

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785017

ACC

10000/109/152

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

10000/109/152

PROPOSED MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN TRADE
JULY 1944 - MAR. 1945

23.

CSO: 1) Folio 22 describes I.C.R.

2) It is intended to handle and account for all import trade, except foodstuffs, coal, POL, medical supplies and agricultural supplies normally handled by Consorzio Agrari, which doesn't leave many items for it to handle, but it is a start on handling imports not essential to war effort.

5 Mar 45

Japologian. Agent. Viter.

Wendy.
St 6/3.

943
Major

3218

COS 16.

Ref: 15. There is nothing new in this except the last para, on which "further advice" is to be received. I suggested you wait for Ec. Sec's comment. And then discuss at VP or COS meeting.

↓
Yes. 18/1/72 14/12
18. Discussed 14/12 Yes

Major Rivich I want to know what happened.

19. Yes

C50: Econ Sec informs me no progress to date. Will follow with 23/12

20.

Major Rivich

File to go. to follow up. 3211
End 26/12

21

TO: C50

The suggestion by C-5, AFHQ, for establishment of an Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade (folio 15) has been studied at length and in detail by Econ Section.

In the meantime, the Italian Govt has a Ministry for Industry.

CSO: Econ Sec inform us in progress to date. Will follow JCE 2-5/12

14

20

Maj. Rivich.

File to yr. to show up.

3211

Excluded 26/12.

21

TO: CSO

The suggestion by G-5, AFHQ, for establishment of an Italian Ministry of Foreign Trade (folio 15) has been studied at length and in detail by Econ Section.

In the meantime, the Italian Gov't has a Ministry for Industry, Commerce and Labour functioning to some extent.

As regards foreign trade, studies have been, and are continuing to be, made relative to trade between Italy and France, Italy and Switzerland, Italy and neutrals, etc. which are to be submitted to AFHQ and CCS for approval.

Recently, ICS has been formed to promote and regulate foreign trade of Italian Gov't territory, i.e. foreign trade not essential to the war effort.

As long as the war continues, a real Italian foreign trade cannot be really implemented, but planning continues. Much depends on shipping availability.

3 Mar 45

I thought ICE was something

[Signature]
Major.

quite different to ICI. Are

you sure? 18 4/3.

8

22
9/13
8/5
P/H

Extract from Executive Memorandum No. 2 of 26 Feb 45.

The Italian Government has announced its intention of appointing by decree (at present in process of issuance) the Istituto Nazionale per il Commercio Estero, known as ICE, to receive, handle and account for all imported supplies with the exception of foodstuffs, medical supplies, coal and oil, and agricultural supplies normally warehoused and distributed by the Federazione dei Consorzi Agrari or its agents.

ICE will be responsible for checking the goods off the ship (except in ports where for military reasons they are excluded, in which cases they will have to take delivery from AC/AMG warehouses). ICE will deliver the goods according to the instructions to be given to them by the interested Italian Ministry, will fix the sale price (in conjunction with the Ministry) and will collect the sale proceeds from the customer. They will account to the Ministry of the Treasury for such proceeds and will submit to the Chief Accountant AC such receiving reports and other accounts as may be required by him.

Apart from future imports of miscellaneous supplies to be received by ICE direct from shipside there are already quantities of goods of the category covered by this Executive Memorandum in AC/AMG warehouses. These will be distributed by ICE in the same way as goods to be received by sea. The procedure (as set out in Appendix "A") will be of necessity differ slightly, but the main principles will remain the same and disposal instructions should be given to ICE by the interested Italian Ministry.

3216

see M.23
TH 8/3

SUBJECT: Ministry for Foreign Trade.

10 December 1944.

TO : Economic Section.

Ref/507/CCS.

1. Further to our 507/CCS dated 11 November 44, subject proposed 'Ministry for Foreign Trade'.
2. Attached for information and guidance is letter Ref 8-6 dated 8 December 44 from G-5, A.F.B.C., copies of which have been retained by Chief Commissioner and Chief of Staff.
3. Please advise what progress has been made since 11 Nov 44.

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

Copy to S.O. to the Chief Commissioner.

3215

2 copies should be sent to the Chief Commissioner today.

Nothing further yet. JB

33

~~SECRET~~

15

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-3 Section
APO 512

DEC 10 1944

Ref. E-6

8 December 1944

SUBJECT: Establishment of an Italian Ministry of Commerce

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 324

1. On 26 August 1944 this headquarters advised the C.S.C. that it had authorized the A.C., upon its request, to recommend to the Italian Government the creation of a Ministry of Commerce.

