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Fifth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention – postponement sought

Canada has sought the co-operation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to postpone the fifth UN Congress on Crime Prevention which was to have been held in Toronto in September.

In a statement to the House of Commons on July 21, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, said that, "in the Government's view, this congress cannot be held successfully anywhere this year".

Mr. MacEachen explained as follows the reasons for Canada's decision:

* * * *

Whereas a minimum of co-operation is essential to any progress in the international field, we have witnessed lately excessive confrontation on issues that were not related to the subject matter of conferences. The ingredients are well-known: racialism in Southern Africa, the Middle East conflict, producer-consumer relations and the full range of economic development problems subsumed under calls for a "new world economic order". Canada believes that these are very real and difficult problems which must be dealt with urgently, in the appropriate international institutions, before they poison the body politic of the United Nations family; and let there be no doubt that we consider it necessary and desirable that political factors take their proper place even in the most technical of conferences. But they must meet some test of relevance, and in recent UN conferences this has clearly not been the case.

Honourable Members are well aware that in respect of the Toronto Congress on Crime Prevention, which was to take place next September, one of these issues had already become paramount. It arose from the resolution adopted in November 1974 by the General Assembly, with Canada dissenting, inviting the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) to attend its sessions as a permanent observer and, in a similar capacity, conferences convened under the auspices of the General Assembly or other organs of the UN. Accordingly, the Government of Canada was informed by the United Nations Secretariat some time ago that observers from the PLO had been invited to attend the fifth Congress on Crime Prevention and that the Canadian authori-

ties were expected to allow entry, sojourn and exit to these participants.

Needless to say, it is with reluctance that the Government has decided to seek postponement of the congress, but we concluded that it would not be possible, in present circumstances, to hold a successful congress on crime prevention in Canada or anywhere else.

Two main factors

We are all aware of the public outcry for or against the admission to Canada, for this congress, of observers from the Palestinian Liberation Organization. We have all been worried by its divisive effect upon Canadian public opinion. We could not ignore the risk of public disorders. These factors would have led any government to reconsider a decision to host an international conference. But in the final analysis, two factors dominated in our discussions. The first was the inevitable intrusion of unrelated political considerations into the proceedings of the congress. The second was the re-escalation of violence in the Middle East and the consequent spread of its bitterness into Canada and subsequently into the congress itself.

It is obvious that such intrusion of the Middle East conflict, by adding to the already hopeless confusion between civil crimes and acts of war, would distort and subvert the purposes of what has essentially been up to now, and should remain, a technical meeting of experts from all countries, striving to develop international co-operation in a field of vital importance to the rule of law and to public order everywhere. As host country, we felt that Canada had assumed a major responsibility for the success of this congress; and in such an unfavourable

1976 suggested for crime conference

In a note to the United Nations on July 25, the Canadian Government proposed that the conference on crime be held at "a suitable site in Canada" at "a mutually convenient date in 1976". The meeting should take place, said the note, "under normal conditions for participation in United Nations conferences".

political climate, we did not see how we would possibly carry out our responsibility. I should add that we were also concerned about the coincidence of the congress with the seventh Special Session of the General Assembly on Development and International Economic Co-operation, since the contentious atmosphere of one would in all likelihood seep into the other.

Invitation postponed, not withdrawn

However, after an extensive review of the Government's domestic and international obligations, we decided to inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations that we did not want to be relieved of the responsibility for holding this congress, but rather wished to postpone it. We did not want to withdraw our invitation to the United Nations; and we tried to avoid any steps which might have called into question our long-standing commitment to the principles of the United Nations. I emphasize that Canada's willingness to participate in and contribute to the operations of United Nations agencies remains undiminished.

Use of respite period

The respite obtained by postponement must be effectively used by all to bring about sufficient improvement in attendant political conditions so that we may have reasonable assurances that technical conferences such as the fifth UN Congress on Crime Prevention will be useful and productive. We hope that current negotiations for the reduction of tensions between some of the parties to the Middle East conflict will prove successful in coming months; and we will actively support the continuing efforts of the parties directly involved and of the United States Government toward that goal.

