

Latest Score:

World Court Project 22, Nuke Cartel 9

Rob Green, World Court Project UK

The World Court Project is winning. On 23 September the Court reported that submissions on the question of the legal status of nuclear weapon use had been filed by Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, North Korea, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Nauru, Netherlands, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Uganda, UK and USA.

The total of 34 is some 25 more than the nuke cartel wanted. This is because we are confident that only five non-nuclear states (Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands) made submissions echoing the line taken by the NATO nuclear trio and Russia (China opted out). Of the remainder, 21 argue that any nuclear weapon use would be illegal, one (Ireland) wants the question answered, and three (Aotearoa/New Zealand, Japan and Norway) are on the fence.

These states will now receive a copy of every submission, and have until 20 June 1995 to comment in writing. Public hearings will begin soon after that — fittingly close to the fiftieth anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Meanwhile at this autumn's UN General Assembly the Non-Aligned Movement have agreed to re-table and put to a vote their resolution on use and threat blocked by the NATO nuke cartel last year. If carried by the expected big majority, it would send strong signals to the judges and to next year's NPT. By highlighting the anomalous legal position of the Bomb it would help governments pushing for limited and conditional NPT extension.

The World Court Project UK have produced an exhibition which is available for groups to use. Please also continue collecting Citizens' Declarations for the project. For further information about the exhibition, please contact the World Court Project, 0323-844269.

World Court Project

The British Government claims that nuclear weapons are not illegal.

Compare them to chemical and biological weapons which are banned by international law because they:

- Kill civilians
- cause excessive suffering
- use poison
- violate neutral states
- severely damage the environment

add for nuclear weapons unimaginable explosive power and radioactive poison lasting for generations.

Can they be legal?

Nuclear weapons are spreading. We have a choice - a nuclear free-for-all, or a nuclear-free world.

A big majority of United Nations member states has voted several times since 1961 that the use of nuclear weapons would be a crime against humanity.

What is needed is an enforceable convention banning nuclear weapons.

A vital step towards this is a judgement on the legal status of nuclear weapons for all nations.

This is what the World Court Project is trying to do.

You can show the British Government your support for this, and help the World Court judges decide, by signing the Declaration of Public Conscience enclosed and return either to the address given or to the office at 118, Mansfield Road and we will send them on.

the extra declarations are for extra signatories.

The International Court of Justice is the highest in the world. It decides questions of international law, as well as ruling on inter-state disputes.

In May 1993 the World Health Organisation (WHO) passed a resolution asking the Court:

"In view of the Health and environmental effects, would the use of nuclear weapons by a state in war or other armed conflict be a breach of its obligations under international law, including the WHO constitution?"

Some 30 states have made submissions to the Court. Of these a majority argue that nuclear weapons are illegal. The Court will start to hear the cases in June 1995.

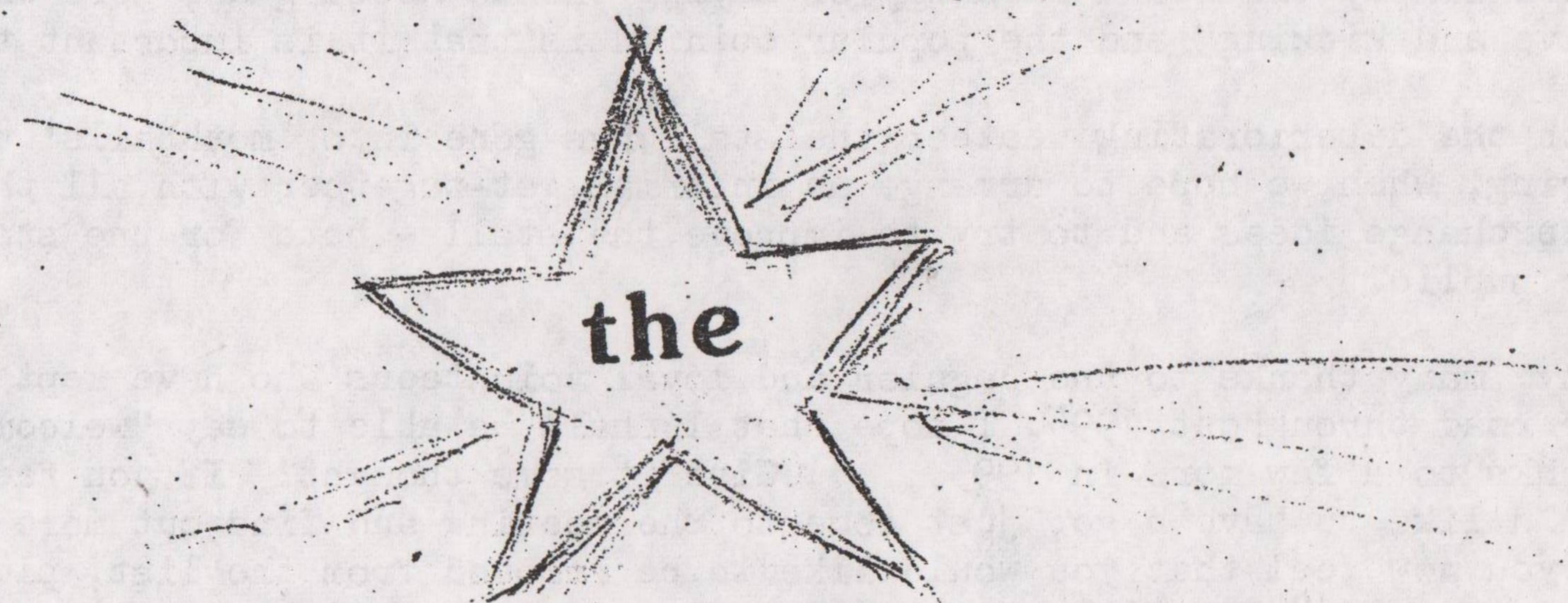
The Court normally allows only governments and the UN agencies to give evidence. But FOR THE FIRST TIME it has allowed citizens evidence collected by the World Court Project supporters world-wide, asking that nuclear weapons be outlawed.