2. Following, for your information and policy guidance, is a paraphrase of the reply received from the C.S.C.:

"Subject is A.C. proposal to recommend to the Italian Govt. the creation of an Italian Ministry of Commerce.

CCAC believes that A.C. should recommend to the Italian Govt. the creation of an Italian foreign trade organization, agency or ministry, the exact form and status of which shall be determined by the Italian Government, and which can:

(A) Review and consolidate Italian import requirements originating from Italian sources and deal with allied authorities with respect to imports.

(B) Encourage the production of foods for export and make the necessary arrangements for their exportation

(C). Perform such other functions with respect to Italian foreign trade as may be determined by the Italian Government.

Combined civilian authorities are giving further study to the subject of AFAC and AC using UNCC and UNOC in handling commercial transactions, and you will be advised."

For the Acting Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3:

J. E. BUTTERWORTH 3214
Colonel, C.S.C.
Chief, Economics & Supply Division

ORIGINAL SENT TO ECON SEC
COPY TO ~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

10
12

File

14

Ext: 308

307
Ref: ~~78~~/23

11th November 1944

SUBJECT: Proposed Ministry for Foreign Trade.

TO: CDS, Economic Section, MI.

13

no date in reference

1. The enclosed original and translation of a letter from Prime Minister Bessal to the A/C is forwarded for your information and any action you consider necessary.

Chief Staff Officer,
To the Chief of Staff.

Encls.

Copied to: Major Gwyne.

3213

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Translation

The President of the Council of Ministers

Rome, ...

Dear Admiral,

Your letter of September 7th, communicating to me the proposal of A.S. to form a Ministry for Foreign Trade, has been the object of a careful examination.

I thank you for the kind interest you show for the rehabilitation of Italy's foreign trade, on which we put great hopes for an easier and more rapid reconstruction of Italy's economy.

Referring to the proposal of forming a Ministry, I think it necessary to make a summary of the trade organization in Italy. The discipline, and the policy of foreign trade have always been, in Italy, the concern of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and this also when it took the name of Ministry of National Economy and later on that of Ministry of Corporations. In May 1935, is when the fascist Government started the autarchic policy and the manoeuvre of foreign exchanges in function of the program of political expansion and military action which caused the war, this matter was taken away from the Ministry which was directing the economic policy of the country, and entrusted to a new and independent service of the State, first called Amministrazione delle scambi e delle valute, then Ufficio segretario di Stato per gli scambi e le valute and finally Ministero per gli scambi e le valute.

The activity of the Ministero scambi e valute came to an end in September 1943, for it was suppressed by the Badoglio Government.

Later on the Italian Government residing in Salerno suppressed the said Ministry by Royal Decree, 2 June 1944, n. 150, transferring its attributions to the original Administrations, i.e. to the Ministry of Treasury for the exchanges and to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Work for the remaining part, especially all things related to the discipline of economic and commercial relations with foreign countries, and imports and exports.

Therefore, the proposal of A.S. which you have communicated to me, is an innovation in our regulations, but it is really the re-establishment of an organ which already existed, i.e. the Ministero degli scambi e valute, Ministry which had been suppressed when this Government took up its functions.

Because of these proceedings, and because of the necessity of examining thoroughly the advantages and disadvantages of re-establishing a Ministry which has already been put to the trial, I had to delay giving an answer, to collect and examine the opinion of experts, and that of the Ministers dealing with this matter.

In substance, the Government is not opposed to the formation of a Ministry which would be in charge of the trade, and would collect the initiatives related to imports and exports, coordinating them and giving them unity of direction. But before making such a creation, it seems necessary to go through a period of preparation and experiment.

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3211

To this aim, the Government has formed a Committee of Ministers especially competent about this matter; they are to direct and discipline the activities related to foreign trade. A permanent office with which M.C. can have frequent contacts is going to be constituted; the Interministerial Committee will thus have continuity of action and will be in a position to have its decisions put into execution.

Thus, I hope that the aims indicated by your letter of the 7th will be reached.

Truly yours,

/s/ L. Bonami

Admiral Henry W. Stone
Chief Commissioner of the Allied Commission

H O M E

3210

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11

A/30 491.1

AGA/mrt

7 September 1944

My dear Mr. Prime Minister,

The time is now approaching when a broader view of Italy's foreign trade problem would appear to be called for, and a more positive attitude adopted. In our opinion, the Italian Government, in possession of its ministerial facilities in Rome, is now in a position to take an active part in foreign trade development. Furthermore, the nation's interest requires that it actively search for, and pursue, policies most conducive to the sound expansion of its foreign trade.

