

SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of the latest local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Press and Public Affairs Office as of:

Friday, April 02, 2004

The press clips are produced Monday to Friday.
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Issues At Stake

Liberia : Casting The First Stone .. The Taylors and Their Accomplices-Culled from the Vanguard Newspaper in Liberia.

Charles Ghankay Taylor will be a name long remembered in the minds of those who witnessed his over 14 years of cruel dominance of the Liberian political, social and economical lives. His place in the history books of this nation would be no more than that being occupied by Nazi leader, Adolph Hitler of the German Third Reich in World history. Taylor unrepentant style of leadership is concern to the entire world for the lethal damage brought on his compatriots and the people of Liberia's Western neighbor Sierra Leone. He led a banditry of murder, loot, rape, arson, and all forms of tolls that were either directly his makings or evolved out of his audacity to countenance brutal acts with impunity.

While the question of the conscience of the man Taylor became a major puzzle to humanity, just as was the case of Hitler half a century ago, his level of greed and insatiable want for wealth beat all human imagination. He could go to any latitude to obtain riches, if that meant support of a crime gang like the Revolutionary United Front, (RUF) which maimed, raped, murdered and amputated limbs of people in Sierra Leone, Taylor would show no remorse once diamonds were to come forth.

In his owned native Liberia where Taylor ruled for six years, from August 2, 1997 to August 11, 2003, following nearly eight years of a horrendous rebel war, he has left marks of pillaged resources, ruined public facilities, ravaged towns and cities, and a badly impoverished populace.

So bad is the post Taylor Liberia that the psychic mobility of the youth which make up a larger portion of Liberia's population leaves much to be desired. Young people have known no normality for so long that they see normality as abnormality, and the reverse.

Taylor's feat as is accomplished is not a one-man-show business. He has cronies, protege, henchmen, surrogates, and counterparts in his business. A few

of these have come to Liberia during the period as investors, and others were his compatriots who shared his dream of feudalizing not only his mother land, Liberia but to create fiefdoms with in the West African sub-region. Not wishing to see the times of civility roll back to the age of barbarism, the international community moved to halt the Taylor terror with a sanction regime comprising a travel ban on the then Liberian Leader, his wife and son and his accomplices. The damage, however, was done - in Liberia a mass of people faced starvation, primitivism, hopelessness, diseases and a collapsed society.

In Sierra Leone, hundreds of people live miserably lives with limbs hacked off, millions suffer poverty, thousands murdered, and the society there too collapsed.

Taylor and his accomplices aren't getting away free on all these. Interestingly, their billions of United States dollars store up in banks around the world as well as their physical assets, excluding those essential for basic living expenses will soon be converted for the Liberian people.

There isn't any numerical value placed on the amount of money that will accrue from the venture, it definitely will be in the billions. 191 countries around the world are partners in the search and seizure of the monies and properties of the Taylors and their accomplices by whom the people of Liberia were enslaved for decades.

The resolution from the UN sponsored by the United States of America requires "all countries to freeze funds, financial assets, and economic resources owned and controlled directly or indirectly" by Taylor, his wife Jewel Howard Taylor, and son, Charles Taylor, Jr. as well as others on the UN sanctions list.

One thing is at stake now in Liberia, the coun-

try, which stands to benefit from the overture; Liberia and Liberians, must show a better fight to a worthy cause by not only identifying Taylor's accomplices on the sanction list, but also being the first to seize properties and savings of these persons in and around the country. It is no secret who these persons are as the sanctions list is public document. The Transactional Government of Liberia (NTGL), would not be taken seriously and be judged to be working outside the resolution should there be delays in bringing up writs for search and seizure on banking institutions, for savings of listed persons, and moving quickly to seized the homes of the Taylors in Congo Town, and other mansions owned by listed persons which are found around the country.

More to this, a few of these persons are businessmen in the country with entrepreneurship or a partnership. It is important that the NTGL act in keeping with the latest UN resolution and take over companies or shares in companies owned and controlled by the listed persons of the sanctions list as is decreed by the said resolution.