Furthermore, the next General Assembly of the United Nations will provide an opportunity to affirm the principle of universality, as a fulfilment of what ought to be a basic aim of the United Nations. More specifically, we will resist any attempt to exclude Israel or any other country from the proceedings of the General Assembly. Acceptance of this principle would guarantee the status of Israel within the community of nations, and thus remove one cause of instability in the area.

New responsibilities

So that in requesting the postponement of the congress, Canada is not shirking its responsibilities but actually taking on new ones. Through new initiatives, both bilateral and multilateral, the Government will try to improve the political situation in the Middle East and in the UN, notably through our participation in the next session of the General Assembly, which may be crucial for the future of the organization, given the fundamental character of the issues on which debates are expected to focus. Canada will consult with other interested countries on the ground rules governing technical discussions in UN arenas. Either independently or in co-operation with others, we will attempt to formulate and seek support for an effective resolution in the General Assembly on this question.

Middle East trip

I also intend to accept during the autumn outstanding invitations to visit a number of countries in the Middle East. These visits, which the Government already considered most useful for strengthening our relations with this region of the world, have taken a new urgency following the difficulties we encountered in holding the UN Congress on Crime Prevention. The House can be assured that I will take this opportunity to solicit the views of my hosts on these difficulties and seek their support for the United Nations as a universal forum and an effective international instrument.

Honourable Members should note that our decision to seek the postponement of the congress, for the reasons stated, is consistent with the policy of the

Government on the Middle East. We will continue to cultivate, as we have done in the past, friendly and co-operative relations with all states in the region and to attach great importance to the development of these relations. Likewise, Canada has tried in the past to maintain a balanced and objective approach to the Middle East conflict and will continue to do so. We have always supported and defended the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace with its neighbours, behind secure and recognized borders. We have stated our conviction that no peaceful and stable solution to this regional conflict can be found without the participation of the Palestinians and the just settlement of their claims. We have condemned the use of violence as a political instrument or as a means of retribution. We have participated in all UN peacekeeping and ceasefire supervision missions in the Middle East and contributed to the United Nations' relief operations for Palestinian refugees. We have advocated and continue to advocate the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 242. All of this therefore continues to be Government policy.

We are confident that the initiatives to be taken by Canada and other countries on the future of the United Nations and the Middle East will lead to a different atmosphere, in which the postponed fifth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders can be held in Canada, at a time to be decided upon, with sufficient assurances of success. It was agreed with the Secretary-General of the United Nations that we should consult further on this question and I expect to be in touch with him later this week.

First quarter balance of Canadian international payments

The seasonally-adjusted current account deficit rose to \$1,529 million in the first quarter of 1975, up over \$500 million from the previous quarter. The principal factor in this change was an increase of \$520 million in the merchandise trade deficit to \$537 million.

Exports were particularly weak, falling 6 per cent in value to reflect both the slackness in demand in foreign countries, particularly the

United States, and supply constraints in Canada, especially labour problems at West Coast ports. With a rise in prices of about 3 per cent, exports in constant dollar terms fell about 8 per cent, contributing to a drop in economic activity as measured by the change in gross national product in real terms. This was also reflected in a rise of less than 1 per cent in value terms in merchandise imports, which

Calvary at Oka exhibition at the National Gallery

The National Gallery of Canada is presenting an unusual exhibition from July 11 to August 17 called *The Calvary at Oka*. Seven reliefs of polychrome wood, which are part of the exhibition, focus attention not only on the artistic value of these late eighteenth-century works but also on the religious and social significance of the Calvary at Oka itself in early Canadian history. Slides, photographs, historical maps, archival documents and a special film on a pilgrimage to Oka, produced in 1973, are also part of the display to provide a better understanding of the wooden reliefs and to help place them in their proper setting and context.

Organized by the National Gallery's curator of Early Canadian Art, Jean Trudel, with the close collaboration of the assistant curator of Early Canadian Art, John R. Porter, *The Calvary at Oka* recalls the history of that early settlement in New France, situated on the north shore of the Lake of the Two Mountains, near Montreal, Quebec.

The seven chapels built purposely for the Stations of the Cross of the Calvary, were built between 1740 and 1742.

