

NUKE INFO TOKYO

Mar./Apr. 1988

No. 4

96 Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

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More Than 3,000 People Protest Against Test at Ikata

Since the electrical energy produced in Japan now exceeds demand, and the construction of yet more nuclear power stations is planned, it has become imperative for the power companies to find a way to regulate supply. Tests have begun, reducing power to 50%, with a view to doing this on a regular basis to respond to fluctuations in demand (load following operation). Increasing public awareness of the dangers involved in the rapid change of output has led to a wave of protests.

In October 1987 it was revealed by Shikoku Electric Power Company that a test had already been carried out earlier that month at Ikata No.2 reactor in Ehime Prefecture. On 3 consecutive days output was reduced to 50% over a period of 3 hours, held at this level for 6 hours, then raised back to 100% over a further 3 hours. Fear grew among the public because such an operation involves



complex procedures including manual control and thus increases the likelihood of an accident. Also rapid variation of reactor power may damage fuel.

A second test was to be carried out at Ikata in mid-February. This time, power was to be reduced and increased over periods of only 1 hour each. Citizens' groups and individuals decided to try and stop the test. A petition was drawn up and over 600,000 signatures collected by 25 January, when a demonstration was held in Takamatsu. Supporters came from as far away as Tokyo and Okinawa.

Women are playing a leading role in this campaign, and over 70%

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of those taking part in the demonstration were women, many with children at their sides or babies on their backs. The atmosphere was festive, with participants dancing, singing or playing drums. People who might have felt alienated by a more austere demonstration became interested, and by the time the demonstrators reached the offices of Shikoku Electric Power Company their numbers had increased from about 500 to over 1,000.

After a long wait, the citizens were granted one hour of discussion. The company representative who spoke to them had no knowledge of accidents which had taken place at other plants. A paper allegedly containing data on an accident at Tsuruga was blacked out and illegible. The representative said that, not being God, he couldn't guarantee 100% safety, but that since the reactor was different from the one at Chernobyl, it was safe.

An hour later it was announced that the test would go ahead. Unsatisfied, about 150 demonstrators spent the night in the building. After plain-clothes policemen had taken photographs, riot police and the Superintendent of Takamatsu police had arrived and they had been threatened with arrest, the demonstrators cleaned the rooms and left.

Emphasis was placed on peacefulness and cleanliness. Demonstrators were requested to leave the park where they assembled cleaner than it was before they arrived, and to be polite and non-aggressive in individual contact with police or electricity company employees.

The campaign continued, with its immediate aim the cancellation of the test at Ikata, but with more and more people now convinced of the threat to our future posed by nuclear power. New citizens' groups were formed, at town and prefectural level, and lectures and discussions were held.

On 9 February Shikoku Electric Power Company announced that the test would be conducted on 12 February beginning at 9 am, an hour

before the demonstrators were due to assemble. A group from Kyushu, "We want to live without nuclear power," with Mrs. Ohara as their spokeswoman, repeatedly asked Shikoku Electric Power Company for a meeting, but without success.

On 11 February about 3,000 people gathered in Takamatsu Central



Park to express their feelings about the test at Ikata and about nuclear power, with speeches, plays, dancing and singing.

By 7 am on 12 February several hundred people had already gathered outside the gates of Shikoku Electric Power Company. Employees who arrived after this time were prevented from entering, and by 9 am the crowd had swelled to around 1,000. When the test began, several hundred people staged a "die-in" in the road. 200 riot police were mobilized and many people were pushed and handled with unnecessary violence, including some with children on their backs. Several people were taken to police vans, but then released. One was handcuffed, but managed to escape.

The street parade was abandoned: Demonstrators, now numbering around 3,000, paraded round in front of the building, dancing and chanting. Young children sang versions of well-known songs through a loudspeaker. The announcement that

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Radiation Council OKs Dumping of "Low-Level" Radwaste

The Radiation Council has agreed, in principle, to "redefine" its radioactive waste disposal regulations. "Redefining" means removing all items below a certain radiation level from the list of items subject to the radwaste disposal regulations. The power companies and the nuclear energy lobby have been pressuring for "redefining" so that radwaste can be dumped cheaply and easily. Already in 1985 the Nuclear Safety Commission set out a basic proposal for "redefining", which has recently been formally approved by the Radiation Council. Furthermore, it is becoming possible for radwaste to be dumped in places without any special facilities for storage or disposal. The radwaste may even be recycled.