If we need help, we must first help ourselves. It is good that Bryant and the NTGL let go the sentiments that bar them from taking such harsh decision, for to submit could be damning to the posterity of the nation.

For Bryant, especially, THE VANGUARD sees him as lending fertile ears to reports in the media and such of his part is civilized. We invoked conformity on the part of the Chairman to international norms, too. A hard point to consider is an order to the Ministry of Justice to commence legal ground works that will lead to the soonest freezing of funds, financial assets and economic resources owned and controlled directly and indirectly by those concerned.

Conscious Liberians and the civilized World are watching to see which course you'll take.

Prokel Times

1-2 April 2004

Court Begins Hearing Into Taylor Lawyers' Lawsuit

The Sierra Leone based UN-backed Special Court's chief prosecutor, David Crane and three other members of staff, the authority of the Liberian Justice Ministry and the magistrate of the Monrovia City Court appeared before the Criminal Court "A" in a summary proceedings case filed by a team of lawyers representing former president Charles Taylor.

The former president's lawyers filed a petition for summary proceedings against the Special Court in Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Justice and the presiding Magistrate of the Monrovia City Court contending that the search on the homes of their client is illegal.

Mr. Taylor's lawyers further argued in their petition that the Special Court in Sierra Leone has no jurisdiction over the territorial confines of Liberia and as such, the search was illegal. They also want properties taken away during the search to be returned.

According to Cllrs. Richard Flomo and Lavala Koboi Johnson, both of them are representing Mr. Taylor, the Special Court was only established to exercise jurisdiction in Sierra Leone, stressing that if it wanted to extend its operations to Liberia, a treaty must be signed between the two countries.

Lawyers from the Justice Ministry and Magistrate Joseph Fayiah which included Cllr. Theophilus Gould, Attorney Francis Sio and Cllr. Jerome Verdier, resisted the petitioner's petition.

They argued that the summary proceeding was prematurely filled with the court contrary to laws and practice.

The respondent counsels, prevailed on the court to dismiss the petition on grounds that it lacks substance and only intended to delay justice.

The lawyer further told the court in a six-count resistance, that giving attention to the petition will not advance the end of justice.

Presiding Criminal Court "A" judge yesterday entertained arguments in the proceeding from the respondent counsels on grounds that the petitioners were absent and as such, the court can not wait on them.

The petitioner lawyers had earlier informed the court that they were not issued any notice of assignment and as such, were unable to be on time in court. They claimed to have heard the notice on the case on the radio. As a result, they pleaded with the court to grant them 15 minutes to look at the respondents resistance.

It can be recalled that a write was issued by the Monrovia City Court granting permission to Mr. Allen White and his staff to search the home of Mr. Taylor.



Special Court Seeks Assembly Endorsement to Drag Taylor to Freetown

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

March 31, 2004

Posted to the web April 1, 2004

By Stanley McGill

Monrovia

Nets, to drag exiled former President Charles Taylor to the United Nations Special Court in Sierra Leone are gradually closing in as the Chief Prosecutor of the court has reportedly made representation to the Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA) seeking for some legislation in that direction.

The former Liberian President is facing indictment proceedings before the UN-backed Special Court for crimes he allegedly committed against the people of that neighboring State.

Taylor is accused of providing support to the rebels Revolutionary United Front (RUF) under the leadership of the late Foday Sankor, which committed atrocities against the people of Sierra Leone.

Since the indictment was issued, international pressure has been mounting to have Taylor taken to the Special Court. The Federal Republic of Nigeria, has vowed that it would not be pressured into surrendering Mr. Taylor to the International Criminal Court. Nigeria maintains that doing so at this time would be a betrayal of diplomatic confidence and that it could disturb the fragile peace process in Liberia.

The Government of President Olusegun Obasanjo has however made it known that it would turn Taylor over to the Liberian Government only when the Liberian people so desired.

Based upon this, Mr. Allan White, the Chief Prosecutor and proponent of the indictment against Taylor, is currently in the country to present a resolution to the Transitional Legislative Assembly to seek legislation that could mandate the Government of Charles Gyude Bryant to ask the Nigerian Government to extradite Taylor and turned him over to the Court in Freetown.