Those housing the polychrome wood

reliefs are found on the mountain behind the village. Four small oratories are on the flank of the mountain and three chapels on its top. Built by the Society of the Sulpicians of French origin, they reflect the concern of that



The Flagellation (c. 1775-1776), by François Guernon dit Belleville, one of the polychrome wood reliefs at the Calvary of Oka.



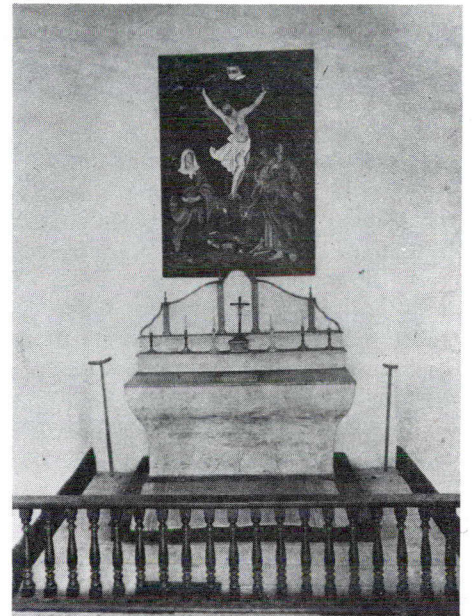
Photo John R. Porter

Second oratory of the Calvary in which The Flagellation is housed.

Society with the evangelization of the Indians. Over the years, Oka became a site of important pilgrimages.

Paintings obtained in France by the Sulpicians originally adorned the oratories and the chapels; determination to preserve these paintings led the Society to replace them in the more exposed chapels by the reliefs that are on view at the National Gallery of Canada. They are the works of François Guernon dit Belleville, a sculptor of French origin, and were completed in 1775-1776.

Jean Trudel and John R. Porter, have devoted, over a two-year period, extensive research into Oka. They have collaborated in writing a book, *The Calvary at Oka*, which contains coloured illustrations, historical references, important archival documents, and a study of the cultural and social milieu of that period.



Interior of Central Chapel

Sunday laws under review

Justice Minister Otto Lang recently requested the Law Reform Commission of Canada to conduct a review of the Lord's Day Act.

The present legislation contains basic prohibitions pertaining to work on Sunday while allowing certain work of necessity and mercy to be carried out on that day. It permits the staging of other commercial activities such as sports events where such events are allowed by provincial legislation.

Wheat to U.S.S.R.

The Canadian Wheat Board announced on July 24 an additional sale of one million tons of wheat to the Soviet Union.

The purchase — for some 37.3 million bushels of durum wheat — brings total Canadian sales to the U.S.S.R. for the next crop year to approximately 112 million bushels or three million long tons.

Based on current export prices at Thunder Bay, Ontario, the latest order is worth about \$226 million.

Pensioner identity cards

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau recently presented to two senior citizens the first identity cards to be issued to all old age security recipients. They were former Senator Thérèse Casgrain, an acknowledged leader in the extension of human rights to women, and Fred Wright, who was an oilfield worker from Calgary.

The cards will be sent automatically within three months to all recipients of old age security 65 years of age and over without their having to apply.

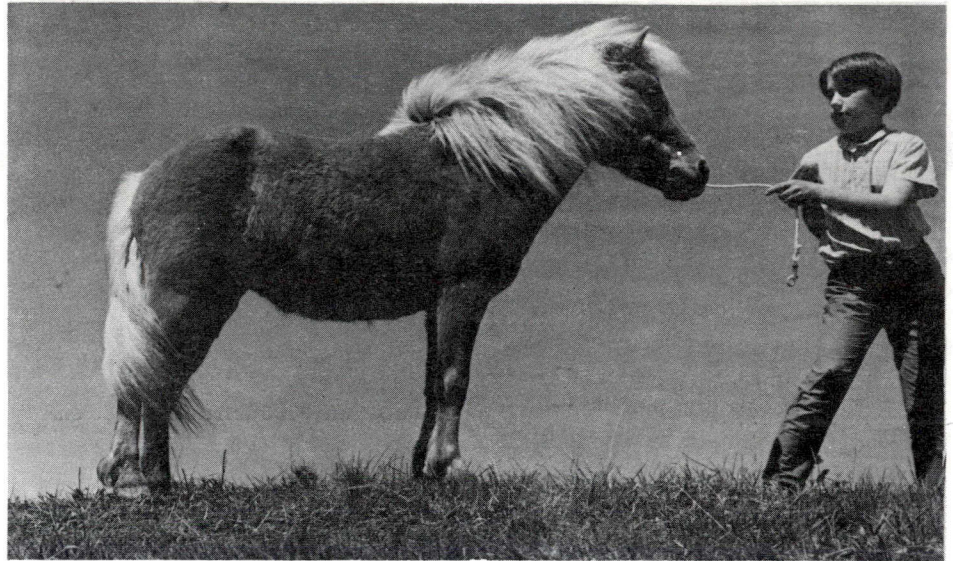
Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde explained that the cards would allow the bearer to benefit from certain consumer discounts, reduced travel fares granted by local and long-distance carriers and other advantages accorded to the elderly.

