

1567

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/502

1568

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

785017

10000/109/502

JUVENILE DELINQUENTS  
SEPT., OCT. 1944

MINUTE SHEET.

TO : Chief of Staff.

10.

Folio 2. is a PWB report on the delinquency of children in Naples upon which the Chief of Staff requested more information.

Folios 7 and 8 is reply from Southern Region showing steps which are being taken to alleviate the conditions existing in Naples among juveniles.

CA Sec.

7 Oct. 44.

J.S. PEAKES Maj.

C.A. Section.

11.

Col.

This is an 'illustrated' story of the most effective steps taken by Col Simson, P.C. in Naples, to remedy the juvenile delinquency which you saw reported in PWB reports. I think Col Simson deserves a letter of commendation.

8.10.44.

W. J. Lippin

3336

12.

J.C.O.S. C.A.S.

This appears to be a first class piece of work of which we cannot yet be sure of results: those must depend on the ~~continued~~ Italian continue the good work. I agree that a note of commendation should issue to P.C. Naples. But it is well worth while encourage other

Regions to do the same: would you issue instructions to R.C.s. - explaining what has been done in Naples

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CA Sec.

7 Oct. 44

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This is an 'illustrated' story of the most effective steps taken by Col. Stinson, R. in Naples, to remedy the juvenile delinquency which you saw reported in Pub. reports. I think Col. Stinson deserves a letter of commendation.

8.10.44.

12

J.C.O.S. C.A.S.

For Stinson letter

3330

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18/9/44

1007. ~~44~~  
103. C.O.S. 73

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
AEC 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: 4/39.B/OA

15 Oct '44

SUBJECT: - Juvenile Delinquency.

18 OCT Recd

TO: -

- RC Abruzzi-Marche Region.
- RC Emilia Region.
- RC Toscana Region.
- RC Sardegna Region
- RC Venezia Region
- SCAO VIII Army.
- SCAO V Army
- RC Piemonte Region
- RC Liguria Region
- RC Lombardia Region
- RC Lazio Region
- RC Sicilia Region.

1. For some time past the problem of child delinquency which has led to children being involved in numerous offences such as pimping and prostitution of minors, acting as "fences" for stolen goods, etc, and pilfering from Allied trucks, has given rise to a good deal of concern, and while it is appreciated that Provincial Commissioners have, of course, endeavoured to meet this problem by using the usual administrative methods such as the opening of schools and the enforcement of attendance, law enforcement in these matters through Public Safety and Welfare agencies. Cases have arisen, and are daily arising in the more populated districts, where the difficulties involved in the methods set out earlier in this paragraph have led to a high percentage of child delinquency. This was particularly noticeable in the large cities of Naples and Palermo.

2. I have recently read the report of the Provincial Commissioner at Naples on the steps he has taken to ameliorate what is in that city a major problem, and I set out below in short the methods he has adopted. These methods are proving highly successful and are for your information and similar action should the like difficulties be met with in other populous areas.

- 3. a) A Committee was set up of the most highly influential people that could be got together. These included the Archbishop, a senior member of the Committee of Liberation and a local influential landlord.
- b) The Committee's first action was to collect funds, in fact 2 million lire were collected.
- c) Buildings were then obtained in which to house the children, one establishment for boys, and one for girls, for those children who were parentless, stray or needing immediate removal from their surroundings.
- d) The Committee works as a voluntary organisation encouraging other movements such as the Boy Scouts and establishments teaching handicrafts.

4. The Provincial Commissioner, while not in fact taking any executive action himself continued always to energise the Committee and act as a stimulant to them. The Committee could turn for advice and for help.

RC Abruzzi-Marche Region.  
 RC Emilia Region.  
 RC Toscana Region.  
 RC Sardinia Region  
 RC Venetia Region  
 SCAD VIII Army.  
 SCAD V Army  
 PC-Piedmont Region  
 PC Liguria Region  
 PC Lombardia Region  
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- d) The Committee works as a voluntary organization encouraging other movements such as the Boy Scouts and establishments teaching handicrafts.

4. The Provincial Commissioner, while not in fact taking any executive action himself continued always to energise the Committee and act as a support to whom the Committee could turn for advice and for help, particularly in such matters as the obtaining and derequisitioning of suitable buildings and contacts with the military authorities.

5. Although the Committee was only formed at the beginning of August '44, at present some 700 boys are cared for and it is proposed to extend the scheme to cater for a much larger number.