Mr. White, according to authoritative sources at the Capitol, has already presented the resolution to the leadership of the Assembly.

Details of the resolution are yet to be disclosed, but the sources insinuated that the issue is expected to be discussed by the Assembly members later this week or early next week.

If the issue is brought on the floor, it is likely to meet divided opinions among the lawmakers based on their respective political beliefs.

At the moment, the Assembly comprises representatives from the warring factions including the former regime of Taylor and the former ruling National Patriotic Party (NPP) as well as the various political parties and civil society groups.

Some members of the Assembly including Deputy Speaker Eddington Varmah and Assemblyman Francis Garlawulo have represented the legal interest of the Mr. Taylor at several proceedings since Taylor went into exile in August 2003.

However, it is widely believed that the resolution may be passed because, majority of the Assembly members are individuals who differ with Taylor's ideology when he was President.

In recent times, there has also been calls on the international community to delay the arrest of Taylor until the disarmament process in Liberia was over, as arresting him could jeopardize the process.

Taylor's indictment was made public in June 2003, while he and other Liberian stakeholders and warring factions were holding peace talks in the Ghanaian Capital, Accra.

He narrowly escaped international arrest through the intervention of other influential African Heads of State who were in Ghana at the time.

Source: News & Business > News > News, Most Recent 90 Days (English, Full Text) [i](#)

Terms: liberia for war and crimes against humanity. pressure mounts for taylors surrender ([Edit Search](#))

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The News (Nigeria) - AAGM March 29, 2004

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The News (Nigeria) - AAGM

March 29, 2004

LENGTH: 757 words

HEADLINE: FOR WAR AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY: PRESSURE MOUNTS FOR TAYLOR'S SURRENDER

BYLINE: George Bardue

BODY:

Pressure is being mounted at home for the **surrender** and subsequent trial of former President Charles **Taylor** at the UN-backed special court in Sierra Leone for his alleged complicity in **war crimes** and human rights abuses in that country.

Two pro-democracy institutions, "**Liberia** Democracy Watch" and the "Development and Educational Initiatives" have already petitioned the National Transitional Legislative Assembly for the adoption of a resolution endorsing, supporting and acknowledging the decision of the Transitional Government to assist the special court of Sierra Leone in executing its statutory duties.

The petition indicates that the Legislative Assembly adopts a resolution that would prevail and encourage Chairman Gyude Bryant to prevail on President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria to **surrender** Mr. **Taylor** to the special court for prosecution as justice and respect for the rule of law will dictate.

Cllr. Jerome Verdier and George Wah Williams, Executive Directors of the two pro-democracy groups respectively, petitioned the Assembly and pointed out that the Transitional Government was under moral and international obligation and duty to uphold the sanctity of international humanitarian laws and campaign against impunity in favor of democracy. They told the legislators that President Obasanjo has intimated and publicly declared that Mr. **Taylor** would only be turned over if the Liberian Government request Nigeria to do so, adding that the arrest and trial of **Taylor** is sine qua non to the attainment of lasting peace and security in **Liberia** and the entire West African subregion.

The group petition claimed that it has been established by the United Nations and international organizations that **Taylor** is still meddling in the internal politics of **Liberia**, something the petitioners said has negative impact on the trend of development in the peace process.

To demonstrate their seriousness in having **Taylor** prosecuted, the two pro-democracy groups also wrote Chairman Gyude Bryant requesting him to adopt a positive and unambiguous position on the **surrender of Taylor**.

The communication dated March 23, 2004 informed Chairman Bryant that the arrest and eventual prosecution of **Taylor** for **crimes** against **humanity** remain a condition precedent to peace and security in the Mano River Union Basin.

The letter cautioned Liberians against mincing their words on the issue of **Taylor's** trial or compromising with evil.

It is not known when the Assembly will introduce the petition for deliberations on **Taylor's** **surrender** as request by the pro-democracy groups.

Former President Charles **Taylor** was indicted in March 2003 by the special court in Sierra Leone along with an arrest warrant issued last June at the time **Taylor** had gone for a peace talk on **Liberia** in Ghana.

