

Chapais killer inferno: 'I was only joking'

CHAPAIS, Que. (CP) — Florent Cantin said he was "only joking" when he put his cigarette lighter to a dried-out Christmas decoration — but Fire Commissioner Cyrille Delage found him criminally responsible Monday for a fire that killed 45 people at a New Year's Day party.

The 21-year-old unem-

ployed laborer, told an inquest he was drinking beer near the main door of the Opemiska social club here when he raised his lighter to an arch of spruce boughs tacked to the wall.

"When I first clicked my lighter, it didn't work," Cantin said in a low, hesitant voice. "The second time, it

lit and I raised the lighter to the branches to pretend that I was setting fire to them.

"I didn't want to start a fire but the substance was so dry it started to burn," said Cantin, who has shaggy, blond hair.

Cantin will remain in Quebec City's Orsainville prison until Jan. 31, when he will be

arraigned on a charge of manslaughter which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Witness Danielle Larouche, 20, who was working as a waitress at the Lions Club party, said Cantin laughed and splashed beer on the burning wreath.

Regis Malenfant, 22, testified that he heard Cantin

shouting amid the chaos after the fire started: "It's my fault, it's my fault."

By the account of most witnesses, the fire took only two minutes to engulf the narrow frame-building. In a panic-stricken stampede for three exits, many of the approximately 325 revellers were trampled under foot.

Cantin was led out of the hearing room here after only five minutes of testimony and did not hear Delage render the verdict.

Cantin's father immediately raced from the crowded Knights of Columbus hall. His mother covered her eyes and sat motionless while a nun tried to console her.

UN vote swats at Soviets



CASTING VETO on Iran sanctions in UN is Oleg Troyanovsky. Sir Anthony Parsons, U.K. ambassador, and Donald McHenry, U.S. ambassador are sitting next to him.

Third World, West united on Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS (CP) — The Soviet Union took a political drubbing Monday as the General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to approve a resolution demanding the removal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Despite feverish lobbying by Soviet diplomats through the emergency assembly session, which began last Friday, the world body voted with 104 in favor and only 18 opposed to the resolution which, while not naming the Soviet Union, called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan. There were 18 abstentions.

The outcome was a surprise to some Western diplomats, who had not expected such a strong demonstration of Third World anger.

The Soviet Union has long presented itself as the champion of the Third World countries against the "imperialism" represented by the United States but on this issue Moscow absorbed a sharp rebuke from the developing nations.

"It's a real shift," said one Western diplomat. "I'm surprised they couldn't hold more abstentions."

Most of the countries which abstained have taken pro-Soviet positions in the past but in this instance they would not go with the Russians, taking the abstention route instead.

The voting patterns showed some glaring weaknesses in the Soviet Union's support.

"Romania didn't vote," a diplomat noted with some surprise. "They couldn't even hold the Warsaw Pact."

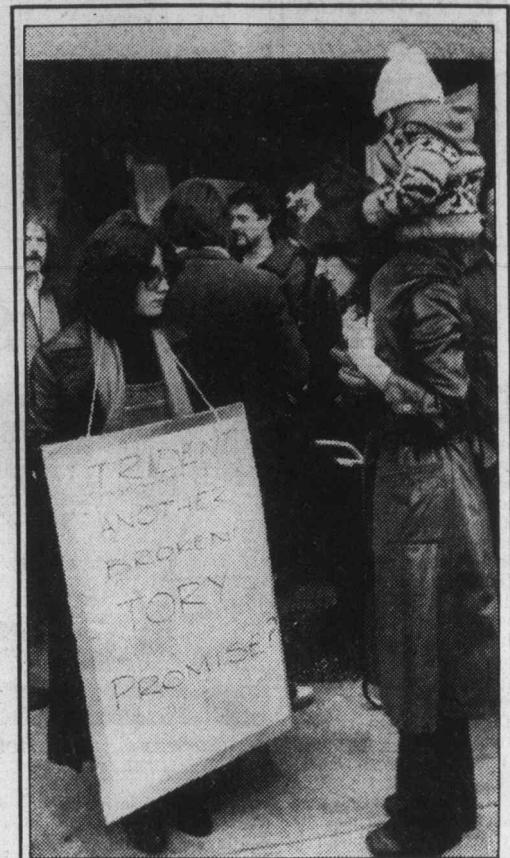
Canada voted in favor of the resolution.