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6. It is worthwhile considering such an organization in all main centres of population which may be encountered in the future, and the committee should be established early in order rather to be preventive of the state of affairs that has been experienced in the past than to be a curative organization.
7. Sufficient copies of this letter for distribution to Provincial Commissioners are enclosed.

G. R. VEJOHN, Brig.  
VP CA Sec.  
Dep. C. of S.

Copy to:- C.O.S.  
Southern Region  
SGAO V Army  
SGAO VIII Army  
Econ. Sec.  
P.S.  
P.H.  
Education  
Local Gov.  
I.R. & D.F.

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G.R. UNION. BdG.  
VF CA Sec.  
Dep. C. of S.

Copy to:- C.O.S.  
Southern Region  
SCAO V Army  
SCAO VIII Army  
Econ. Sec.  
F.S.  
F.H.  
Education  
Local Gov.  
I.H. & D.P.

C.O.S.

Sufficient copies of this letter for distribution to Provincial Commissioners are enclosed.

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HEADQUARTERS  
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION  
APO 324  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

16.

Ref: 1/39.B/CA

16 Oct '44

SUBJECT: - Juvenile Delinquency.

TO: - ~~Southern Region.~~

1. Reference your letter R/1071 dated 3 Oct., I consider that the steps taken by the Provincial Commissioner of Naples to tackle this most difficult problem are highly satisfactory. The approach to the subject by Lt.Col.Simon in setting up an Italian committee to tackle the matter is very good, and I propose to write to other Regional Commissioners who may be confronted with a similar problem, recommending to them the methods he has adopted.
2. Of course the more normal administrative methods must continue to be pursued, i.e. the opening of schools to keep children off the streets, the enforcement of the law, and the normal welfare agencies, all of which concern sub-commissions of this Section, plus all those of Economic's such as employment and the lowering of the cost of living; But there is no doubt that any Organisation which is going to ameliorate the position should be encouraged in every way, and I think that Col.Simon's imaginative approach in handling the matter most commendable, a view in which the Chief of Staff asks me to say he fully concurs.

*G. R. H. P. J. M.*

G. R. H. P. J. M. Brig.  
VP CA Sec.  
Dep. C. of S.

3328

Copy to C.O.S. ✓

PA 86

RHC/yrb.

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HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER  
APO 394, U. S. ARMY

*V. C. S. 9.*

*2483*

R/1071

3 October 1944

*14 OCT Recd*

SUBJECT: Juvenile Delinquency.

TO: Headquarters, Allied Control Commission,  
(Attention: Deputy Executive Commissioner).

Reference your letter 469/3/CA of 28 September 1944.

1. Enclosed is original of report by Commissioner, Naples Zone, regarding Juvenile Delinquency.
2. All ACC resources will be used to foster this important work.

*Chris Temperley*

C. E. TEMPERLEY,  
Colonel,  
Regional Commissioner.

CET/jh  
Incls.

*As back of file*

*6/10*  
**3327**

*2114*



ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION 8

NAPLES ZONE

(PROVINCES OF NAPLES, AVELLINO, BENEVENTO)

PREFETTURA, NAPLES

File NZ/15

2 October 1944

Subject: Problem of Juvenile Delinquency.

To: Regional Commissioner  
Southern Region.

Reference attached letter of 28 September from R.C. and M.F. Section, war conditions in Naples, with structural and moral devastations, have created many additional problems. It was found that a great number of orphans and other unwanted children were homeless and destitute in Naples City. Many boys were trying to earn livings in various ways, and many were employed as pimps, and guides to places of ill repute or to blackmarketeers' establishments. I have watched day visiting troops surrounded on their arrival by these boys in rags and tatters aged from eight years upwards. The article explains in detail the situation.

A social problem existed which I considered should be tackled energetically. I accordingly got together a very influential Committee including people such as the Archbishop of Naples, and U.S. Marchese Carlo di Camerano, Prof. Altavilla of the Committee of Liberation, and in a short time a sum of two million lire was collected. My share in the work was to energise the scheme rather than to allow it to drift in Italian fashion. I advised in the organisation work and two months after the first meeting two such establishments, one for boys and one for girls were opened on 12th of September. My intention was to get the schemes into being and then maintain a watching and advisory interest.

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ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

7

NAPLES ZONE

(PROVINCES OF NAPLES, AVELLINO, BENEVENTO)

PREFETTURA, NAPLES

File

- 2 -

Subject:

To:

Accommodation is, of course, the greatest difficulty, but as premises are found repair work is put in hand in order that greater numbers of young people may be taken care of.

It is hoped in time to be able to have the huge Costanzo Ciano, a Centenary present to Naples City form the Bank of Naples illustrated and described in accompanying book for this scheme.