Taylor stands accused on 17 counts of **crimes** against **humanity**, genocide and violations of international humanitarian laws.

The former Liberian leader is alleged to have traded guns for illicit diamonds to prosecute the **war** in Sierra Leone.

The **war** in Sierra Leone terrorized the civilian population and inflicted collective punishment, unlawful killings, sexual violence, looting, forced labor and abduction of child soldiers into belligerent armies.

Amidst international **pressure** and rebels advances on Monrovia, **Taylor** resigned last August 11, and sought asylum in Calaba, Nigeria as part of a deal to bring peace and security to **Liberia** and West Africa.

But with the presence of **Taylor** in Nigeria, there continues to be claims within international and national circles that **Taylor** was still interfering in the internal politics on **Liberia**.

As a result of this, President Obasanjo has come under intense **pressure** from the international community to **surrender Taylor** for prosecution, but his administration has rejected such **pressures** saying that it will no bow to **pressure**.

President Obasanjo promised to protect **Taylor** as long as **Taylor** remains within the confines of the asylum agreement.

According to the agreement, **Taylor** is not to interfere with Liberian politics and he is also not to make press statements apparently to avoid passing comments on crucial nation and subregional issues that could undermine his asylum status.

However, **Taylor** is still seen as a threat to national and regional security, and recently, the United Nations updated its international travel ban list of individuals who are believed to be in ongoing contacts with him.

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Kabbah Declared

Man Of Peace

...At Liberia's Kakatonom Peace Carnival

Liberia National Transitional Government President, Gyude Bryant, has told his countrymen, particularly ex-combatants not to rely on the barrel of the gun for survival. Bryant was speaking at the crowded Antoinette Tubman Stadium in Monrovia on the occasion of the Kakatonom (We Are One) peace festival hosted between March 13-16 and which attracted musicians from Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Guinea, Ghana and Ivory Coast.

He referred to the occasion as great and thanked the various sub-regional nationalities whom he described as "brothers and sisters" for taking time off their schedules to come and promote peace in Liberia. Bryant observed that many of the sub-regional artists had visited Liberia before amidst war and risks. And such visits showed the love they had for their brothers and sisters in Liberia.

Bryant described the Kakatonom carnival as a celebration of peace and awareness of HIV/AIDS. And took the opportunity to appeal to ex-combatants to turn in their weapons, learn new skills and live decent lives.

Also at the carnival, special mention was made of President Kabbah who was described as a man of peace with specific reference for his tireless effort in ensuring lasting peace in Sierra Leone. The Liberians are hoping to emulate his example.

Dr. Kofi Annan's Special Representative in Liberia, Mr Jacques Klein, thanked the people of Liberia and the entire West Africa for their interest in the Liberian peace process. He urged the combatants to be committed to the peace process so that their country does not slip back into chaos. He confidently stated that the peace process was irreversible.

The first to arrive in Liberia for the carnival was Nigerian female artist, Steph Nora. And she was at the Roberts International Airport in Monrovia together with other dignitaries to receive the Sierra Leonean delegation who were airlifted from Freetown by a UN plane. In the delegation were Jimmy who was given a standing ovation by members of his club clad in T-Shirts with inscription We Love You.

Businessman and philanthropist Michael Lamin Bangura, whose presence was highly recognised and musician Raymond Shaynon known popularly as BREEZE.

All the invitees were formally briefed on arrival by UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador for West and Central Africa, Madam Julie Endy before they were presented and introduced to Liberia's Minister of Information, Tourism and Culture and who in turn welcomed the guests to Liberia. He reminded them that his country had just emerged from a civil war. The Liberian Civil Society and the press came in for special commendation by the Minister for making contributions towards the attainment of peace in Liberia. The Minister said the efforts of the United Nations Mission in Liberia were overwhelming in the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Resettlement process. He attributed the Kakatonom peace carnival to the collective efforts of the United Nations, the government of Liberia and the Liberian civil society including the press, artists and other Liberian nationals. The minister said the Kakatonom carnival was roundly supported because the UN and the government of Liberia believed that Music would play a pivotal role in the peace process. The UN and the Liberian government involved sub-regional artists in this process to show Liberians that the entire sub-region was interested in the consolidation of peace. He also called for the re-establishment of the Mano River Union cultural exchange programme.

