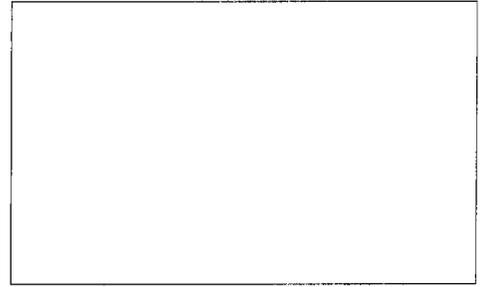


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EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs
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APPROVED FOR
RELEASE :
06-Apr-2010

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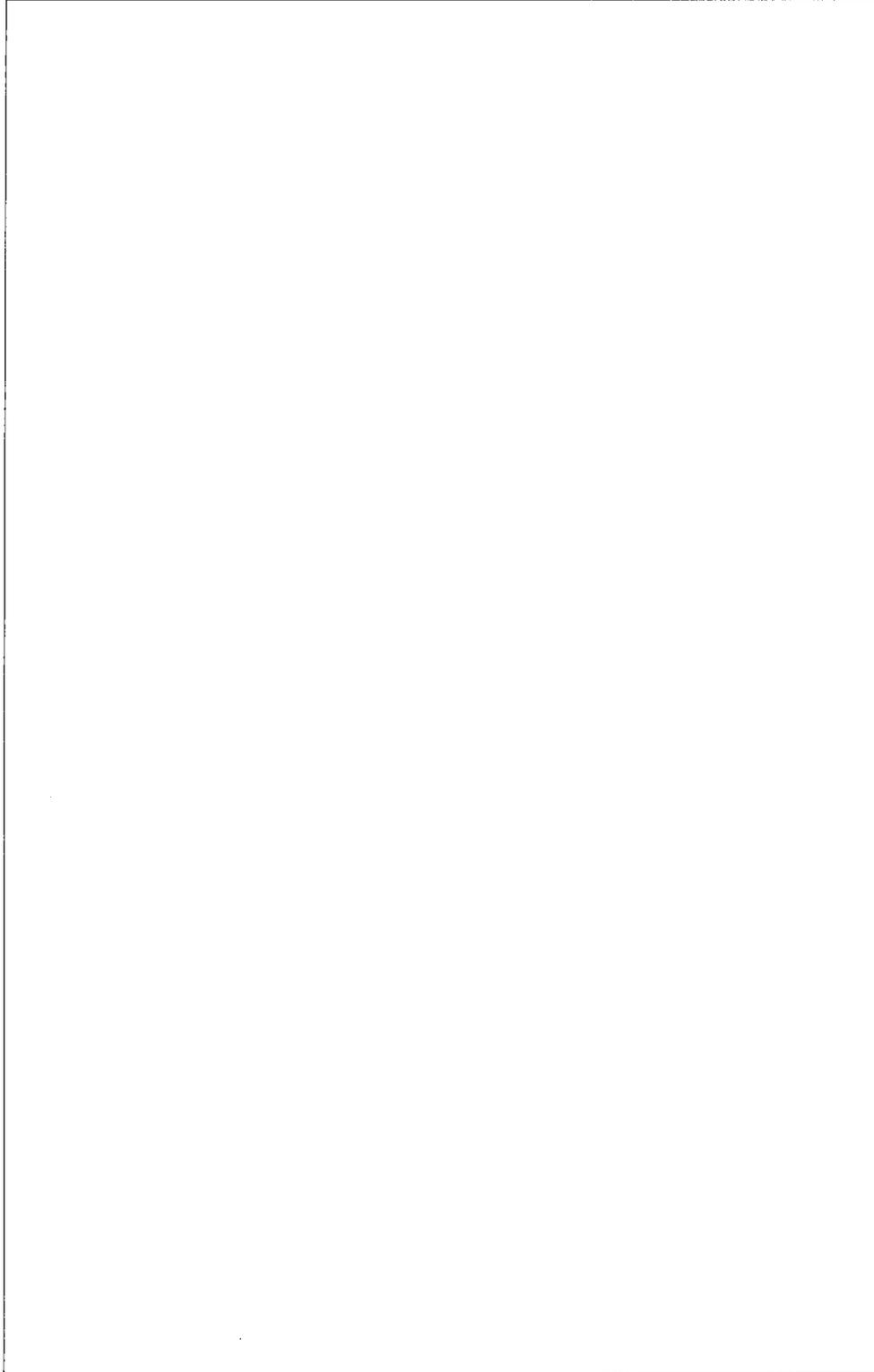