The outcome of the vote showed there are major differences within the non-aligned movement. Yugoslavia, one of the founding members of the bloc, voted in favor of the motion, while India, another charter member, abstained. Cuba, which holds the presidency of the movement this year, voted with Moscow, a move some feel may come back to haunt Havana.

"There's a real split there but I think the Cubans are going to come to regret their vote," a member of a Western delegation commented. The vote came after days of special debate, during which country after country went to the podium to denounce the Russian action in Afghanistan as blatant aggression and interference in the internal affairs of another country.

The excuse failed to convince many countries which have tended to side with Moscow in most issues, including the Moslem world, most of black Africa and non-aligned and developing countries of many political stripes.

While the vote was a blow to Moscow, it has no force in international law and is unlikely to produce a precipitous retreat by the Red Army. It did put the Soviet Union on notice, however, that its support in the Third World is tenuous and can only be pushed so far.



—Bill Halkett photo

THIS AND other signs were carried to McKinnon's and Munro's campaign headquarters.

Trident 60 vent anger on Tories

By HUBERT BEYER
Colonist reporter

The Tory government and its two Greater Victoria members came under heavy attack Monday from employees of Trident Aircraft Ltd.

About 60 of the 107 employees, who were laid off when the plant closed down last Friday, marched on the campaign headquarters of local Tory MPs Allan McKinnon of Victoria and Donald Munro of Esquimalt-Saanich.

But aside from assuring the protesters that they would continue to work for some solution to the problem, the two MPs made no promises of restoring federal funds for the Sidney-based aircraft company.

The workers were clearly in a bad mood. They promised both McKinnon and Munro that they would join the ranks of the unemployed after the Feb. 18 election.

McKinnon, somewhat rankled by the jeers, told the protesters if they thought he wasn't representing them adequately, they should perhaps consider someone else.

The workers, who had assembled early in the morning at the downtown Manpower centre to register their unemployment insurance claims. Some of the protesters were accompanied by their wives.

They carried placards criticizing the Tory government for cutting off federal funds, an action which forced the plant to close down.

"Trident — Another Clark Joke... The Party's Over... If it's Jobs or Joe... It's Goodbye Joe... Another broken Tory Promise."

These were some of the messages the placards had for McKinnon and Munro.

When the protesters arrived at McKinnon's campaign office at 1065 Fort, the defence minister gave them a choice: Either he would come out to speak to them, or they could send a delegation of three or four people inside.

Page 2—MPs riled

Envoys freed after leftists win release

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (UPI) — A troop of leftist youths, jubilant over the Salvadoran government's capitulation to demands that seven political prisoners be freed, Monday released the Panamanian and Costa Rican ambassadors.

Some 50 members of the leftist Feb. 28 Popular Leagues released Panamanian ambassador David Pere and Costa Rican ambassador Alejandro Alvarado, delivering them to freedom after a victory ride across the capital in a flag-decorated bus.

The rebels, who took the ambassadors during a peaceful occupation of the Panamanian embassy Friday, set the hostages free after the Salvadoran government gave in to their demands and freed seven fellow leftists from prison.

Earlier Monday, the leftists released four other persons taken hostage during Friday's takeover.

Chanting "end the repression," the leftists travelled from the northern part of the city at the Panamanian embassy to the National University in the southern part of San Salvador. They crossed the city in a bus draped with leftist signs. The bus was preceded by a car carrying the Panamanian ambassador.

The leftists took the ambassador to the university grounds where the seven liberated prisoners had been delivered. One youth, wearing a New York Yankees jersey, shouted "Long live the peaceful occupation of the Panamanian embassy."

Red Army seizes main Afghan road

●Afghan rebels in Pakistan say they prefer death to Russian rule. Page 3

Reuter-AP

Soviet troops captured control of one of Afghanistan's two major highways Monday.

In Kabul, Afghanistan's new Moscow-backed President Babrak Karmal on Monday completed the formation of his government, naming a Marxist hardliner as his deputy and including three military men in the seven-member presidium.