This includes individual Declarations of Public Conscience. These are new. They invoke a clause in the Hague Convention requiring the Court to take account of the 'dictates' of the public conscience.

NOTTINGHAM CND

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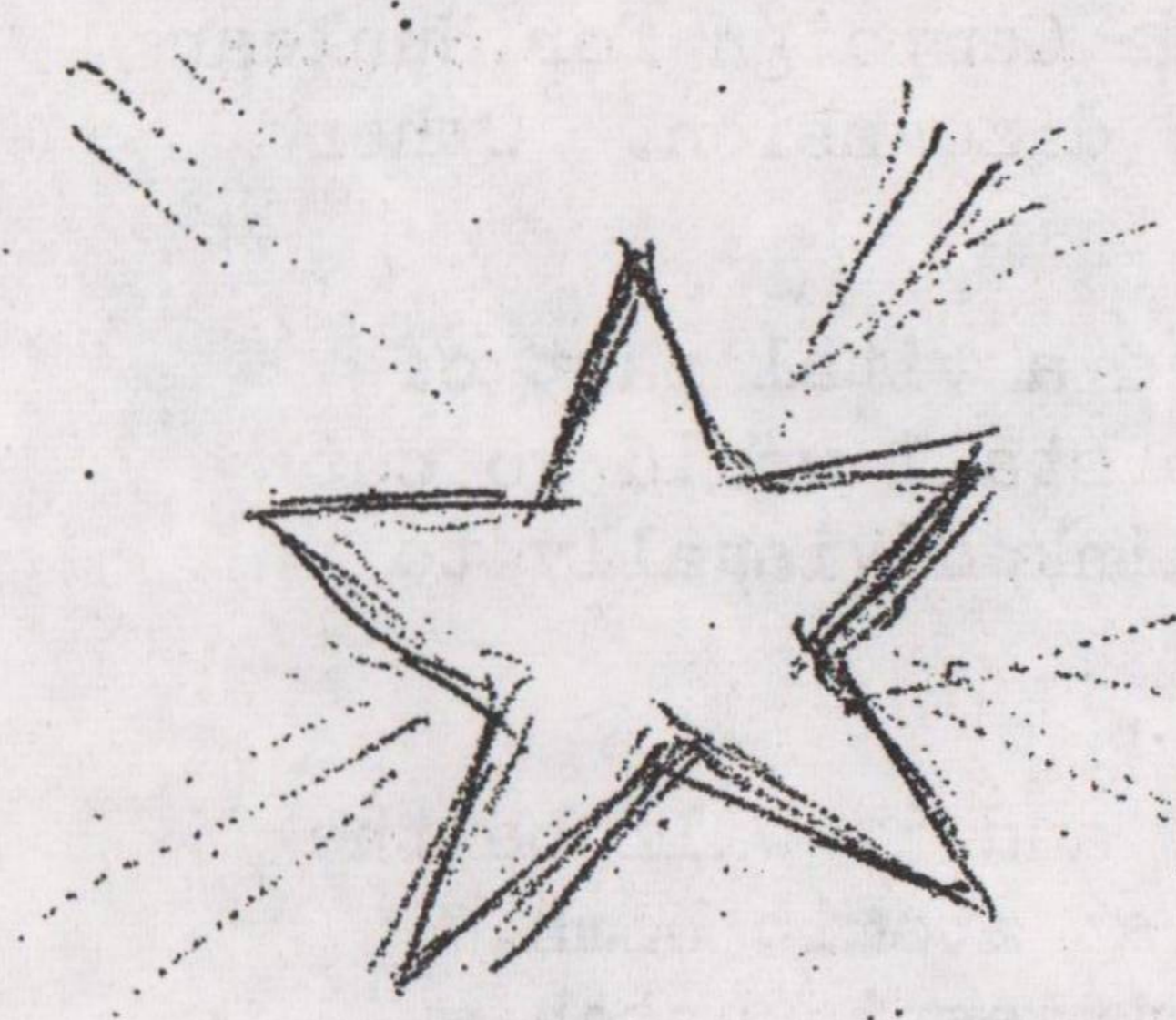