In light of this it is the opinion of the Allied Control Commission that the Italian Government should create a Ministry of Foreign Trade. This Ministry should stimulate and control imports, exports and the use of foreign exchange in connection with imports and exports.

As envisage the following functions of the proposed Ministry of Foreign Trade:

Imports. The Ministry will receive estimates of requirements for producer's goods from the Ministries of Industry, Commerce and Labor and Agriculture, and will screen them. It will also calculate needs for imports of consumer's goods from its own estimates of requirements and estimates of production prepared by the Industry and Agriculture Ministries.

The Ministry will be responsible for the warehousing, transportation and accounting for imported goods from the time of their arrival in an Italian port until they are turned over to the appropriate authority for their distribution.

Exports. The Ministry will ascertain what foreign demand exists for goods which might be produced in Italy for export, and at what prices these can be sold. It will, at the same time ascertain from the Ministries of Industry and Agriculture what can be produced for export, in what quantities and at what cost. On this basis, the Ministry will draw up an export program, determining both quantities and prices to be exported.

Wherever necessary, the Ministry should be prepared to handle the goods, including transportation and warehousing. During the early stages of its operations, the Ministry will in all probability be required to make all of its export sales to USOC and USDO.

Foreign exchange. The Ministry, as part of its functions of programming exports, will need to draw up a budget of foreign exchange availability.

The preceding description of functions presupposes a need for strict and complete government control of imports, exports and foreign exchange transactions. It is believed that this will be necessary for some time 3209

(10)

His Excellency the Prime Minister
page 2.

7 September 1945

after the end of the war, in view of the extreme shortage of imported goods and of foreign exchange to buy them with. Foreign exchange and the goods that can be bought with foreign exchange, will have to be strictly allocated and rationed to those demands which have the highest priority from a national standpoint. With a return to more normal conditions, however, it is assumed that foreign trade control will be relaxed.

My I have your views as soon as possible

Yours very truly,

WILLIAM S. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief of Mission

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
President of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government

COPY

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(9)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner
APO 394

BWS/wjp

A/CS 021.3

24 August 1944

Subject: Italian Exports

For: Vice President,
Economic Section

1. Reference attached:

a. Copy of letter G-5 Section, AFHQ (Spofford),
dated 23 Aug 44, "Italian Export".

b. Copy Aide - Memoirs I, "Principles by which the
allied Control Commission should be guided in exercising su-
pervision and control over the Resuscitation of Italian Foreign
Trade".

2. Copies of above references are being supplied Political
Section.

3. Above transmitted to Economic Section for appropriate
co-ordination and action.

4. Note G-5 Section's statement "... we feel that the
importance of the subject merits the start of work upon it
as soon as you conveniently can".

Stone.

2 incl:

a. in para 1 a & b above.

3207

COPY

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
S-5 Section
APO 512

GMS/CFD/jk

23 August 1944

SUBJECT: Italian Exports

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394
(Attn: Captain Ellery W. Stone, USAAC)

1. On 7 August, as I have already written to you, the Economic Sub-Committee of the Political Committee met to consider your proposal for a Ministry of Commerce as well as several memoranda discussing various problems connected with Italy's foreign trade. One of these papers concerned the "Principles by which the Allied Control Commission should be guided in exercising supervision and control over the resuscitation of Italian foreign trade".

2. This memorandum, revised to record the Sub-Committee's action, is enclosed in two copies. You will note that certain action under points a, b and d lies with the AOC. The other action under points c and d, within the field of the Foreign Office and the Department of State, has been drawn to the attention of Mr. Macmillan and Mr. Murphy. While the program in question admittedly is of a relatively long-range character, we feel that the importance of the subject merits the start of work upon it as soon as you conveniently can. I understand that Mr. Reddick of the Staff of the Economic Section has had considerable experience in this field, and am told that he would be qualified to work on the problems concerned if he can be spared from other duties.

/s/ Charles M. Spofford

/t/ CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Colonel, G. S. C.
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5

Incl.

as above.

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(7)

APPENDIX I

PRINCIPLES BY WHICH THE ALLIED CONTROL
COMMISSION SHOULD BE GUIDED IN EXERCISING
SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER THE REORGANIZATION
OF ITALIAN FOREIGN TRADE

Foreign trade up to the present has played a moderately important part in the work of the ACC. A variety of items have been exported, amounting in total to about 50,000 tons, but commercial imports thus far have been negligible. The initiative for exports has come from two sources. On the one hand, goods have been asked for by Washington, London and the COMZ, after allocation by the CCS; on the other hand, surpluses available for export have been advised by the ACC through G-5 to the CCS, and in certain cases orders have subsequently been received for shipments to the U.S. or the U.K.