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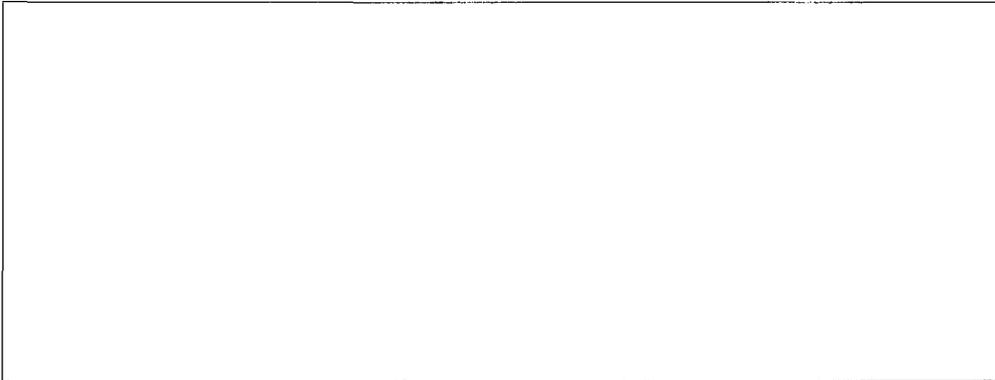
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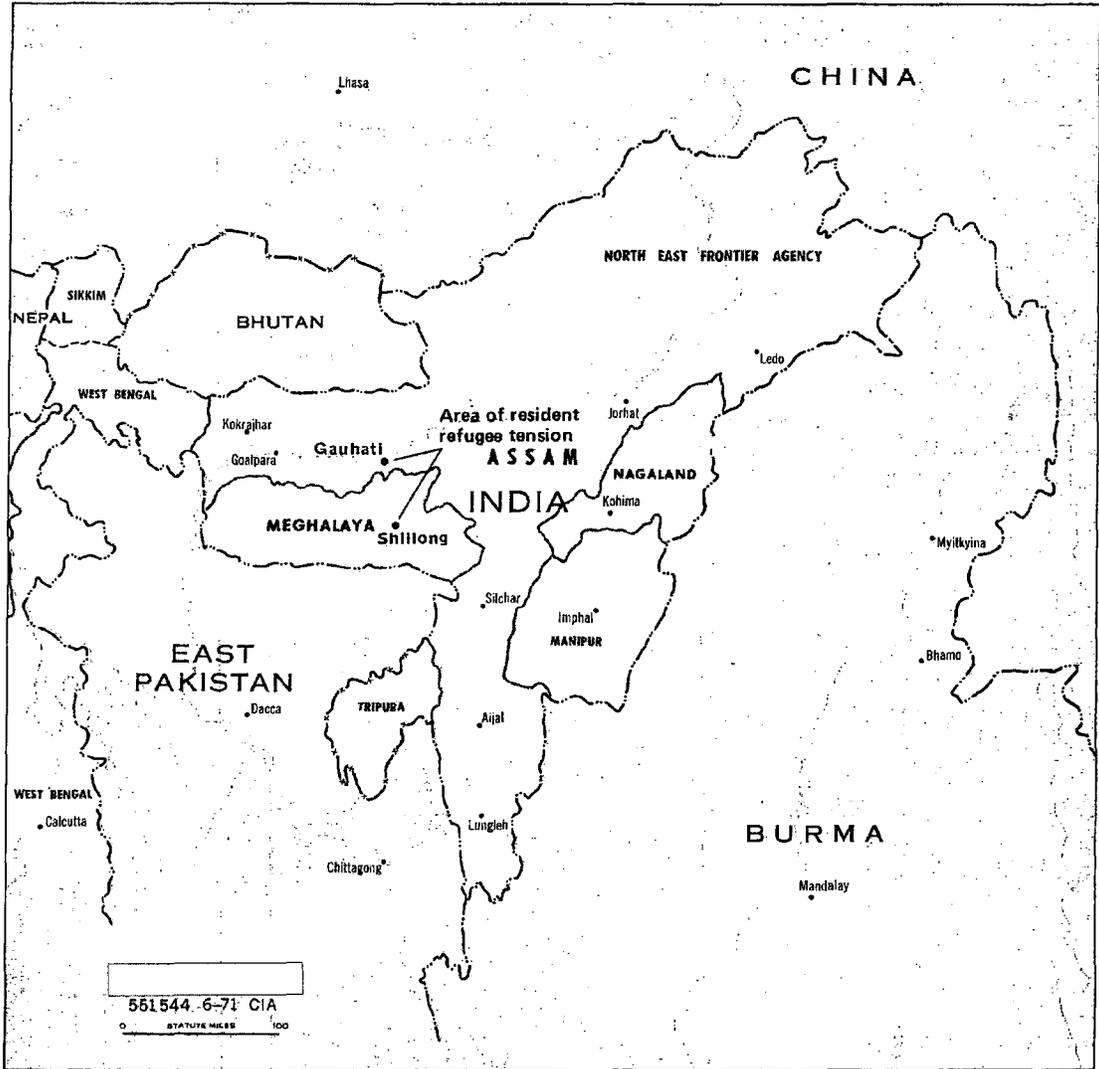
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Hostility Growing Toward East Pakistani Refugees