The Radiation Council proposes that:

- 1) Radiation risks in the order of magnitude of 10^{-6} per person annually may be disregarded.
- 2) Based on a postulated level of risk from multiple sources, any risk of 10^{-7} or less from a single source can be neglected.
- 3) An exposure of 1 millirem (10 μ Sv) or less per year, corresponding to the above risk probability, may be disregarded when applying the radwaste regulations.

With "redefining" the government and the power companies have the following objectives in mind:

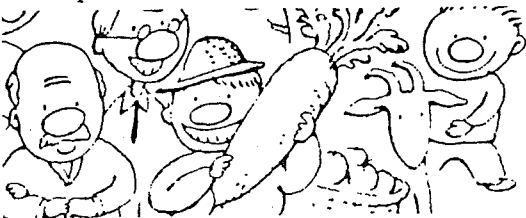
- a) Simplification of the burying method of certain "extremely low level" solid radwastes packed in drums;

- b) Deregulation of most of the wastes produced in the decommissioning of nuclear reactors to allow the possibility of recycling these wastes: concrete blocks might be used for land fill while metal parts might be reused as components of other machines.

b) above is particularly significant. Decommissioning a whole nuclear power plant produces 60-70 tons of waste. The recent decision of the Radiation Council authorizes the horrendous plan of dumping this radwaste as if it were ordinary industrial waste and even recycling part of it.

We believe that "redefining" is highly questionable because:

- 1) To legalize the deregulation of a certain level of radiation leads to the concept of a "safe level of radiation."
- 2) Recent re-evaluation of the radiation effects due to the A-bombs shows that the carcinogenic effect of "low-level" radiation is much greater than so far assumed. The Radiation Council and ICRP (International Commission on Radiation Protection) use an out-dated theory to claim that 1 millirem per year corresponds to a risk probability as low as 10^{-7} per person annually;
- 3) In order to carry out the actual disposal of radwastes, the "lower limit" of 1 millirem per year has to be applied to certain concentrations of radioactivity within the waste. This, however, cannot be done exactly. Furthermore, certain types of nuclides are difficult to measure and therefore it is highly probable that "redefining" leaves waste materials with a dangerous level of radiation "accidentally." □



ICRP Publication 26 to Be Adopted in Japan

The Japanese Government has officially decided to incorporate the 1977 recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) into the domestic system, and related regulations will be promulgated in the near future. The recommendations described in ICRP publication 26 have been debated in Japan for several years. The new system is to become effective next year. The adoption of Publication 26 may create problems, since it will result in a relaxation of standards for protecting nuclear plant workers from radiation, and since it is based on now-outdated radiation risk estimates. The new standards differ from the former standards in the following aspects:

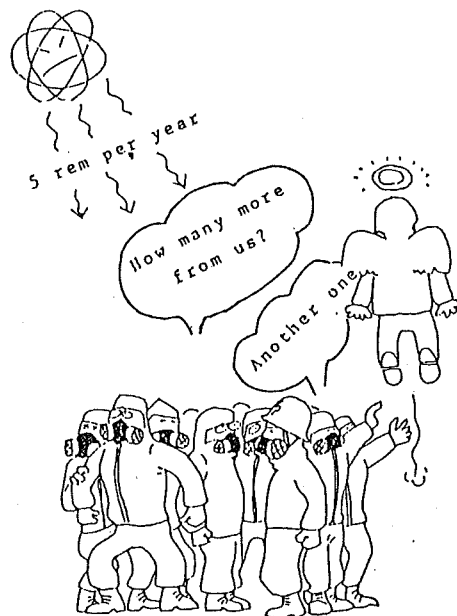
- 1) introduction of the concept of effective dose equivalent
- 2) adoption of 1 mSv (=100 mrem)/y dose limit for exposure of the general public
- 3) adoption of a 50 mSv per year dose limit for occupational exposure (currently 3 rem per 3 months and 5(N-18) rem for a cumulative dose where N stands for age of the person).
- 4) adoption of a 150 mSv per year dose limit for crystalline lenses and 500 mSv for other organs and tissues.
- 5) division of workers into two categories according to working conditions: a) those whose dose is likely to exceed 15 mSv per year and b) those whose dose is not. For workers in category b), health examinations will be eliminated or simplified.