Assadullah Sarwari was named deputy prime minister, vice-president of the military council and a member of the ruling party's political bureau. He emerged as

the No. 2 man in the new pro-Soviet government.

Officials of the new Afghan government have said that Karmal had led underground resistance in Kabul for more than two months before he took power with Soviet military help in a December coup.

Many Afghans believe Karmal returned from exile with Soviet forces but officials of his regime told reporters in Kabul that Karmal was in the capital weeks before the Soviet troops arrived.

In Moscow, Tass news agency said Noor Mohammed Tarakki was strangled last Oct. 8 by order of former president Hafizullah Amin who toppled the Tarakki

Page 2—Hardline

Gold hits record high in Europe, New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Gold climbed to record levels in Europe and New York on Monday, as speculators poured money into bullion markets in a continued reaction to events in Afghanistan and Iran. The price topped \$670 (U.S.) an ounce—about \$781 Canadian—in New York.

Gold, which traditionally has been viewed as a hedge against political and monetary uncertainty, has jumped more than \$130 (U.S.) an ounce since the start of the year. It traded at around \$525 (U.S.) an ounce on Dec. 31.

At the Commodity Exchange in New York, the spot January gold contract closed at \$671 Monday, up \$25, an

ounce from the previous record high on Friday. At the Republic National Bank, gold was bid at \$668 an ounce, up \$25 an ounce from the previous session.

In earlier European markets, gold also rose to new record closings.

The dollar, meanwhile, finished lower in Europe against most key currencies and was mixed in New York.

Currency dealers said market operators were reluctant to change currency positions without some clear hint on what might happen in Iran and Afghanistan.

Gold closed at \$657 an ounce in London and \$654.50 in Zurich, record closes for both centres. But the closing

quotes were down a bit from the afternoon fixing of \$660 in London and a trading high of \$657.50 in Zurich. Bullion ended last week at \$622.50 in London and \$621.50 in the Swiss centre.

The all-time high for the metal is \$674.54, recorded in Hong Kong during Saturday trading. But it lost ground to close Monday in the Far East market at \$642.18. Tokyo's foreign exchange did not open today because of a national holiday.

Dealers said gold's performance was a psychological reaction to the continuing crises in Afghanistan and Iran, for which a "solution seems to be becoming more and more of an impossibility."

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That cosy fireplace can be silent killer

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OFF PAGE ONE/WEATHER

Andy Capp



Hardline Marxists lead in Kabul

From Page 1

government Sept. 14. Amin's regime was in turn overthrown by Karmal.

In a dispatch from Kabul, Tass said Tarakki was killed while under house arrest by "Amin's gang."

Also prominent in the new hierarchy in Kabul is Afghanistan's former ambassador to Washington, Noor Ahmad Noor, who was named a member of the presidium and the political bureau.

Karmal also announced a 57-member secretariat of his ruling Marxist party.

The official account says Karmal was elected president, prime minister, chief of the revolutionary council, party chief and commander of the armed forces by his party's central committee on Dec. 27.

But Western diplomats in Kabul said he did not make any public appearance until three or four days later and this led to the widespread belief that he had been brought in after Soviet troops secured the capital.

The wide condemnation of the Soviet intervention was joined Monday by Pope John Paul in an address to the Vatican

diplomatic corps. In his first official comment on the crisis, he stressed the right of peoples to control their own destiny.

Meanwhile, one Western informant in Kabul said fighting has stopped "almost everywhere." Others, however, said it is continuing in the rugged, snow-covered mountains in northeastern Badkhashan province, near the Soviet border, and in Paktia, southwest of Kabul and near Pakistan, where Soviet troops are reported to be backed by missile-firing MiG combat aircraft and helicopter gunships.

At least one Soviet motorized infantry division of between 12,000 and 13,000, men and possibly units of a second division have been deployed in western Afghanistan about 96 kilometres from the Iranian border, but show no sign of moving against Iran, government sources in Washington said Monday. The main Iranian oil fields are on the other side of Iran, near the Persian Gulf.

The reports from Kabul could not be confirmed independently, but hundreds of Soviet army trucks that restocked occupation forces met no resistance Monday as they rolled northward to the Soviet Union under a light guard. Western reporters had accompanied the Soviet troops for the first 80 kilometres of their journey before they were turned back.