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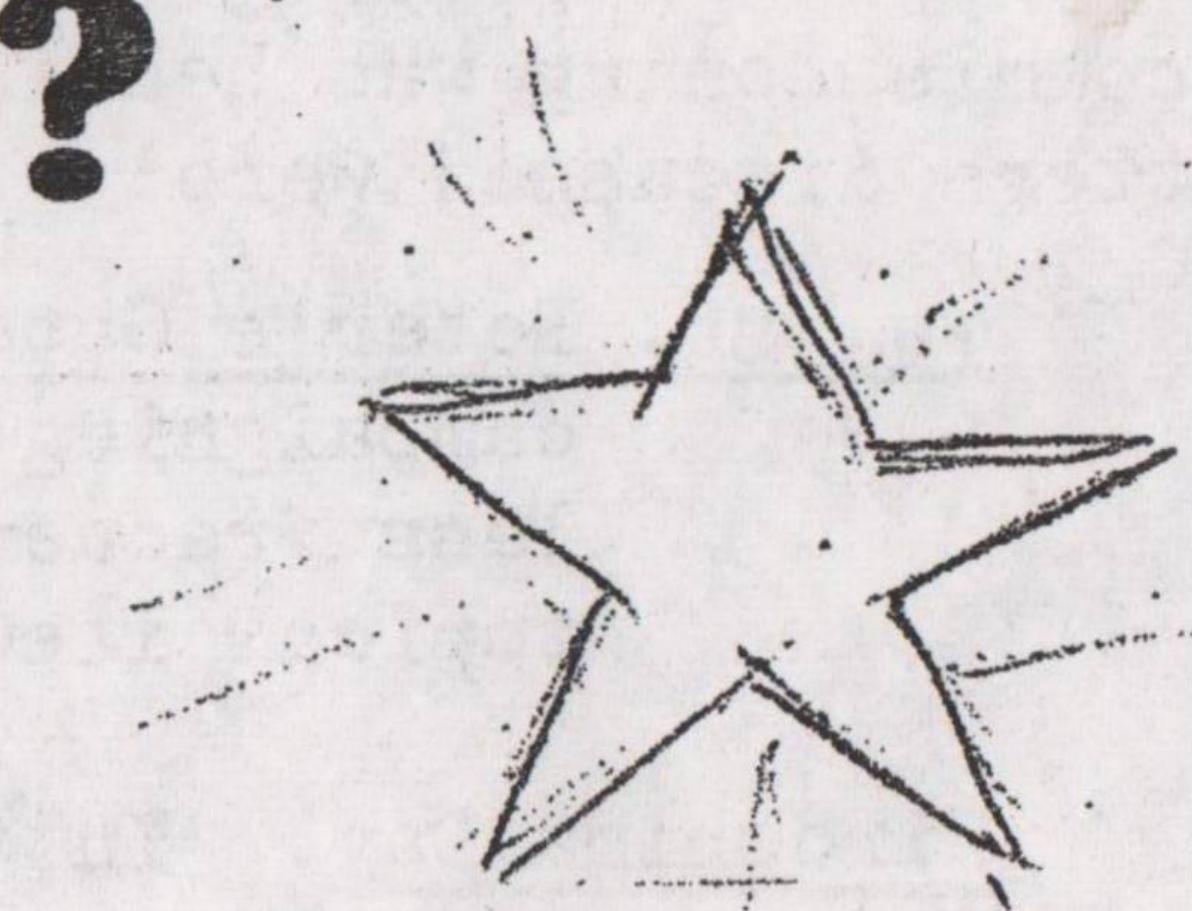
time of

PEACE ON EARTH

WHERE?



1994



May you have a happy Christmas
and a peaceful New Year



Stall

Over the last few months the future of the St. Peter's Gate stall has been the subject of considerable discussion, in the office, at the Executive meetings and at the AGM on November 6th last.