The government wants to give the impression that radiation regulations will be tightened, by adoption of the ICRP's 1985 decision, made at its Paris meeting, which set a 1 mSv dose limit for the general public. However, the

government's intention on the whole is to relax or simplify regulations and protective measures under the name of "optimization" of cost efficiency. Thus it aims at the benefit of the employer rather than the protection of workers. What the government is really aiming at is to assign the workers who will be mobilized in dismantling of decommissioned reactors to category b). This will simplify protective measures for workers and will thus greatly reduce the cost of decommissioning.

Furthermore, introduction of an effective dose equivalent will result in the underevaluation of radiation doses. A 50 mSv per year dose limit for occupational exposure is also controversial in view of the recent move to reassess underlying risk estimates.

The editor would appreciate any information concerning the treatment of ICRP Publication 26 and regulations for the decommissioning of reactors (waste disposal and workers' radiation standards) in other countries. □



Anti-Nuke Who's Who



Mr. Takashi Masukura
of Nami'e, FUKUSHIMA

In Nami'e, Fukushima Prefecture, there is a strong anti-nuke movement, which has successfully prevented the implementation of plans for the construction of a nuclear power plant. It is not a radical movement, but steady and consistent. Residents in the proposed area have been refusing to sell their land to the prefectural Land Development Corporation and the utility company, Tohoku Power Company. The central figure in this group of residents is Takashi Masukura.

The group relies on the one simple strategy that, "as long as no land is sold, no nuclear power plant will be built." Mr. Masukura and his group established three guiding principles:

1. No sales of land for nuclear power plant construction
2. No negotiation or meeting with the prefectural or municipal government or the Land Development Corporation
3. No common front with political parties.

Masukura refuses to meet with anybody from the government or corporation because he knows he may start to feel sympathetic towards them once he meets with them. At

the entrance of his house he has erected a board stating that "nobody from the utility company, the prefectural or municipal governments, or the Land Development Corporation is allowed to enter."

He keeps himself busy attending symposiums on nuclear power all over the prefecture, reading related books, and producing and distributing leaflets which point out the contradictions in the booklets handed out by the utility company and the prefectural government.

In the nearby town there are Fukushima I & II nuclear power stations, where as many as ten reactors are in operation. Masukura once worked as a subcontracted laborer when Fukushima power station was under construction. He wanted to find out what nuclear power plants were like and realized they could never be safe.

Due to the successful campaign he and his group have been waging, the planned scale of the Nami'e nuclear power station has been reduced from four reactors to just one. Even with this one reactor the utility company has not been able to settle on a concrete plan for construction. The plan was disclosed on January 5, 1968 and within two days Masukura formed a group to fight it. The success of the group owes a lot to Masukura's quick action and the long and persistent protest that his group has conducted.

Masukura is a farmer and believes that his ancestors are living in the soil. He is committed not to selling the land that his ancestors have passed down to him. He always says "I may have a right to sell the land, but I can never have the right to sell the future of our children and grand children." □



ANTI-NUKE GROUPS

ACTIVE AROUND JAPAN

Plaintiffs Against Ikata Nuclear Power Plant

We, as people living in the vicinity of Ikata nuclear power plant, have actively opposed the plant since 1969. In spite of our protests, two 565 MW reactors are now in operation and Cobalt-60 has been found in sludge near the plant site.

At present we are engaged in administrative litigation to obtain cancellation of the building permit. The building permit for the No. 1 reactor was issued in November 1972 and in August of the following year 35 residents, mostly farmers and fishermen living within a 30 km radius of the plant, filed a lawsuit.

We claimed the safety review, on which the building permit was based, was biased. Five years later, in April 1978, an unjustifiable ruling was handed down to the effect that the plant "would not pose any hazard, even in the event of a core meltdown." It was just a year after this ruling that the core meltdown occurred in the No. 2 reactor at Three Mile Island.