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INDIA: Hostility toward the East Pakistani refugees is growing among the Assamese and the tribal residents of northeastern India.

At the root of the hostility is fear that the refugees will ultimately refuse repatriation and permanently alter the area's customary way of life. Northeast India is largely populated by non-Hindu tribal peoples who have traditionally resisted domination by the minority Hindus. They have also resented the more or less steady flow of East Pakistani and other nontribal migrants--both Hindu and Muslim--who have entered their area in recent years.

According to the Indian press, animosity against the new influx of refugees caused near riots in April in Shillong and Gauhati, major cities in the states of Meghalaya and Assam. Last week an organization of tribal youth in Meghalaya called an antirefugee general strike in a town of 2,000 people which had had an influx of 22,000 East Pakistanis.

The intent of the tribal agitation may be to make the Indian environment so hostile that the refugees will be convinced to leave. According to the Indian press, some 6,000 returned to their homes, but it is doubtful that many more will be persuaded to return to East Bengal in the near future. Meanwhile, the tensions generated by the refugee problem could lead to serious disorders in and around the camps and to ethnic-religious violence elsewhere in the area.

Indian officials in New Delhi claim the reports of tribal unrest are exaggerated. The government is attempting to defuse the refugee situation by moving thousands of refugees out of the most congested border areas in the northeast to Gauhati in Assam, from where they will be sent on to less crowded locations. The refugee airlift--using four US-operated C-130s--is expected to begin within a matter of days; on 14 June Prime Minister

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Gandhi was touring Assam asking the people to face the situation with "courage and fortitude." The local Assamese, however, can be expected to demonstrate their displeasure with the new arrivals, and the Indian Army has already established a task force in Gauhati in an effort to ensure the security of the refugee operation.

