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Aug. 1945 - Aug.

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P.R.B. A.C. APO 394

File No. 602Related File No. 23

Public Relations - Monthly Reports
Aug. 1945 - Aug. 1946

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

To: Chief Commissioner (through Executive Commissioner).

Subject: IRB Report for July, 1946.

Ref: 602/IRB.

Date: 10 August 1946.

1. During the month the Weekly Bulletin was published each Saturday and the average size of nine pages was a record, due to the many political developments and labor troubles and negotiations. It has again been quoted freely and several Allied journalists have called to say how useful they find it in giving general background.
2. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press also has been published without interruption, and it too has regularly been of eight to ten pages.
3. Three press releases were issued on behalf of the Chief Commissioner to Allied and Italian papers and correspondents in Rome.
4. A special watch has been kept on articles attacking Allied administrations - French in Italy and British in the Italian colonies and full translations have been supplied for forwarding in the case of the more important broadsides.
5. Short sketches of all new Ministers were supplied to AFIR.
6. At the end of the month Corporal Drummond who for many months has acted as a combined Chief Sub-Editor, Chief Reader, and Master Compositor to the Digest and the Bulletin left the branch, and various members of the civilian staff have found permanent jobs and left the Commission. In face of these difficulties

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PRB Report for July, 1946

- 2.

and vagaries of electric power in Rome handicapping the setting and printing of the Bulletin. Corporal Williams and the remaining civilians have worked long and often awkward hours and the papers have always come out on time.

7. The Acting Press Relations officer is due to proceed to UK on release from the Army about 26 August.

L. Montague
2/1/1

L. MONTAGUE,

Lt. Col. GL.,

Acting PRO.

4114

file

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 794

Public Relations Branch

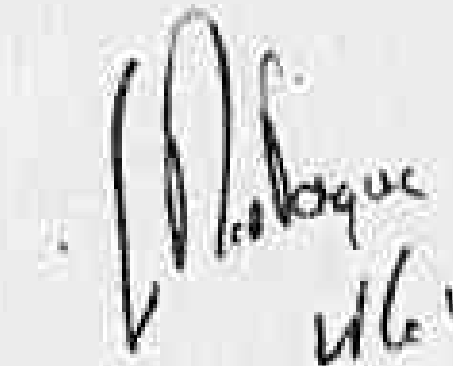
To: Chief Commissioner (through Executive Commissioner)

Subject: PRB Report for June, 1946

Ref: 602/PRB

Date: 10 July 1946

1. During the month Major John P. Leascacos (A) returned to the United States and his place was filled first by Captain H. A. De Masi (A) and then by Lt. Col. L. Montague (B) as Acting Press Relations Officer.
2. Owing to changes of staff the Weekly Bulletin was not published on the 22nd and 29th June, but publication has since been resumed, and has been widely quoted in the Italian press.
3. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press has been kept up regularly, and has been particularly full during the recent conference of the Big Four Foreign Ministers at Paris.
4. Four statements were issued to the press on behalf of the Chief Commissioner.

L. MONTAGUE,
Lt. Col., G.L.,
Acting PRO.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

JPI/hm

Ref. 602/PRB

2 June 1946.

SUBJECT : PRB Report for May, 1946.

TO : Chief Commissioner
(Through Executive Commissioner).

The departure of the Director was stayed on request of the Chief Commissioner until after the Italian national elections. Close watch was kept on the Italian press for indications of alleged Allied intervention in the elections and an important statement was issued for the Chief Commissioner categorically denying any moves or intentions of moves by the Allied Commission to postpone the elections.. The Weekly Bulletin and the Daily Digest of the Rome Press were continued at an increased level of editorial output. Travel arrangements were made for Italian correspondents to visit Austria. Several complete sets of the Bulletin were dispatched to leading editors and universities in the United States and Great Britain.



JOHN P. LEACACOS,
Major, NMB,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

File

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 784
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

JPL/jw

Ref. 602/PRB

21 May 1946.

Subject: PRB Report for ~~March~~ 1946.To : Chief Commissioner,
(thru Executive Commissioner).

1. General. Work continued at a high pace due to extended political coverage and to demands for interviews with the Chief Commissioner. Arrangements were made to facilitate the entry into Trieste of a party of French journalists who were traveling as guests of the Italian Government. Informational services were given to a party of important American newspaper executives and publishers visiting Rome as guests of the War Department.
2. News Section. Press releases for general use as well as several home town releases on individuals were issued. The Bulletin was continued and received the commendation of the Chief Commissioner as a unifying instrument of morale in his last stage of the Allied Commission. Complete sets of the Bulletin were in process of preparation for dispatch to universities and libraries in England and America.
3. Digest Section. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press was continued and increased in size due to the necessity of adequate covering of the electoral campaign.
4. Library Section. Normal services continued.