In other developments Monday:

● U.S. military analysts in Washington, disputing rebel reports, said Soviet forces have not been involved in major fighting in Afghanistan. However, they said the Red Army may soon have to launch a major offensive because of heavy rebel pressure on regular Afghan army units.

● President Carter warned again that the U.S. may boycott this summer's Olympic Games in Moscow in retaliation for the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

● In London, the British government strongly hinted it might support such a boycott. Prime Minister Joe Clark has said Canada is against boycotting the games,

but would consider holding them in Montreal if the International Olympic Committee took them away from Moscow.

● In Buenos Aires, Agriculture Secretary Jorge Zorreguieta said U.S. officials misinterpreted Argentine statements at a weekend meeting in Washington in which major grain exporting countries, including Canada, agreed not to undercut the U.S. grain embargo against the Soviet Union.

● In a free economy such as Argentina's, the final destination, direct or indirect, of our cereals will only be decided by the market," he said.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources in Kabul on Monday reiterated their assessment that the Moslem rebels who have been waging a holy war against a succession of Marxist government in the last 20 months cannot hope for outright military victory over the Soviets.

"They cannot win for they have no planes, but they can go on harassing the Russians forever," one diplomatic source said. "They have been doing this sort of thing for centuries."

Viking eyes Albatross conversions

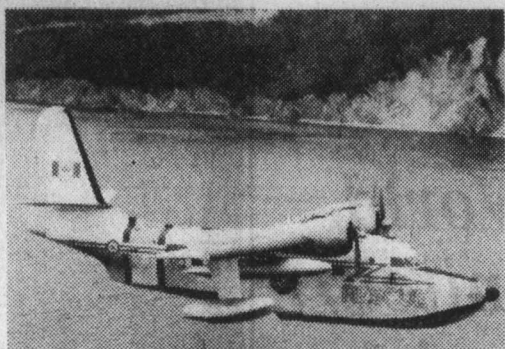
From Page 1

come in March or April. An agreement with the Grumman Corp. was signed last December but Viking has, until now, been reluctant to disclose its plans. However, word of it came Friday from Saanich-Esquimalt Conservative MP Donald Munro, whose party has come in for criticism from about 107 employees who lost their jobs last Friday at the Trident firm.

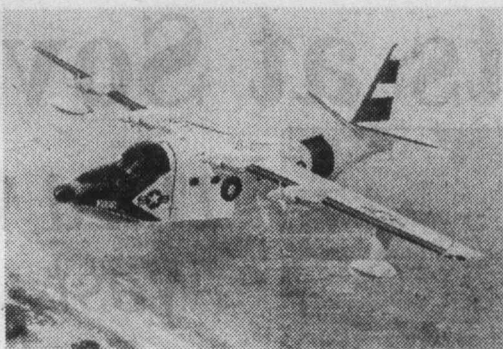
The new Tory government withdrew funding promised to Trident for its Trigull amphibian.

Christensen could not say when he could offer jobs for any of the unemployed Trident staff.

"But eventually we'll have a need for sheet metal workers, welders, all sorts of aircraft tradesmen," Viking Air has been work-



Before and after: Conversion model is on right



ing with Grumman for years, converting Goose and Mallard amphibians from piston to turbo-prop engines at its Sidney plant. It leases its hangar space from the B.C. Development Corp., and, among its other jobs, has been engaged in con-

work for Trident on a 'sub-contract basis.

The Albatross conversion is awaiting formal certification from U.S. authorities. Grumman has converted the plane, manufactured only as a military plane and used successfully for coastal patrol and search and rescue work by Canadian and U.S. governments, into a two-engine G-111 civilian version which has the gambling conglomerate Resorts International interested as a means of transportation to its resorts.

After certification is achieved (Christensen says

that it's down to the paperwork now, as flying tests have been successfully completed) Viking will apply for a supplementary certification to cover the four-engine turboprop version.

The aircraft under trial is currently being flown in the Resorts International colors out of the Grumman plant at Stuart, Fla. Two others are nearing completion of their conversions.

Viking, Grumman and Resorts International all would be involved in the marketing of the converted planes.