The work has commenced and is making excellent progress. The establishments are giving a schooling, also teaching handicrafts, and the Boy Scout movement is offered as a means of pastime and a further step towards a better generation.

I might add that it is hoped to have a total of seven hundred boys shortly.

I feel that all who know the prevailing conditions will agree that this scheme, apart from humanitarian motives, will do immense good. I am not in it officially but my opinion is asked frequently. The Italian mind in these confused times requires a lead, and the ACC backing gives the encouragement they need.

H. B. SIMSON

Lt Colonel

Zone Commissioner.

3325

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NO. 507

9 SEP 1944

Time 1545

HEADQUARTERS  
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. AND H.C. SECTION  
APO 394

RC 6

7325

Ref: 169/3/CA

SEP 30 1944

28 September 1944.

SUBJECT: Problem of Juvenile Delinquency.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Southern Region.

1. The political Section of A.C.C. have brought to our attention the attached copy of a F.W.B. report on the grave problem of juvenile delinquency in Southern Region.

2. It is requested that the Regional Commissioner Southern Region:

- (a) send this Headquarters his comments on the attached report and
- (b) any other pertinent information about the conditions described.

W.A.S. Dillard  
Major

for NORMAN E. NELSON  
Colonel.

Deputy Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Political Section

Incl: 1.

Repho Zone

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Please supply any additional information you can for my reply.

30 Sep 44.

Chris Dugg  
Cde

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COPY

5

LOCAL CONDITIONS14. THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

War-time conditions, bombing, evacuation, the death of parents, etc., has led to an extraordinarily increase of waifs and strays in the streets of Naples. Many hundreds of urchins, their ages varying from six to sixteen, roam the streets, and the following offences are daily becoming more numerous: pipping, prostitution of minors, acting as "fences" for stolen goods, etc., and pilfering from Allied trucks, especially when they stop in traffic blocks and this on the main streets even during the day time.

Many of these children have lost their parents who have either been bombed out, killed, mobilised or have otherwise disappeared, while others are sent out by their parents either to steal for their fathers or pimp for their mothers. At any hour of the day on the main streets, particularly the Via Roma, small boys try to entice Allied officers and men into the side streets for a meal "en famille" which is usually followed by the head of the family selling his wife or daughter to their guest. The approximate prices for this type of entertainment were given in my last report.

According to Italian law, parents are responsible for their children and can be prosecuted for neglect. However, with family life in its present chaotic state and the local government having so many other problems on its hands, no official action has been taken in the matter.

A start was made to combat the evil, however, by the Grand Priorate of Naples and Sicily of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Order of "St. Mary of Ransom for the Redemption of Slaves" (founded in 1218) with the active though unofficial assistance of Lt. Col. H. Simson, Provincial Commissioner, Region III, ASI. The success so far attained, has been in great part due to the personal initiative of this officer who has remained in the background while allowing the Italians on the committee to work out their own details. In this way it is hoped that the public will realise that this social work is an all-Italian affair and give them confidence in something which has grown up from voluntary effort and has not been imposed from above.

On 10th August 1944 in his appeal for support for the order of "St. Mary of Ransom for the Redemption of Slaves" which concerns itself with the welfare of young girls, Father Ovidio Serafini wrote;

It is known that in the face hospital alone, 4,000 diseased have been examined and of that number at least half were minors. There is the same proportion in all the other hospitals of the Province and in the Region. Approaching even nearer, there is sadness in seeing little girls ill and pregnant, at 13 and even 12 years of age, unconscious of their condition and who continue to play with dolls, ignorant of their state and their ruined future.

3323

He also pointed out the need for voluntary effort: "And never has the State found itself in such conditions of insolvency and of precarious existence as to-day. To rest on the State, on public authorities of every order for a complete solution means to procrastinate, to boycott the work of salvation."

On 7th August, 1944 the following committee of the S.M.O.M., met to discuss similar problems among young boys.

H. E. Marchese Carlo Maresca di Camerano; Balli Gran Priore del S.M.O.M.

- 2 -

Avv. Santo Gera (Carnociale S.M.O.M., acting secretary -  
Comm. De Maria Saverio, for the Prefect.  
Avv. De Filippis Luigi and Dott. Loverso Nicola, for the Province of Naples.  
Avv. Notarianni and Prof. Ara Ferruccio, for the Comune of Naples.  
Dott. Catone Mario for the Bank of Naples.  
Miss Olga Putti.  
Contessa Maria Tomacelli.