John P. Leacacos
JOHN P. LEACACOS,
Major NMB,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

JPL/lm

Ref. 602/PRB

18 April 1946

Subject : PRB Report for March 1946

To : Chief Commissioner,
(thru Executive Commissioner)

1. General The Month saw a continuation of the considerable activity the Branch has had despite the general slowing down of work in the Allied Commission as whole, for reasons that Allied neutral and Italian correspondents still make heavy demands on PRB for aid, information and interviews. Several such interviews were arranged with the Chief Commissioner, and branches and sub-commissions of this headquarters. The staff was reduced to one officer (U.S.) by departure of the last remaining British officer. The enlisted personnel and Italian staff of the Branch deserves high credit for carrying on PRB functions and doing work of considerable higher responsibility than their status requires. Entry to Trieste during the visit of the Allied Investigating Commission were arranged for a party of 21 Allied and neutral correspondents, at the request of the Italian Government. Routine travel arrangements for correspondents, including Italians, to visit Trieste were continued, in cooperation with XIII Corps.

2. News Section Several press releases were issued on the direct order of the Chief Commissioner, including an important one on the repatriation of large numbers of Italian pows from India. Nearly 40 daily news bulletins from Trieste were relayed to the press. The Bulletin was continued under heavy handicaps. A Bulletin article about Venezia Giulia was made available for re-use by the British Ministry of Information through the British War Office. Full reports on administrative election returns were made weekly in the Bulletin.

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3. Digest Section. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press was continued.
4. Library Section. Normal services continued.

John P. Leacacos
JOHN P. LEACACOS,
Major, NMB,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

JPI/hm

Ref. 602/PMB

4 March 1946.

SUBJECT : PMB Report for February 1946

TO : Chief Commissioner
(through Executive Commissioner)

1. GENERAL. Lieut. Col. Thomas G. Vergin (A), director, was redeployed whereupon Major John P. Leacason (A) was appointed to the post of director. Departure of other key personnel necessitated a complete re-organization of the Branch, reliance being placed upon Italian civilians in many cases, since only four Allied personnel are now assigned to PMB. An answer of non-concurrence to a proposal of AFHQ to amalgamate AFHQ PMB with AFHQ PRB was drafted for the Executive Commissioner.
2. News Section. Press releases and the Weekly Bulletin were continued. The Executive Commissioner sent a DC letter to all ~~field~~ field HQs to encourage more Bulletin news from the field. Publication of Economic Notes was turned over to GNRMA after the first four issues. Relay of Venezia Giulia news to the Italian press continued.
3. Press Section. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press was continued despite a complete turnover of staff.
4. Library Section. Normal services continued.

JOHN P. LEACASON,
Major, HSB,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

TGB/lm

Ref. 602 832

1 February 1945

SUBJECT : PRB Report for January 1945

TO : Chief Commissioner
(through Executive Commissioner)

1. General. The Allied Publications Board was officially dissolved at its last meeting 19 January, with the Italian representative affirming the Italian Government's intentions to carry on the policies established by the Board. Travel facilities to Italian journalists were withdrawn since it was considered timely that this responsibility should now be assumed by Italian agencies.

2. News Production Division. Press releases were prepared and issued on order of the Chief Commissioner and various sub-commissions. The Weekly Bulletin was continued, despite a very working handicap which led to a recommendation by this branch for its discontinuance, a suggestion which was turned down. The new weekly publication, Commonwealth News, was started and published under the joint sponsorship of the Allied Commission and UNRRA for the first two issues while the third issue released in January was published under the title of UNRRA Economic Notes, although the document was prepared by PRB, which will also prepare the fourth issue and relinquish connection with the publication thereafter. Daily telegraphic news reports from PRB, Venice and Milan were relayed to the press.

3. Research and Analysis Division. The Daily Digest of the Home Press, the political column of the Weekly Bulletin and special translation service for the Chief Commissioner were continued.