The problems besetting the stall have largely arisen from the lack of merchandise. Since the cessation of National CND's trading section it has become increasingly difficult to find cheap, portable items with which to stock the stall, and with the dwindling stock a few volunteers have begun to feel that it is a waste of time.

However the prime function of the stall is not to make money, but to provide a public face and a point of public access to Nottingham CND.

Quite simply the stall is a way of saying "Hello Nottingham, here we are still alive and kicking" and the popular opinion is that it is important to continue.

With the deteriorating weather the stall has gone into 'mothballs' until the spring, when we hope to arrange an informal get-together with all the volunteers to exchange ideas and to try to improve the stall - both for the staff and for the public.

Many, many thanks to the regular and loyal volunteers who have kept the show on the road throughout 1994. I hope that I shall be able to say "welcome and many thanks" to a few more in 1995. Give it some thought! If you feel that you would like to have a go; just come to the meeting and find out more or, equally, if you now feel that you would like to be removed from the list, please give me a ring on 706845. I'll be pleased to hear from you either way.

Anne Mitchell.

A.G.M.

This year the meeting was held on Sunday, November 6th in the afternoon. A time when there was little traffic, easy parking and it was possible to return home in daylight. We hope to repeat the formula next year.

The proposal to change the name of the organisation to the Campaign for Nuclear Decommissioning was heavily defeated, but provoked a good discussion. Other matters discussed were:

The St. Peter's Gate stall. It is still considered a vital part of campaigning and one suggestion was that the stall would go out less frequently than before and should be linked visually to topical issues.

Hiroshima Day. In 1995 August will fall on Sunday, and it will be the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb. It was felt that we should extend our activities to catch a larger audience. Our format has been good over the years, but we would welcome ideas for improvement of our presentation; a change in the routine or extension of the formula.... or just something completely new. We would also like your views about the staging of the event - daytime or evening?

We are saddened to announce the death of another of our long-standing members. Marjorie Greensmith, of West Bridgford, who always liked to attend our meetings.

National Demonstration

Despite a miserable morning, on October 29th last, 29 stout-hearted Nottingham CND set out for London. Later we estimated that our turnout was about average.

We joined up with other branches of CND for the march to Trafalgar Square, and were overwhelmed with the police presence - due to the threatened disruption of the march, we were told. I have since seen a leaflet advertising a march of the Anarchist Party for the same day, same route, same time, so maybe my suspicions were unjustified?

Except for two attempts to divert our action to one against the Criminal Justice Bill, the days action went quietly, making media coverage noticeable by its absence.....the present policy seems to be no coverage or bad coverage.

Despite occasional drizzle the speakers maintained their cogency and enthusiasm for the cause, but one was left with the feeling that they were but speaking to the converted, and even we drifted away for tea and other breaks.

The instrumentalists only once managed to make 'music' and the weather likewise put a dampener on what would have been a bubbling centre of activity in the St. Martin's enclave.

I was glad that I had been there to stand up and be counted. I came away with the feeling that I must try harder, but admit to being dispirited at the comparison with earlier rallies and the general disinterest of the general public when there are so many wars in progress and each one a nuclear threat - our government would sell the dram of integrity it still has for the profits from arms.....any kind.

Doreen Gower.

CND victory as Lib-Dems make the link

Martin Jones, CND Vice-Chair

CND achieved a major breakthrough in September when the Liberal Democrat Party voted to amend its Shared Security policy so that instead of supporting an indefinite extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), it called for the NPT to be extended "initially for a limited period and for further extensions of the Treaty to be linked to progress on a worldwide convention to eliminate all nuclear weapons." The amendment was written in close co-operation with CND and based upon one of the core demands of our *Blueprint for a Nuclear Weapon Free World*.

The true measure of this victory can be gauged by noting that the amendment received the active support of the LibDem leadership. Indeed, Menzies Campbell QC MP (spokesperson on Foreign Affairs and Defence) made it clear that the purpose of the policy was precisely to "maintain the pressure on the nuclear weapon holding powers to meet their obligations under Article VI of the NPT".

The vote in Brighton breaks the major parties' consensus on indefinite extension and was the result of extensive behind-the-scenes work by the Liberal Democrat Peace Group.

There is still a long way to go even with the LibDems (in the same debate the Conference rejected an amendment calling for the immediate scrapping of Trident) but CND supporters should nevertheless be offering support and encouragement to Liberal Democrat MPs to promote their policy on the NPT as widely as possible and should also use the vote to challenge Labour to re-think its own support for indefinite extension.

Stop Press

Simon Hughes MP, along with several Labour MPs, has agreed to table an EDM supporting the policy of extending the NPT initially for a fixed period with further extensions conditional on progress towards a nuclear weapon free world. Please write to your MP and ask her/him to sign the EDM.

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