Under the agreement with Grumman, the U.S. firm

would rebuild the main spar that supports the new engine configuration and Viking would mount Pratt and Whitney PT6A-34 turbo engines, a job similar to ones that it has done for the Goose.

There are potentially about 400 of the Albatrosses left around the world, of the original 474 that were built, according to Frank Steven, principal of F.S. Consultair Ltd., an aircraft consulting firm that has done a marketing survey for Viking Air.

Steven said that the turboprop conversion has become popular in that planes equipped with them can be started up in unfavorable weather conditions and he added that this feature is what makes planes like de Havilland's Twin Otter so

MEDALS STOLEN

VANCOUVER (CP) — Thieves broke into the British Columbia Sports Hall of Fame and stole 16 medals won by athletes Percy Williams and Elaine Tanner.

Among the items taken Friday are 11 gold medals won by Williams, a runner for Canada in the Olympics a half-century ago. Four gold medals and a bronze won by swimmer Elaine Tanner in the 1960s also were taken.

MPs riled by charges

From Page 1

They said they'd prefer to minister to come outside.

"It's symbolic. We're out in the cold, too, since last Friday," said Sam Wylie, spokesman for the Trident employees.

He told McKinnon that Trident wasn't looking for government handouts. All the company wanted was a loan which had been promised by the former Liberal government.

The Liberal government had made a commitment for a \$6-million loan. The company has already received \$2 million, but the Conservative government decided last year to cancel further loans.

Keeping the employees on unemployment insurance, Wylie said, would cost the government about \$500,000 a year.

"Is that a viable operation?" one of the protesters shouted.

Wylie questioned the wisdom of federal subsidies for the shipbuilding industry in light of the decision not to make any loans to an aircraft company.

"If we take the wings off and float the Trigull, will we get subsidies?" he asked.

He said the employees weren't just concerned about their own jobs, but also about the potential for "lots of other jobs, apprenticeships and spinoff benefits."

"We can establish an industry B.C. can be proud of," Wylie said.

McKinnon said he wouldn't make any promises he might not be able to keep, but added that he would continue to take their case to his cabinet colleagues.

When they were through with McKinnon, the protesters went to Munro's campaign headquarters. His constituency includes the airport where the plant is located.

Munro was on his way when the crowd piled into the offices on Quadra.

"Good morning, how are you?" he asked when he arrived.

"Unemployed," was the reply from one protester.

One of the campaign workers said it would take Munro just a minute to "put on his asbestos suit or whatever he's going to need."

Several times, Munro was visibly angered by the protesters' accusations that the Tory government didn't care what happened to the Trident employees.

"I know it's a dreadful situation. I know you need these jobs, but you have obviously decided that I haven't done a thing for you," Munro said.

He was taken to task for a statement in a television interview in which he said that even if the company had orders for 900 planes, it couldn't survive if it had to pay back the loans.

Wylie told him that the firm would derive profits not only from the manufacture and sale of the Trigull, but from manufacturing parts for other aircraft companies.

The Douglas Aircraft Company, he said, would

place \$1 million worth of orders for parts a year for the next 10 years with Trident if it went into production.

Why had the Tory government simply cut off funds instead of discussing the future of the company, Wylie wanted to know.

Munro said the government wanted the shareholders to put up more money.

"I have never met any of the shareholders," he said.

"You have now," a man carrying a placard replied, offering Munro his hand.

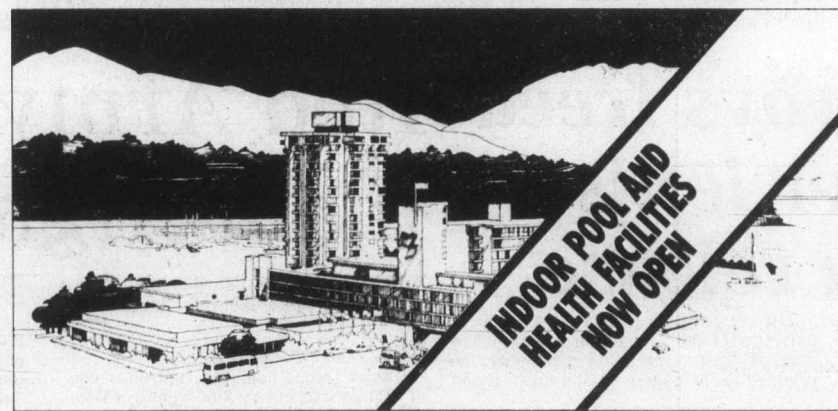
"My name's Bill Walker and I'm a shareholder," he said.