Pros and cons of publicly compared food prices

Publication of food-price comparisons in a local market can lead to lower food costs in a short period and reduced price differences among competing stores, the Food Prices Review Board concluded recently in a report on an experiment in price comparisons conducted in the Ottawa-Hull area.

"The Board's experiment suggests that in some local markets a publication of comparative food-price information over a short period may, on balance, be helpful to the consumer."

The Board recommended that comparative food-prices information be published from time to time, over short



The work horse has disappeared from the farm, but a boy and his pony is still the perfect combination for a Canadian

summer. What the Shetland pony lacks in size he makes up for in hardiness and determination.

periods, "in some local markets by private or public groups".

On the other hand, the Board said that the limited nature of its experiment in Ottawa-Hull did not provide a basis for recommending that government or private agencies establish programs to publish this information simultaneously in a number of markets over extended periods.

The experiment, which began last April 1, was conducted in three stages throughout which the Board surveyed the prices of 65 selected items in 26 stores in the Ottawa-Hull area. Price levels were also monitored in Winnipeg.

During the first stage, results of surveys were not made public. Prices in both areas rose steadily throughout the spring and summer.

In the second stage, from September 19 to October 23, 1974, the Board published weekly data showing relative food-price levels among the 26 stores in the Ottawa-Hull region. Prices in Ottawa-Hull dropped, but increased in Winnipeg.

In the final stage, post-publication, the general price level of food in both Ottawa-Hull and Winnipeg rose to new heights.

The Board concluded that publication of comparative price information "can have the effect of lowering food-price levels in the local market and, particularly, of lessening the differences in

price levels between competing stores in that market".

"There is no doubt that consumers appreciate increased comparative market information," the report states. "During the publication period, consumers became more alert to changing prices than they normally would be, even at a time of rapidly rising costs."

Disadvantages of experiment

The Board is concerned with possible disadvantages to the consumer and the retail food industry, which could result from a widespread use of the technique over an extended period. The average profit of Canadian retailers is not excessive, which suggests that, over a period, substantial price reductions might force some retailers to reduce consumer services, and the capital needed to improve their efficiency and provide jobs.

"Similar disadvantages could also result if the technique were used over a lengthy period in an isolated market, like Ottawa-Hull. Moreover, to the degree that the small retailer or group has a more limited capacity to absorb losses, the large chains and oligopolistic tendencies in the market may be strengthened. Clearly, the publication of comparative food-price information has the potential for being a mixed blessing to the consumer."

Federal funds fight unemployment

A \$150-million Local Initiatives Program (LIP) will spearhead the federal effort against unemployment this autumn, compared to last year's budget of \$96 million.

The primary object of LIP is to reduce unemployment by inviting Canadians to submit proposals for community projects that will provide jobs. The projects are funded by the Federal Government.

Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras said in a recent news release that LIP 1975/76 would be basically unaltered from the program that has created a quarter of a million short-term jobs in four years.

"The major change," Mr. Andras said, "is that we have doubled the size of projects for which municipalities can apply, to \$150,000 per project. This will allow local governments to continue to fund innovative projects creating employment for Canadians."

Other improvements

Other significant changes are the increased level of funding and the earlier starting date. This year, projects may start operating November 3, one month earlier than last year. In exceptional cases, a program may be permitted to begin during October. Applications, which were available early in July at Canada Manpower Centres, must be submitted by September 12.