Endy had earlier suggested the drafting of a sub-regional communique to re-establish the cultural exchange programme. She also stated her delight in the attainment of lasting peace in Liberia and the entire sub-region.

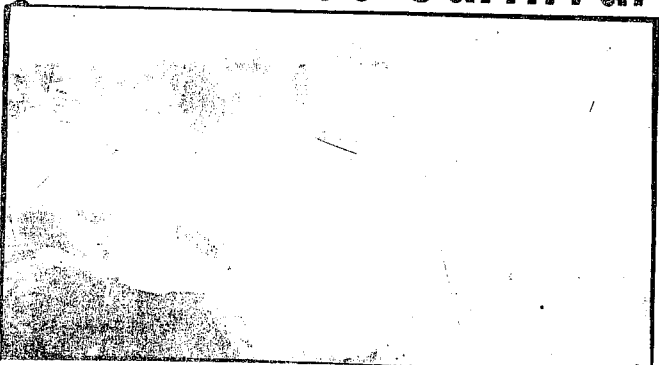
Sponsors of the carnival, LBDI, one of the three banks currently operating in Liberia and who are also representatives of Western Union Money Transfer donated US\$4,500 and its Chief Executive at a meeting with all the guests at his office made it known that that was the first time they have received such high profile delegation comprising musicians. Each of the female artists took turns to sing songs in praise of Western Union in their various languages.

A lantern parade and a mas-

querade through the streets of Liberia climaxed the carnival. And celebrants in their thousands danced their way to the Antoinette Tubman Stadium. Statements were also made by Mr. Wesley Johnson, Liberia's Vice President, Health Minister Dr Peter Coleman, the DDRR Chairman Mr. Jabon, Civil Society Movement (CSM) of Sierra Leone Chief Parton Michael Lamin Bangura and the CSM Liberia Head Hon Saah Philip Joe.

The DDR chairman welcomed the celebrants and stated that his organization had received cooperation from all warring factions in Liberia. He expressed his gratitude to the United Nations, the government of Liberia, the Kakatonom organizers and the sub-regional artists for their efforts in consolidating peace.

Health Minister, Dr. Peter Coleman, said he was satisfied with the events that had



taken place over the past two days. He also stated his delight in the full participation of sub-regional artists and civil society movements in the consolidation of peace in Liberia.

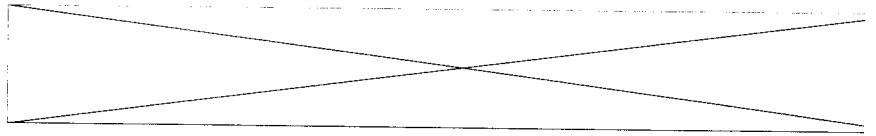
The Civil Society Chairman in Liberia and Member of Senate, Hon Saah Philip Joe, thanked his counterparts in the sub-region and all participating artists. He said they

had shown real love for their brothers and sisters in Liberia. He also thanked the LBDI chairman for the contribution made by his bank towards the realization of the carnival.

Chairman of the Steering committee of the carnival, Dr. Peter Coleman, received commendation from the Liberia nation and other nationalities from the sub-region for the success of the carnival.

The Chairman of the Liberian Federation of Transport Union, Mr. Mensah and other Liberian dignitaries witnessed the carnival.

The carnival was the joint effort of National Transitional Government, Crusaders of Peace and the United Nations Mission in Liberia to raise awareness about the peace process, HIV/AIDS, and the DDRR.



You Are the Hope of Liberians Jack Klein Reminds Peacekeepers

The NEWS (Monrovia)

NEWS

April 1, 2004

Posted to the web April 1, 2004

By Stanley McGill

Monrovia

When the battles to oust the regime of now exiled former President Charles Taylor encroached on Monrovia, the ordinary citizens stranded in chaos and humanitarian disaster. Little did Liberians know that their hopes would have been revived.