On August 17th this committee met again to discuss the possibility of taking over the building of the ex Costanzo Ciamp for their work. This building was given by the Bank of Naples as a ~~contemporary~~ gift to the City for the needs of the peoples children. It is now occupied by Allied troops but the committee hopes that it will soon be derequisitioned and put to the purpose for which it was originally intended.

On 12th September the first orphanage was opened at the Piccolo Seminario, Piazzetta Gerolomini, a gift of the Cardinal Archbishop of Naples, Alessio Ascalesi, who was in the Chair.

In his opening address, Prof. Altavilla spoke of the appalling conditions where "children have become the pimps of their own mothers and sisters; the fences and accomplices of their fathers crimes". Twenty boys are already there. They are being trained in trades and given an elementary education by the clergy. There is also a Boy Scout Movement. Three hundred boys can eventually be accommodated in this building and there is room for a further 200 in the Albergo dei Poveri. For the girls, the Cardinal has offered the Institution of S. Raffaele where they are cared for by the Sisters. Those who are infected will be cured and passed on to other institutions where they will receive a good education.

Voluntary workers under the guidance of the Fathers of St. Mary of Ransom visit various homes and try to influence both parents and children. It is hoped in the future to be able to care for over 6,000 boys and about 2,000-3,000 girls.

It has happened that Allied troops have tried to prevent the civil police from picking up these boys off the streets, possibly thinking that they were being taken to prison. Lt. Col. Simson is taking up this matter with the local military authorities.

It is an encouraging sign that public-spirited citizens of Naples have taken concrete action to stamp out conditions of vice which are degrading the youth of the city and hindering the war effort by encouraging theft and Black Market activities as well as spreading disease among Allied troops.

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HEADQUARTERS  
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION  
R.C. AND M.S. SECTION  
APO 394

Ref: 469/5/Ch

28 September 1974.

SUBJECT: Problem of Juvenile Delinquency.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Southern Region.

The political Section of A.C.C. have brought to our attention the attached copy of a P.S.B. report on the grave problem of juvenile delinquency in Southern Region.

2. It is requested that the Regional Commissioner Southern Region:

- (a) send this Headquarters his comments on the attached report and
- (b) any other pertinent information about the conditions described.

W. A. S. DOLLARD, Major.

W. J.  
WILLIAM H. FINE,  
Colonel.

Deputy Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Political Section

Incl: 1.

BU

3321

6 Oct

CONFIDENTIAL

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LOCAL CONDITIONS

26 SEP 1944

14. THE PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Wartime conditions, bombing, evacuation, the death of parents, etc., has led to an extraordinary increase of waifs and strays in the streets of Naples. Many hundreds of urchins, their ages varying from six to sixteen, roam the streets, and the following offences are daily becoming more numerous; pimping, prostitution of minors, acting as "fences" for stolen goods, etc., and pilfering from Allied trucks, especially when they stop in traffic blocks and this on the main streets even during the day time.

Many of these children have lost their parents who have either been bombed out, killed, mobilised or have otherwise disappeared, while others are sent out by their parents either to steal for their fathers or pimp for their mothers. At any hour of the day on the main streets, particularly the Via Roma, small boys try to entice Allied officers and men into the side streets for a meal "en famille" which is usually followed by the head of the family selling his wife or daughter to their guest. The approximate prices for this type of entertainment were given in my last report.

According to Italian law, parents are responsible for their children and can be prosecuted for neglect. However, with family life in its present chaotic state and the local government having so many other problems on its hands, no official action has been taken in the matter.

A start was made to combat the evil, however, by the Grand Priorate of Naples and Sicily of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Order of "St. Mary of Ransom for the Redemption of slaves" (founded in 1216) with the active though unofficial assistance of Lt. Col. H. Simson, Provincial Commissioner, Region III, AGO. The success so far attained, has been in great part due to the personal initiative of this officer who has remained in the background while allowing the Italians on the committee to work out their own details. In this way it is hoped that the public will realise that this social work is an all-Italian affair and give them confidence in something which has grown up from voluntary effort and has not been imposed from above.

On 10th August 1944 in his appeal for support for the order of "St. Mary of Ransom for the Redemption of Slaves" which concerns itself with the welfare of young girls, Father Ovidio Serafini wrote:

"It is known that in the Pace hospital alone, 4,000

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CAB/ I should like to hear more of this from Reg S  
1/2/45

CONFIDENTIAL

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Grants given to dependents of people deported by the Germans  
Families 68 - No. of persons 182 - Sum disbursed, 163.751 lire.

