, as well as the interdependence, common interests and co-operation among states.

“The President of Venezuela stressed the need to strengthen the



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President Pérez of Venezuela (left) and Prime Minister Trudeau share a joke at the start of official talks in Caracas,

the last stop on Mr. Trudeau's trip to the three Latin American countries of Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela.



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The Prime Minister (left) visits Canaima, one of the national parks, in

Venezuela on January 2. His host, “Jungle Rudy”, is a local resident.

marketing mechanisms for basic commodities of the exporting countries, in order to guarantee them export earnings that would permit the financing of their own development. The Prime Minister of Canada stressed the importance of achieving greater stability in world markets for primary products so as to permit more effective development of national resources and more rapid growth in export earnings, particularly for developing countries. They agreed on the necessity of strengthening the General System of Preferences agreed upon in UNCTAD for manufactured products produced in developing nations, without discrimination or reciprocity.

“The two leaders exchanged views on problems affecting the world food situation. They agreed to continue to support the early creation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA) and renewed their intention to contribute to the resources of the Fund.

“In their talks, the President of Venezuela and the Prime Minister of Canada paid special attention to the prospects for intensifying bilateral

economic relations.

"They observed that there are possibilities of strengthening the existing co-operation and extending it to new and promising fields. Among these, the sectors of transportation, grains, mining, forestry, cattle and energy offer special opportunities in their view. The Prime Minister welcomed the President's suggestion to exchange technical missions representing both the public and private sectors.

"They deemed it expedient to initiate contacts at the technical level to study the respective fiscal systems in order to consider formulas favouring mutual investment flows.

"The two leaders recognized that it was in the interests of both countries to broaden and deepen their present economic relations and they expressed the hope that their discussions might pave the way for a new partnership and understanding between Canada and Venezuela. They noted with satisfaction that the *modus vivendi*, which now governs commercial relations between Canada and Venezuela, had been renewed for a further period of one year. They agreed on the need to initiate early discussions towards the adoption of an agreement or agreements on economic co-operation, to cover *inter alia* industrial, commercial and technological relations between the two countries.

#### Petroleum co-operation

"Regarding relations between the two countries in the petroleum sector, the two leaders were in agreement in recognizing that these relations have been characterized as traditionally harmonious and mutually beneficial and expressed the wish to amplify these relations in the future. They considered it of common interest to ex-

change information on a wide range of petroleum matters.

"They also discussed the possibility of co-operation in the development of technology for extraction and upgrading of heavy crudes, with particular emphasis on those from the Orinoco tar belt and the Alberta oil sands.

"They were in agreement in stressing the importance of the continuous and secure supply of Venezuelan petroleum to Canada.

"Both leaders agreed that it would be desirable for the two national oil companies, Petroven and Petro-Canada, to meet at an early date to investigate possibilities for collaboration in the petroleum industry.

"The President of Venezuela explained to the Prime Minister of Canada the measures taken by the Government of Venezuela regarding the nationalization of the petroleum and iron ore industries and the principles governing these actions which rest on the inalienable and sovereign right of states over their natural resources.

"The Prime Minister of Canada said he respected Venezuela's right as a sovereign state to determine and pursue its national economic objectives.

"The President and the Prime Minister confirmed their special interest in developing friendly relations between the two nations and to this end proposed to support the development of an effective exchange in the cultural area.

"Both leaders were pleased with the presence in Canada of groups of Venezuelan students who are following courses of study in Canadian universities and other institutions of higher learning, under the programs developed by Venezuela's "Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho" Foundation.

"They stressed their interest in the appropriate authorities of the two countries developing a greater degree of collaboration in the educational, scientific and technological fields. They recognized in this respect that possibilities exist to develop co-operation in the areas of agriculture, food technology, livestock, forestry and wildlife management, fisheries, peaceful uses of atomic energy and training of human resources.

"They agreed, in this respect to exchange, after appropriate consultations, information and experts in the

fields of education, science and technology.

"In regard to the technological and scientific aspects, both leaders expressed their satisfaction at the contacts that had been initiated between CONICIT (National Council for Scientific and Technological Research) of Venezuela and corresponding centres and institutions of Canada.

"The Prime Minister expressed his gratitude to the President for the warm welcome which he received and for the expressions of friendship which he experienced during his stay in Venezuela.

"President Pérez accepted with pleasure Prime Minister Trudeau's invitation to visit Canada." □

*Canada Weekly* is published by the Information Division, Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, K1A 0G2.

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*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre Hebdo Canada.*

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