Apart from procuring goods ordered and offering obvious surpluses, the ACC has not made any particular effort to develop Italy's exports. The time, until now, had not come to us so. Shipping and port space could not be allocated for the carriage of any volume of goods not essential to the war effort; ACC lacked the personnel; and the Italian Government was not able to share responsibility for this work.

The time is now approaching when a broader view of Italy's foreign trade problems would appear to be called for, and a more positive attitude adopted. The Italian Government, in possession of its ministerial facilities in Rome, is now in a position to take an active part in export development and is anxious to do so. The impending infiltration of civilian personnel into ACC and the possible use of the UNACC and the UNACC may be expected to provide more expert assistance in the foreign trade field. And steps are now being taken, or are under consideration, by ACC in the field of industrial rehabilitation which require the formulation of foreign trade policies and programs.

Furthermore, the nation's interest requires that it actively search for, and pursue, policies most conducive to the sound expansion of its exports. The ACC as the body controlling the Italian Government, cannot properly display a negative attitude in this matter. Nor is it in the interest of the U.S. and the U.K. that it should follow a negative policy. The first task of the Allies has been to keep liberated Italy alive and as productive as possible so that it might provide a useful base for continuing operations. As the war draws to an end, however, it would seem that attention might advantageously be turned to the problem of how we may be able to bring relief to an end and get out.

Foreign trade is the core of this problem. Cotton, wheat, coal, oils, steel, copper and many other foodstuffs and raw materials, as well as semi-manufactured and manufactured goods, must always be imported to keep Italy's economy operating and its people fed. There is nothing unusual in this situation; the nation has always been heavily dependent on imports which have been paid for by the tourist business and by exports. Italy must export to live.

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U.S. SECRET SIGNALS DIVISION WASH. D. C.

CONF

Unless Italy can export, relief will be needed indefinitely. Food and raw materials will always have to come from the United States and the British Empire; such imports cannot stop. But by helping Italy to rehabilitate its exports business and to reopen its foreign markets we can gradually place the country in a position where it can pay for those imports instead of having them supplied as at present. In other words the way to bring the Italian relief burden of the United States and the British Empire to an end is to rehabilitate not only the production of those goods now being imported, but also the rest of industries and handicraft businesses which could produce for export.

Having considered this general problem, the Economic Sub-Committee of the Political Committee has approved the following four recommendations:

a. When the Italian Government shall have created the proposed Ministry of Commerce it will possess a body larger than required for the present limited export program. The Economic Sub-Committee has approved the recommendation that this organization as one of its first duties should be asked by the AEC to draw up a list of items, with f.o.b. lire prices, which could be made available for export in the relatively near future and whose production would require little rehabilitation and little or no imported supplies. This list will be submitted to Washington and London, and possibly to the CPN and others, by 6-5 AM; or by the Corporations if their functioning in this capacity shall have by then been authorized.

b. The Anti-Inflation Committee of the AEC has recommended the "development of those production, industrial and transport facilities which though not directly benefiting the war effort, indirectly do so by increasing production of essential consumer goods, checking inflation and contributing to the economic and political stability of the population in rear of fighting forces". In a country such as Italy where so large a part of the economy is based on foreign trade it is impossible adequately to carry out the task of rehabilitation without reference to the many industries and handicrafts which traditionally have manufactured for export. Accordingly, the Economic Sub-Committee has approved the recommendation that the AEC be requested to prepare a study in conjunction with the appropriate departments of the Italian Government, providing a scheduled program of industries which should be rehabilitated or developed for export. A study of this nature would also seem necessary in connection with the plan which it is understood that the AEC has proposed to the Italian Government for the establishment of an Industry Advisory Board and industry committees. The letter on this matter from AEC to the Minister stated: "It is suggested, therefore, that first consideration should be given to the following four categories of industrial activity: — Thirdly, those industries whose products have traditionally been exportable or whose products under prevailing and post-war conditions are likely to find a ready sale in world markets".

c. Before the study suggested in the preceding paragraph can be carried to its conclusion, it will be necessary to form some estimate as to the conditions of European economic rehabilitation and the general framework in which foreign trade will take place. It is believed that consideration has been given to these problems by the governments in Washington and London for some time, and that they are among the subjects that are being or will be studied by the European Advisory Commission. The Economic Sub-Committee has

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6. proved a recommendation that steps be taken to obtain information and guidance on these matters for the benefit of the AEC in its formulation of policies and programs for Italy, and it has suggested that the question be referred by Mr. McMillan to the Foreign Office and by Mr. Murphy to the Department of State.