4. Italian Division. Travel arrangements and news data were provided for Italian journalists.

5. Information Division. Normal services continued on a diminished scale.

THOMAS G. BENNETT
Lt. Col. HMM,
Director, P. R. B.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 324

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

TCR/nm

Ref. 602/PRB

12 January 1946

SUBJECT : PRB Report for December 1945

TO : Chief Commissioner
(through Executive Commissioner)

1. General. During the month the Branch was instrumental in coordinating with the Allied Publications Board and the Italian Government the handover of press functions in the Northern provinces formerly delegated to the Allied agency, it being decided that A.B. powers, except in Udine Province, be assumed by the Government which will send a representative of the President of the Council to Milan to take over. In Udine, the A.B. provincial Commissioner will carry on A.B. tasks. Lieut. Col. Bullock (Gdn), Deputy Director (Field) and A.B. PRO Venezia Giulia, was relieved to return to Canada. PRO 15th Corps is directing integrated PR activities.

2. News Production Division. Issuance of press releases was continued, though on a diminished scale, the most important relating to coal imports and the transfer of the North to Italian Government jurisdiction. The Weekly Bulletin was continued despite the handicap of extreme paucity of news from the field. The Chief Commissioner approved a new weekly publication to be entitled, Economic Notes, in both English and Italian editions, for primary distribution to Italians.

3. Reports and Analysis Division. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press, the political column of the Weekly Bulletin and special translation service for the Chief Commissioner were continued.

4. Italian Division. Travel arrangements and news data were provided for Italian journalists.

5. Information Division. Normal services were continued, requests from Allied civilian agencies in the theater being particularly heavy.

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THOMAS G. BERGIN,
Lt. Col. NMB,
Director, R. R. B.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

TGB/hm

Ref. 602/PRB

4 December 1945.

SUBJECT : PRB Report for November, 1945.

TO : Chief Commissioner
(through Executive Commissioner)

1. General. The Director was occupied during the month with sundry matters concerning the Italian press via the Allied Publication Board, with closing down of the PRB Mess for Political Correspondents, and with efforts to establish a new liaison between the press attaches of the British and American Embassies and AFHQ PRO concerning public relations issues that might arise consequent upon the cessation of military responsibility for correspondents and the lack of channels for direct contact with the Italian press once assumed by PWB. Problems of XIII Corps AMG PRO were discussed and adjusted as far as possible as a result of a visit by the DDPR (Field) to HQ. Capt. E. Ellison (B) was assigned to TD in the North of Italy where he will report on press conditions. Arrangements were made for Italian correspondents to cover the Nuremburg war criminal trials. Close watch was kept on press comments over the political crisis as the month ended.

2. News Production Division. Issuance of press releases, including several important communications on economic subjects, and of the Weekly Bulletin were continued. Distribution service to news agencies of the AIS news telegrams from Trieste was expanded. Seven thousand more copies of the AG/AMG Review were distributed : 1,000 to American universities and 6,000 for newly arrived troops in Venezia-Giulia.

3. Reports and Analysis Division. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press, the political column of the Weekly Bulletin and special translation service for the Chief Commissioner were continued.

4. Italian Division. Travel arrangements and news data were provided for Italian journalists.

5. Information Division. The Central Reference Library had 600 visitors, received 520 requests for information and supplied 2,800 map sheets.

THOMAS G. BERVIN,
Lt. Col. NMB,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

TGB/v1

602/PRB

6 November 1945

SUBJECT: PRB Report for October, 1945

TO : Chief Commissioner
(Through Executive Commissioner)

1. General. Lieut. Col. Thomas G. Bergin (A) succeeded to the directorship of the Branch upon the departure of Mr. G. Stewart Brown (A). The Director returned to duty 17 October after a successful trip to the U.K. and U.S. in connection with bringing the attention of editors, universities and libraries to the value of the AG/AMG Review published by this Branch. Redeployment reduced the staff of the Branch to two U.S. officers at Rq. and two British officers at Trieste. Conferences were held with AMG PR and the press attaches of the American and British Embassies relevant to the cessation of military responsibility for correspondents' facilities after 1 November. Plans, consequently, were made to shut down the A.C.P.R. mess at Via Romagna, Rome early in November. Two of the Branch's officers received the Bronze Star. The Director attended a special meeting of the APB in Rome on a pre-turnover review of Italian press problems in AMG areas.

2. News Production Division. Issuance of press releases and publication of the A.C. Weekly Bulletin were continued. Extensive photographic coverage was given to awards of decorations to A.C. personnel. Nearly 3,000 more English copies of the AG/AMG Review were distributed as well as a further 6,200 copies of the Italian edition.

3. Reports and Analysis Division. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press, the political column of the Weekly Bulletin and special translation service for the Chief Commissioner were continued.