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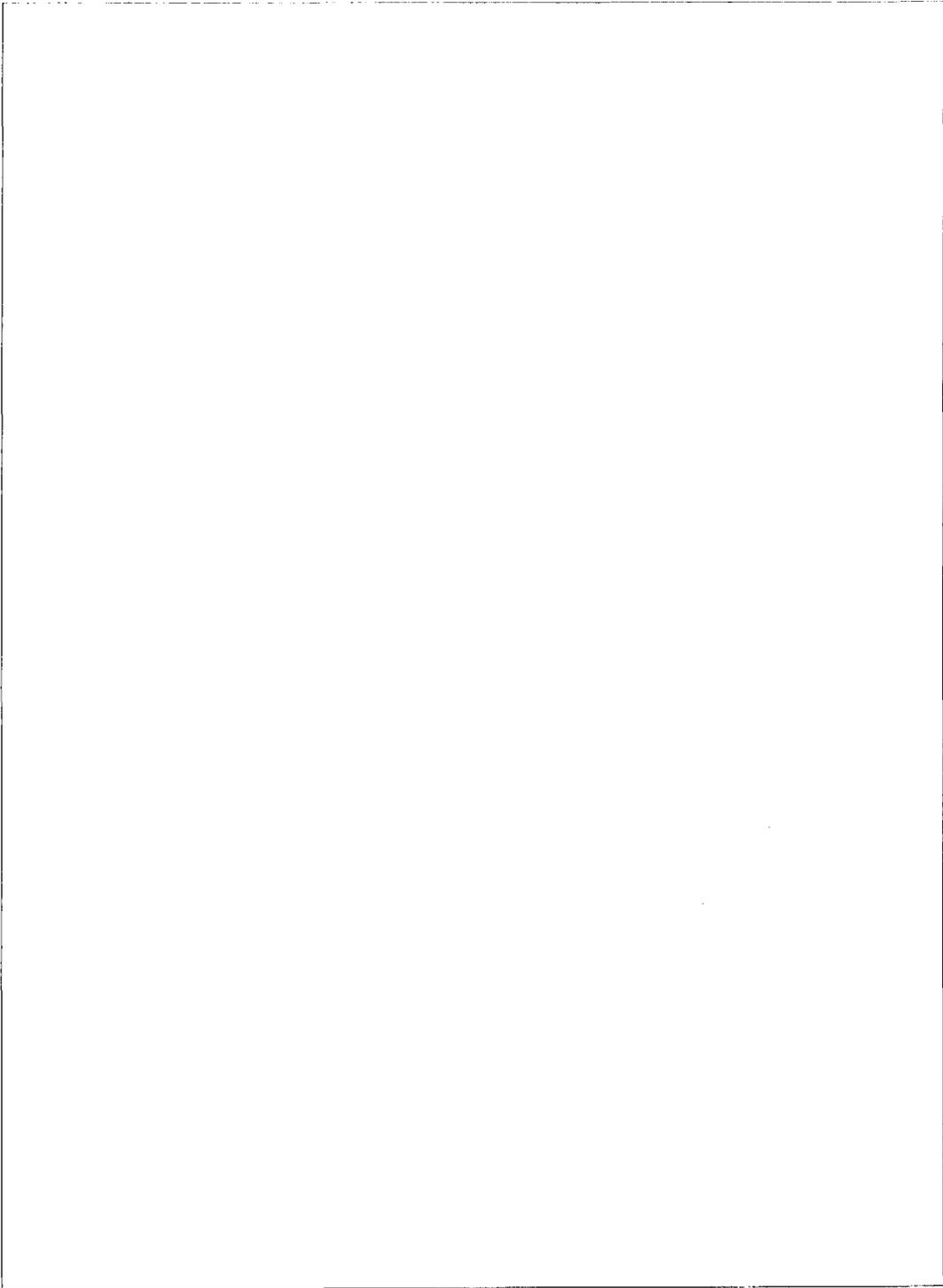
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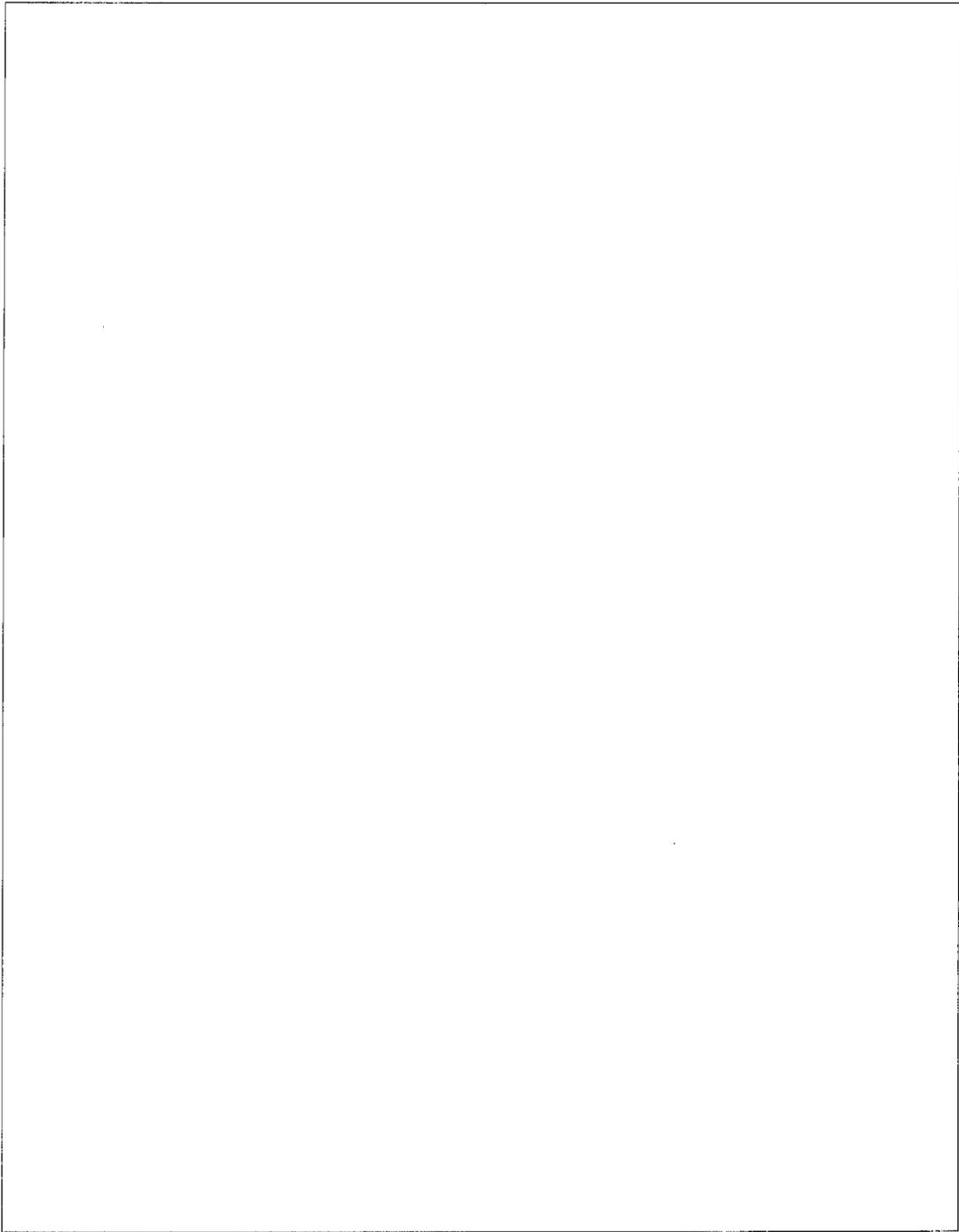
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INDOCHINA: Heavy rains have disrupted the movement of supplies through the Laotian panhandle as well as distribution of supplies to logistic forces within the panhandle, causing some food shortages. Up to 15 inches of rain fell in parts of the panhandle during the seven-day period ending 9 June; this is equal to the rainfall normally expected for the entire month of June.