4. The progress that can be made by Italy in the field of economic rehabilitation will be limited, and effective planning will be difficult, as long as the basis of its commercial relations with the world's two largest commercial powers remains unsettled and indeterminate. The Economic Subcommittee, therefore, has approved a recommendation that the AEC study the possible bases for commercial agreements with the United States and the United Kingdom. The subcommittee's thought was that this study should be initiated by the AEC, but that the Italian Government should be brought into it at an early stage and should be made responsible for the preparation of the basic material. It was further contemplated by the subcommittee that the AEC, at the appropriate time, might approach the American and British Governments with the report that conversations be initiated looking to the conclusion of commercial agreements, and it was suggested that this matter might be referred by Mr. McMillan and Mr. Murphy to the Foreign Office and the Department of State for any comments they might wish to make.

3201

H. HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER

AFO 394

AF 112
ESC(44) G
2 Aug

Can not be
(Creation of new of supply)
made by G-5

2362

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2723

HQ ACC

79/09

AFMA SIGNED SIGNED

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R-80997

NOOK

AUD 091824

CITE FHEB

YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RECOMMEND TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT FORM THE DESIRED
MINISTRY WITH FUNCTIONS SUBSTANTIALLY AS OUTLINED IN YOUR SIGNAL. REFER YOUR ACC S
293 OF 18 JULY. WE WOULD PREFER NAME MINISTRY OF COMMERCE WHICH IT IS UNDERSTOOD
YOU NOW FAVOR

Acc DIST

(Acc) SEC GEN (2)

(INF) A/CC

FILE

Q

*Referred to Sec Gen for
draft dist to Embassy*

~~SECRET~~

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DD

copying

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~~SECRET~~

APRIL 1973 APRIL 1973 APRIL 1973 APRIL 1973

104 AGO

8-299

17 JUL

SECRET

PRIORITY

ACTING CHIEF COM.

THE INFORMATION REQUESTED FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO FORM
 A MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING FORMED UNDER EXISTING EXISTING CONDITIONS
 TO FORM TO FORM TO FORM TO FORM TO FORM TO FORM TO FORM TO FORM TO FORM TO FORM TO FORM
PERSONAL PAPER WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND IT TO BE A GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY ON ALL PHASES
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 AND THE TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AND ARE AVAILABLE AND MUST BEING TO ALSO
 IT WOULD BEING THE MEDIUM FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND DEACTIVATION OF THE IT
 IN OTHER MINISTRIES TO IT SHOULD BE THE MEDIUM FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE IT
 CHARLES EAST PAPER INSTITUTE DIAGONAL PAPER WITH ITS STAFF OF SOME NUMBER

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MESSAGE NO. 293 To AFHQ for C-3 Spd and Adv Spd AAI, dated 17 July 44, sent via
 THESE ADVISORS FOR THE ECONOMIC FIELD WERE IN DEVELOPING REPORTS TO IT SHOULD
 BE THE BASIS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE PRICE CONTROL AND RATIONING
 ADMINISTRATION TO IT SHOULD BE THE BASIS TO CO-ORDINATE ALL OTHER MINISTRIES
 REGARDING THE PROBLEMS OF SHORTAGE OF CIVILIAN SUPPLIES FOR ESSENTIAL
 REQUISITES FOR CURRENT NEEDS IN THE IN DISASTROUS SITUATION THAT THE DESTRUCTION
 OF SUCH A MINISTRY WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF TRANSFERRED
 TERRITORY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS ESTABLISHMENT SHOULD
 BE ABLE TO ADDRESS AND FULLY OUR GOVERNMENT ALSO WHICH IS OUR BASIC FUNCTION
 IN TRANSFERRED TERRITORY TO THE FORMATION OF AN MINISTRY WOULD BE THE ECONOMIC
 SECTION SEVERAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ANTI INFLATION COMMISSION
 THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE EFFECTIVELY CONTROL OF THE COMMERCE
 AND DISTRIBUTION TO THE PROPOSED NEW MINISTRY WILL NOT ACT AS A TRADING AGENCY
 EITHER IN DOMESTIC OR EXPORT VEHICLES TO BE ABLE FOR EARLY REORGANIZATION

AUTHENTICATED

WILLY D. STONE
 Captain, USMC
 Acting Chief Commissioner

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3137

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