"Glad to meet you," replied Munro, somewhat taken aback.

Munro said he, too, would continue to do his best for the company and the employees who are now out of work.

When, toward the end, a campaign worker said that coffee was available in the back room, someone replied: "We might as well get something out of the Tories."

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WESTERN INTERNATIONAL

The weather

Jan. 15, 1980

Cloudy with sunny periods with rain beginning in the afternoon. Winds light easterly. Monday's precipitation 0.2 mm. Sunshine 1 hour 12 minutes. Recorded high and low at Victoria airport 7 and -2. Today's forecast high and low 6 and -1. Today's sunrise 8:01, sunset 4:45; moonrise 5:43 a.m., moonset 3:01 p.m. Wednesday outlook: occasional showers.

East coast of Vancouver Island—cloudy with sunny periods with rain beginning in the afternoon. Winds light to moderate southeasterly. Monday's precipitation 0.3 mm. Recorded high and low at Nanaimo 6 and -3. Forecast high and low 6 and -1. Wednesday outlook: occasional showers.

West coast of Vancouver Island—mainly cloudy with rain beginning in the south and spreading to the north by afternoon. Winds moderate

southeasterly. Forecast high and low at Tofino 4 and -1. Wednesday outlook: showers.

North coast of the Mainland—occasional rain showers or snow flurries. Winds moderate to strong southeasterly. Forecast high and low -3 to 3 and -1 on the coast and -8 inland. Wednesday outlook: occasional showers of rain or snow.

Extended outlook Thursday through Saturday chance of a few showers Thursday decreasing Friday with an increasing chance of rain Saturday. Temperatures near to little below normal. High 5 to 8. Lows 0 to 3.

READINGS

	Max.	Min.	Prec.
St. John's	-11	-11	—
Halifax	-10	-10	—
Fredericton	-9	-9	—
Charlottetown	-10	-10	—
Montreal	-4	4.6	—
Ottawa	-3	2	—
Toronto	-15	trace	—
Thunder Bay	-1	-2	—
North Bay	-1	-2	—
Kenora	-8	-21	—
Winnipeg	-7	-20	—

Churchill	-19	-31	—
The Pas	-9	-24	—
Brandon	-6	-16	—
Regina	-2	-9	0.5
Saskatoon	-10	-15	—
Prince Albert	-9	-24	0.2
North Battleford	-12	-18	0.6
Swift Current	-1	-9	—
Medicine Hat	-2	-7	—
Lethbridge	-6	-6	—
Calgary	-4	-17	—
Edmonton	-10	-21	—

TIDES FOR MONTH OF JANUARY
(Tides listed are Pacific Standard Time)

Time	High	Time	High	Time	High	Time	High	Time	High
15 0215	7.20415	8.01105	9.51935	1.4	16 0245	7.40645	8.01150	9.62015	1.0
17 0600	8.21070	8.01240	9.62050	0.7	18 0620	8.31040	7.91240	9.42140	0.7
19 0650	8.31090	7.61440	9.12215	1.1					

TIDES AT SOOKE

Time	High	Time	High	Time	High	Time	High	Time	High
15 0045	7.11040	7.51025	10.11900	2.0	16 0225	7.51040	7.31110	10.31955	1.4
17 0250	7.61045	7.31105	10.31955	1.2	18 0320	7.81070	7.21245	10.32115	1.5
19 0405	8.01030	6.91345	10.02155	1.5					

TIDES AT FULFORD HARBOUR

Time	High	Time	High	Time	High	Time	High	Time	High
15 0505	10.20855	9.31300	10.52100	1.4	16 0530	10.61050	9.31345	10.52155	0.9
17 0605	11.01040	9.11450	10.42230	0.7	18 0640	11.21120	8.61550	10.32310	0.8
19 0715	11.31215	8.61650	10.12355	1.3					

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