4. Italian Division. Travel arrangements and news data were provided for Italian journalists.

5. Information Division. The Central Reference Library has 629 visitors and received 480 requests for information. Map sheets numbering 1, 690 were supplied.

THOMAS G. BERGIE,
Lt. Col. AUS,
Director
Public Relations Branch.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSE/cb

602/PRB

2 October 1945

SUBJECT: PRB Report for September, 1945.

TO : Chief Commissioner
(through Executive Commissioner)

1. General. The Director held several meetings with PRO, AFHQ, and press attaches of the British and American Embassies concerning the future status of Allied war and political correspondents in anticipation of early withdrawal of military facilities. Conferences were also held with USIS and MOI regarding educational campaigns in Italy. Film legislation recommended by the Temporary Film Board, of which the Director is chairman, was finally approved by the Council of Ministers and now awaits signature by the Lieutenant General of the Realm. Lieut. Pollard, Milan AC PRO, was redeployed after an excellent performance and a temporary arrangement made with AFHQ PRO to cover the Milan area until the transfer of territory takes place. Lieut. Col. Bullock, DDPR, Cdn. was permanently assigned as Venezia-Giulia AMG PRO, with Capt. Ellison as his assistant. Lieut. Col. Bergin (DDPR, U.S.) left for the U.K. and the U.S. on a special publicity mission.

2. News Production Division.

a. Press releases were issued on several subjects, most notably on the universal food ration for Italy and on German war booty. The Weekly Bulletin was continued.

b. The Review of Allied Military Government and the Allied Commission in Italy was finally published, with a release date of 1 October. A detailed memorandum of publicity for England and America was drawn up for use by the Deputy Director on his mission. Copies numbering 150,000, half in English and half in Italian, were printed. Of the English, 60,000 were distributed, including 35,000 to the American and British armed forces; all Allied personnel of the A.C.; all U.S. daily and weekly newspapers, radio stations, general

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magazines as well as a comprehensive list of special magazines. Several thousand copies were placed for distribution with the American Red Cross at Rome, Naples and Leghorn. Approximately 1,000 copies were sent to the British Ministry of Information for distribution in England and the British Empire. Orders for further distribution to libraries and universities are awaited from abroad. On the Italian side, as this report is written, approximately 25,000 copies have been distributed, including all Italian publications in Italy, Sicily and Sardinia. Nearly 3,000 copies were sent to Regional Commissioners in the North of Italy and to SCAG, Venezia-Giulia, for distribution to important individuals and organizations. Distribution is now in process to persons on a USIS mailing list of approximately 25,000 names. Further 35,000 copies will be distributed to through the Ministry of Interior (to all communes and provinces) and the Ministry of Education (to all schools).

3. Reports and Analysis Division. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press, the political column of the Weekly Bulletin and special translation service for the Chief Commissioner were continued.

4. Italian Division. Four cards of accreditation for Italian journalists were issued. Travel orders, by air and land were arranged for 24 correspondents. Background information from monthly reports was issued. News from the Allied Information Service in Trieste was relayed to Italian news agencies and Allied correspondents.

5. Information Division. The Central Reference Library had 1,218 visitors and received 961 requests for information. Map sheets numbering 1,987 were issued. Progress was made on the project of plotting German mine fields in Italy, in conjunction with the Civil Affairs Section. Six Italian Government draughtsmen have been assigned to the task. A start has been made in dismantling reference records no longer needed by turnover to Archives and to the Italian Government. A variety of duplicate documents were prepared for London and Washington on the request of the Directorate of Civil Affairs of the War Office. Also being complied with is a War Department request for two copies of all proclamations, orders and regulations employed by Allied Military Government in Italy.

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S. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

AMB 394

GSH/ed

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

602/PMB

September 7, 1945

SUBJECT: PMB Report for August, 1945

TO : Chief Commissioner
(through Executive Commissioner)

1. General. The Director spent considerable time working with United States Information Service and with the British Ministry of Information on educational campaigns designed to show Italians how democratic processes work in Allied countries. The Director attended a meeting of the Allied Publications Board in Milan and a nation-wide meeting of Italian editors called by ANSA, Italian news agency, in the same city on 21 and 22 August. The Deputy Director (Field) was assigned as PRD for Venetia-Giulia and an officer from Headquarters was detailed to take over the Milan PRD post.

2. News Production Division. Press releases in more limited numbers, owing to the scarcity of "live" news and the departure of many correspondents from the theatre, were issued on the general industrial situation, freedom of export trade, turnover of Italian territory and sundry other matters. The Review of Allied Military Government and the Allied Commission in Italy, in both English and Italian editions, will come off the presses in early September and will be distributed as soon as a release date is fixed. It is planned that the Deputy Director go to London and Washington with copies for leading newspapers. Production of the Weekly Bulletin, with pictures as a new feature, was continued.