Another important feature of this year's program is that private companies can sponsor projects. Their proposals must be of community benefit and meet other criteria. Any profits will be used to reduce the Government's contribution.

LIP's strength as a job-creating measure in times of seasonal slow-down in Canadian communities has been demonstrated in four successive years. An economic study of the impact of the program has shown that expenditures of some \$490 million in those years resulted in an increase of \$723 million in the gross national product.

To be eligible, projects must: create new jobs; provide a worthwhile facility or service to the community; have the support of the local community; not duplicate existing facilities or services; have adequate financing for any costs over and above the allow-

able federal contribution; keep proposals to a maximum of \$100,000 (\$15,000 for municipal projects); employ only the unemployed; not support leisure activities solely for the sponsor; and not primarily improve the property of individuals.

This year LIP wages must average no more than \$125 a week — slightly higher than last winter's average salary. Final decisions on all projects will be left to the Minister.

Special program

The special \$450-million direct employment program announced on June 23 in the budget will benefit hundreds of thousands of unemployed Canadians over the next two years.

In 1975/76 the regular budget for these manpower programs amounts to more than \$700 million, including: \$100 million for 450 Canada Manpower Centres with a staff of 6,741; \$480 million for manpower training which will provide full-time occupational training for 265,000 Canadians with a measured benefit/cost return of \$6 for every dollar invested; \$10 million for manpower mobility; \$4.5 million for special agricultural manpower programs; more than \$60 million for Opportunities for Youth and the carry-over costs of 1974/75 LIP; and \$20 million for special programs for disadvantaged workers.

In addition, the Department has been authorized to spend \$50 million over three years to launch a Community Employment Strategy.

The special \$450 million supplement will consist of \$285 million for the restructured Local Initiatives Program, detailed above. The program, over two years, is expected to create some 420,000 months of employment for about 80,000; \$70 million for additional manpower training which will enable 85,000 more of Canada's unemployed workers to prepare for future opportunities; \$25 million for a federal Labour Intensive Program, details of which will be announced by the President of the Treasury Board and which will create an estimated 30,000 months of work for about 6,000; \$60 million for a 1976 Student Summer Employment and Activities Program which will create some 33,000 jobs, provide non-salaried activities for an estimated 190,000 students, and encourage 200,000 jobs in the private sector for students; \$10

million for intensified activities in mobility and job-matching activity, which will help move workers from high unemployment areas to areas where jobs matching their skills exist.

The addition of \$70 million to the \$480 million 1975/76 budget for Canada Manpower Training Programs will be devoted to training the unemployed and will be distributed across Canada in accordance with the levels of unemployment. About half of the extra will go to industrial training.

The mix for the 1976 Summer Student Employment and Activities program, to be funded at more than \$60 million, will be developed by an interdepartmental committee headed by the Department of Manpower and Immigration. Opportunities for Youth will be the largest component of the summer program since it has the same general characteristics as LIP, and has been equally as successful.

To increase the effectiveness of manpower mobility and job-matching, CMC staff will participate with individual employers in intensive cross-Canada recruiting campaigns. Staff and employers will identify areas of "shortage occupations" in key industries, and skilled unemployed workers who could fill the jobs will be recruited, and provided with financial assistance if they are willing to move either temporarily or permanently to where the jobs are.

Kenya, Sudan land reclamation and afforestation grants

The President of the International Development Research Centre, Dr. W. David Hopper, has announced a grant of \$165,000 to support the land-reclamation experiments in the Kerma Basin of northern Sudan, and a further grant of \$199,500 to support the afforestation research in Kenya. These two countries, which have large areas of desert and dry land as well as well-watered farming regions, are experimenting with forestry techniques to increase the acreage they can put under cultivation for crops.

In the Sudan, scientists of the Forest Research and Education Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture are planting shelterbelts composed of trees such as eucalyptus and cassia, to protect crop

lands from hot dry winds and the encroachment of the Nubian desert. The problem of land becoming desert has increased since dam construction interrupted the historic pattern of annual flooding by the tributaries of the Nile.

In Kenya, the Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources is launching a scheme to turn marginal land in two regions into forest areas which can provide for the wood and fuel needs of rural communities and thus release present forest land in high rainfall areas for agricultural production. The Kenya Government is contributing the equivalent of \$125,500 to this project.