JAPAN: The National Police fear the possibility this week of the largest and most violent demonstrations in some time in opposition to the signing on 17 June of the Okinawan reversion agreement. The demonstrators are expected to employ "urban guerrilla" tactics, including widespread transportation disruptions and mass sitdowns. The police, a highly effective force, should be able to contain the demonstrations, although scattered violence is possible. The radical organizers will have difficulty generating widespread popular support for their actions because the general public, despite some doubts about certain aspects of the reversion arrangements, by and large is satisfied with the accord.

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SOMALIA: The Somalis again have detained some US-owned commercial craft. Five ships--two tugs, two barges, and a workshop--en route to the Persian Gulf, apparently were fired upon by a Somali plane and patrol boat and then escorted to Mogadiscio on 12 June. The ships are being charged with violating the Somalis' 12-mile territorial sea. The incident is reminiscent of last year's seizure of the US commercial ship, Midnight Sun, which was detained for about six weeks and came close to causing a major diplomatic incident between the US and the suspicious Somali military government. Early this month a US ship that appeared unannounced at Mogadiscio was detained briefly and then released with little difficulty. The Somalis have not yet indicated how they intend to handle the ships now under detention.

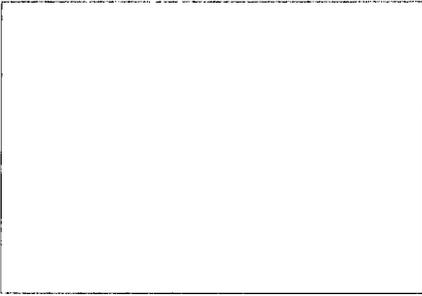
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