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3. Reports and Analysis Division. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press and the political column of the Weekly Bulletin were continued. Several special translation and reports were made for the Chief Commissioner.

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4. Italian Division. Interviews were arranged with sub-commissions for Italian journalists on topics of industry, public health and communications. Considerable informal briefing of Italian newspapermen of Commission activities also took place. More than 25 trips by air and other means were arranged for correspondents. Seven additional cards of accreditation were issued.

5. Information Division. In conjunction with the Civil Affairs Division, a project was started to plot on maps all mine fields in Italy. Two draftsmen were placed at the Division's services by the Italian Government for this purpose. The Central Reference Library had 1,133 visitors and received 1,048 requests for information during the month. Maps sheets numbering 3,264 were issued. The final war information bulletin was posted as the Japanese surrendered. Routine circulation of informational material was continued.

G. STEVANT BROWN
Director
Public Relations Branch

4058

HEAD MARTINUS ADLERS COMMISSION

ATO 394

PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSR/cb

4 August 1945

602/PRB/

SUBJECT: PRB Report for July, 1945

TO : Chief Commissioner
(through Executive Commissioner)

1. General. The Director spent considerable time working with PRB to re-establish the pre-Fascist newspapers in the North to succeed the PRB papers which closed down 15 July. Independent papers (some with pre-Fascist mastheads and some with slightly different names) are now appearing in Milan, Turin, Genoa, Bologna and Venice. A demonstration against the newspaper La Stampa in Turin was settled without further incident by the Regional Commissioner of Piemonte. A crisis arose over the sudden curtailment of activities of E.M.B. settled after a conference between the Chief Commissioner, the Chief of IMC and APHQ, the chief of PRB, and PRB, which finally allowed one PRB press officer to remain in each region, attached to the staff of the Regional Commissioner. The Director escorted and briefed several War Department-sponsored U.S. correspondents visiting Italy and also discussed the film situation in Italy with a group of American motion picture executives on tour. The PRB stationed at Milan, a U.S. Navy officer, was re-assigned to the Pacific and the Deputy Director (Field) moved in to replace him. 17
British officer from PRB joined the Headquarters staff. 40

2. News Production Division. Press releases were issued on several important subjects, namely, preparations for elections, turnover of territory, bread price increase, radio telephone, displaced persons and the Joint Allied Commission-Italian Government economic conference. Production of U.S. hometown biographical releases was intensified so as to complete the coverage on every officer and enlisted man who has submitted an information sheet. Use was made of Italian news agencies to transmit urgent press releases to the North, with excellent results. Arrangements were made with United States Information Service for use of their photographic laboratory, drawing of supplies and servicing of PRB liaison was established with commercial

TO : Chief Commissioner
(through Executive Commissioner)

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will be made on 1 September approximately. The Information and Education Section of WFOUSA has presented a request for 50,000 to 75,000 copies for distribution to American troops. Paper for the publication is being furnished by U.S.I.S. PRB will distribute both editions, using the U.S.I.S. distribution list of 40,000 names and the Italian Ministry of Public Instruction for another 30,000 copies to all Italian schools and universities. Regional Commissioners in the North will be asked to supervise and effective distribution of at least 1,000 copies in their respective regions.

3. Reports and Analysis Division. Special translations of controversial articles were made for the Chief and Executive Commissioners. The Daily Digest of the Rome Press, the political paragraph for the APHQ weekly sitrep telegram were continued and material for the political section of the Bulletin was prepared and turned over to the News Production Division for editing and inclusion in the Bulletin. The Deputy Director toured the Northern regions.

4. Italian Division. Air and road transport to North Italy was provided for many Italian, neutral and political correspondents. Fifteen interviews for Italian reporters were arranged with several sub-commissions, mostly on industrial subjects. Nine Italian journalists' and two political correspondents' cards were issued.

5. Information Division. The Central Reference Library had 1,269 visitors and received 1,048 requests for information. Additional reference works were purchased on request. Map sheets supplied numbered 4,231. Regular distribution of informational material was continued. Pacific War bulletins were posted daily.

Thomas G. Reagin, war
for G. STEWART BROWN,
 Director,
 Public Relations Branch.

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Thomas G. Bergen, was
for
G. STEWART BROWN,
Director,
Public Relations Branch.

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