The International Development Research Centre is a public corporation, created by Act of the Canadian Parliament in 1970, to support research designed to adapt science and technology to the specific needs of developing countries. The Centre is unique in that, while it is financed by the Parliament of Canada, it is governed by an international Board of Governors who independently set its policies and priorities.

Upswing in economic growth possible

Canada's economic performance during the past year was the worst in 21 years. Figures released by Statistics Canada show that real gross national product (excluding inflation) decreased by 2 per cent in the year after it reached a peak in the first quarter of 1974. (The GNP is the total value of goods and services produced in Canada.) This is the largest decline since the 1953-54 period, when real GNP dropped 3.3 per cent over six months.

The latest decline also exceeds the 1.1 per cent drop in the 1960-61 recession and the 0.5 per cent over-all

decline in the 1956-57 recession. The figures show that real GNP dropped 1.45 per cent in the first quarter of 1975, the sharpest quarterly decline in 14 years. The GNP price index rose 1.7 per cent in the first quarter, an acceleration from the 1.4 per cent rise in last year's fourth quarter but an improvement over the sharp quarterly rises of more than 3 per cent in the preceding year.

However, says Statistics Canada, "despite the continuation of the recessionary pattern that began in the second quarter of 1974, growth was reasonably strong in the first quarter, with the exception of exports and the rate of inventory accumulation." The \$2-billion decline from the preceding quarter in the growth of inventories was entirely accounted for by the change in non-farm inventories. "While not a guarantee of recovery, this pattern often precedes an upturn (in economic growth), as businesses liquidate inventories before resuming production."

According to J. Ross Peters of Montreal, senior economist for the Royal Bank of Canada, Canada may start experiencing an upturn in late 1975 or early 1976. Dr. Peters says Canada's real gross national product will be "virtually flat" in 1975 following a 2.8 per cent rise in 1974. However, a rebound to about 5 per cent growth is expected for 1976, based on the economic signs that are starting to emerge.

Balance of international payments

(Continued from P. 2)

after allowance for price increases was converted to a fall of 4 per cent in constant dollars.

Travel account increase

Among non-merchandise accounts the major movements, on a seasonally-adjusted basis, were an increase in travel expenditures abroad of just over \$100 million and a decrease in freight and shipping receipts, which were more than offset by a reduction in payments for interest and dividends from the unusually high fourth-quarter level and by small increases in receipts for many service accounts.

Total capital movements, unadjusted for seasonal variations, led to a net capital inflow of \$1,997 million in the

first quarter of 1975, up from \$830 million in the previous quarter. This inflow largely financed the current-account deficit of \$2,034 million, unadjusted for seasonal variations, so that the imbalance to be covered by a decrease in Canada's official monetary assets was \$37 million.

Capital transactions

Capital transactions in long-term forms resulted in a net inflow of \$405 million, compared to \$604 million in the previous quarter. The main factors in the change were a \$100-million decline in the net inflow for foreign direct investment in Canada and a swing of \$100 million to a more normal net outflow for Canadian direct investment abroad from the unusual net inflow figure recorded in the fourth quarter of 1974. Transactions in Canadian portfolio securities, on balance, did not change greatly. Sales of new Canadian issues abroad reached a record of almost \$900 million, up about \$50 million from the previous quarter, while retirements rose \$78 million to about \$230 million.

Capital movements in short-term forms led to a net inflow of \$1,592 million, up over \$1,350 million from \$226 million in the fourth quarter of 1974. The principal contributors to this increase were a swing of \$750 million to a net inflow of \$370 million from the decrease in the chartered banks' net foreign currency position abroad, a rise of \$300 million in the net inflow from an increase in non-resident investment in Canadian money-market instruments and a swing of over \$1 billion to a net inflow of \$840 million from "other short-term capital transactions" — mainly reflecting a change in the balancing item to a credit entry of about \$700 million. Factors having the opposite effect were a change of over \$350 million to an outflow of \$24 million from transactions in non-bank holdings of foreign currencies abroad and a fall of almost \$250 million in the inflow from increased non-resident holdings of Canadian dollar deposits.

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