As the bloody battles raged, West African leaders, with the help of the United Nations and the United States Government, arranged a Vanguard Force comprising of soldiers from Nigeria and later from the sub-region to create a buffer in Monrovia between the warring parties.

Among the Vanguard Force were contingents from Mali and Senegal. In view of the brave role they played during the recent period of uncertainty in Liberia, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) recognized them Wednesday and gave them their flowers.

UN Secretary General Special Representative in Liberia Jacques Paul Klein also recognized the roles Mali and Senegal have played in UN peacekeeping missions around the world.

On the Malian note, Ambassador Klein recalled that Mali proudly served in nine United Nations operations including the Congo and Angola and now Liberia.

For Senegal, he recalled that Senegalese should also be proud of their contributions to international peace and security.

He said Senegal has taken part in UN missions in 11 peacekeeping operations since 1960, in countries such as Egypt, Lebanon and the Congo and currently in Liberia.

Ambassador Klein said Mali and Senegal, along with other nations of West Africa, as members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), assisted in stabilizing Monrovia during the turbulent months of August and September 2003, as part of ECOMIL.

Noting that the two contingents were a vital part of the UN operations in Liberia, Ambassador Klein told the soldiers that their experience and dedication in the service of peace was crucial to the success of the United Nations in Liberia.

He said the presence of the soldiers, as part of UNMIL, is a proof that the international community was engaged in Africa, specifically Liberia. Pointing at the gallant French-speaking soldiers, Ambassador Klein said, "you are the face of UNMIL; everyday you undertake your responsibilities with professionalism; you patrol your areas of responsibility through static and mobile patrols that, together with your comrades from 45 other countries, ensure safety and security for the people of Liberia."

He reminded the soldiers that they were the hope of Liberians, and that their daily contacts with the citizens send the message that there is a future for them.

"A future of stability, economic recovery and social justice" Klein emphasized, adding that without social and economic security there can be no lasting peace.

The UN Ambassador however pointed out that before this can happen, combatants must be disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated into the civil society. He said it is based upon this that UNMIL developed the DDRR program not only on disarmament, but also on reintegration and rehabilitation.

The honoring program was interspersed with cultural displays of the two countries.

The occasion witnessed by diplomats as well as members of the United family and friends.

The ceremony was climaxed with an elaborate reception at the Monrovia City Hall.

Europe backs African army plan

Africa is looking to Europe for increased assistance at a high-level meeting to begin in Ireland. Africa will be asking for financial support for a wide range of projects envisaged by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), but at least as important will be

discussions on security matters. African leaders are determined to try to end their continent's reputation as a giant crippled by endless civil wars and military coups. For the last two years they have been developing a co-ordinated response to the problems of insecurity. Earlier this month the

African Union elected the continent's first ever Peace and Security Council - a body designed to oversee Africa's military needs. Five regional representatives will co-ordinate brigade-strength rapid reaction forces - although these will take years to develop. The Nigerian role in sending

peacekeeping troops to Liberia and South Africa's part in providing troops in Burundi are seen as models for future action. The whole concept has the backing of the US, which has promised training and support. Now the European Union has come in behind the proposal - promising \$300m of aid.



The US is set to provide training for an African defence force

Training of the future force will be co-ordinated by the Kofi Annan Centre, which has recently been established in Ghana. Together these measures should help Africa mend its own fences, rather than relying on international help to solve its conflicts.

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UNAMSIL

now stays

until 2005

United Nations Security Council is not convinced that despite all the resources and time spent on retraining the Sierra Leone army and the recent massive recruitment of police personnel, they are in the position now to take over full control of security across the country.

It is in the light of this that the Security Council voted unanimously on Wednesday to extend the mandate of UNAMSIL until 2005. No specified date was mentioned.

The peacekeeping outfit which is currently scaling down its operations here as part of its phase draw down plan, was scheduled to finally pull out of Sierra Leone at the end of this year, but the UN have now had a change of heart. Even before this, President Kabbah had formally requested the UN to maintain a small force of about 500 in Sierra Leone after its final withdrawal at the end of this year.

The Security Council further argued that it wants to maintain its peacekeepers here until disarmament in Liberia is completed.

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