\*\*\*\*\*

Grants given to dependants of soldiers killed during the war  
Families 184, comprising 552 persons; sum disbursed 194.961 lire.

\*\*\*\*\*

Grants to people repatriated from abroad; families 108,  
comprising 566 persons, sum disbursed 146.899 lire.

\*\*\*\*\*

Grants given to refugees from Africa - families 185, comprising 393 people, sum disbursed 153.339 lire.

\*\*\*\*\*

Grants to families of internees - families 591, persons 893,  
sum disbursed 205.130 lire.

\*\*\*\*\*

Grants to families of refugees from occupied territories -  
families 1.013, comprising 6.093 persons, sum disbursed  
1.180.384 lire.

\*\*\*\*\*

13. RADIO

There has been a complaint by some people, who had their radios sequestered by the Fascists for political reasons, that they still receive demands for payment of wireless licences from the Ufficio del Registro Radio, Naples. The Office in question insists on seeing a receipt from the Questura (which naturally is never to be found) before they stop sending their demand notes.

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CONFIDENTIAL

13

unconscious of their condition and who continue to play with dolls, ignorant of their state and their ruined future".

He also pointed out the need for voluntary effort: "And never has the State found itself in such conditions of insolvency and of precarious existence as to-day. To rest on the State, on public authorities of every order for a complete solution means to procrastinate, to boycott the work of salvation."

On 7th August, 1944 the following committee of the S.M.O.M., met to discuss similar problems among young boys. H.E. Marchese Carlo Maresca di Camerano, Bali Gran Priore del S.M.O.M. -  
Avv. Conte Gerardo Caracciolo S.M.O.M., acting secretary -  
Comm. De Bonis Saverio, for the Prefect.  
Avv. De Filippis Luigi and Dott. Lovero Nicola, for the Province of Naples.  
Avv. Notarianni and Prof. Ara Ferruccio, for the Comune of Naples.  
Dott. Catone Mario for the Bank of Naples.  
Miss Olga Putti.  
Contessa Maria Tomacelli.

On August 17th this committee met again to discuss the possibility of taking over the building of the Costanzo Ciano for their work. This building was given by the Bank of Naples as a centenary gift to the City for the needs of the people's children. It is now occupied by Allied troops but the committee hopes that it will soon be derequisitioned and put to the purpose for which it was originally intended.

On 12th September the first orphanage was opened at the Piccolo Seminario, (Piazzetta Gerolomini), a gift of the Cardinal Archbishop of Naples, Alessio Ascalesi, who was in the chair.

In his opening address, Prof. Altavilla spoke of the appalling conditions where "children have become the pimps of their own mothers and sisters; the fences and accomplices in their fathers' crimes". Twenty boys are already there. They are being trained in trades and given an elementary education by the clergy. There is also a Boy Scout Movement. Three hundred boys can eventually be accommodated in this building and there is room for a further 200 in the Albergo dei Poveri. For the girls, the Cardinal has offered the Institution of S. Raffaele where they are cared for by the Sisters. Those who are infected will be cured and passed on to other institutions where they will

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3313  
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Voluntary workers under the guidance of the Fathers of St. Mary of Ransom visit various homes and try to influence both parents and children. It is hoped in the future to

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be able to care for over 6,000 boys and about 2,000-3,000 girls.

It has happened that Allied troops have tried to prevent the civil police from picking up these boys off the streets, possibly thinking that they were being taken to prison. Lt.Col. Simson is taking up this matter with the local military authorities.

It is an encouraging sign that public-spirited citizens of Naples have taken concrete action to stamp out conditions of vice which are degrading the youth of the city and hindering the war effort by encouraging theft and Black Market activities as well as spreading disease among Allied troops.

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15. Conditions in Ischia:

Food conditions in Ischia are bad, since the island produces little except wine which is of very good quality. Potatoes are practically unobtainable and fresh meat on the Black Market and very occasionally. As in most other country districts the peasants receive 200 gms of bread a day and no pasta. The only bread available on the Black Market is bought directly from Allied soldiers and costs 160 lire a kg. Oil is obtainable for 380 lire a litre. There are some olive trees on the island, but the peasants have barely enough for their own needs and are not prepared to sell their oil.

Since electric power is only available after 7.30 at night, radios are in partial use and news is scanty. Of the Neapolitan dailies which reach the island, the "Voce" seems to be the more popular, not because of any political bias, but because of its setup and journalistic qualities.

Political feeling on the island does not seem to be very high. There are a few avowed Fascists but they seem to be of a fairly decent type and mingle quite freely with people of other Parties.

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