We immediately appealed, but the high court judge suddenly announced the conclusion of the trial in the middle of the hearing. His ruling, that there was "no relevant relation between the Ikata No. 1 and TMI No. 2 reactors, since the design is different" was again quite illogical. It was a year and eight months later that the Chernobyl reactor, which is quite different in design from TMI, exploded.

It has been 4 years since we appealed to the supreme court, but no ruling has yet been handed down.

While we were fighting the No. 1 plant, the No. 2 plant was planned and a permit was issued in March, '77, ignoring strong opposition from the residents. Believing that inspection procedures were flouted once again to obtain the building permit for the No. 2 reactor, 52 local residents filed another suit in June, '78. We deliberately hired no lawyers this time so that we, the plaintiffs, could take part in the oral proceedings directly with the government, the defendants. This means that we have had to prepare all the necessary papers for the trial ourselves. Obviously it has not been easy for us to enter into a debate with the government on equal terms, since they have access to so much legal and scientific expertise. However, we know that the truth will serve us better than any amount of information or the participation of high-status scientists. Accidents are occurring one after another at nuclear power stations in Japan as well as in the rest of the world. It is this reality that our beliefs are based on. We believe there will always be the possibilities of accidents occurring and accidents have occurred in the past. We are pledged to continue fighting, until all nuclear weapons are destroyed and all nuclear power stations demolished. □



**NEWS
WATCH**

Two Recirculation Pumps Fail Simultaneously at Hamaoka Unit 1

Both of the two recirculation pumps in the primary coolant circuit of the Hamaoka Unit 1 (BWR 540 MWe) reactor in Shizuoka Prefecture stopped on Feb. 1st due to the failure of an electromagnetic relay in the power line. Normal safety considerations suggest that failure of the two pumps should have resulted in an emergency shutdown. But the reactor did not stop automatically, nor did the operating crew respond quickly to shut down the reactor manually. The reactor was kept operating at a reduced power level for about 12 hours.

According to the safety report prepared by the Chubu Electric Power Company for the licensing of the plant, simultaneous failure of two recirculation pumps "should be impossible." While the motors of the two pumps were indeed connected to separate power lines, the switches protecting the motors from overheating were fed by the same power line, and this failed due to the burning of the coils of a relay. The incident is a typical example of the so-called "common mode failure" which might, in a more unfavorable sequence, lead to a serious accident. □

Fire at Fukushima 1 Plant

On January 13 a fire broke out in the air conditioner room of the turbine building at the Fukushima I Unit 6 reactor. The fire started in

the air filters attached to the feed air inlet of the air conditioner and blazed for about 50 min., destroying all 72 filters, made of polyester and glasswool, until it was extinguished by local firemen. Though the turbine building is situated outside the reactor building, it receives radioactive steam directly from the core and constitutes an important part of the boiling water reactor plant. There was also a fire in the turbine building of the Fukushima I Unit 1 plant two years ago. Though the frequent fires in the turbine buildings themselves pose a serious safety problem, what was especially controversial on this occasion was that the operation of the reactor was not stopped while the fire was being put out. □

Successive Shutdowns at Tsuruga Plant

On March 4, Unit 2 of the Tsuruga Plant (PWR; 1,100 MWe) scrambled due to "human error" and on the following day one of the three recirculation pumps failed in Unit 1 (BWR; 357 MWe) of the same plant. The first event occurred when an operator was checking the electric circuits of the neutron monitor. The operator erroneously disconnected two monitors simultaneously, which triggered the automatic shutdown. The Unit 1 reactor was stopped manually on March 7. The cause of the recirculation pump failure was later identified as malfunctioning of a semiconductor in the control circuit. □

Control Rod Defects Found at Ikata

According to the interim report of the periodic inspection of Ikata Unit 1 (PWR; 560 MWe), defects including deformation and wearing have been found on the surfaces of all 464 control rods. Shikoku Electric Power Company has replaced 12 control rod clusters (192 rods) with serious deformations. □

2,000 in Protest at Nuke Plant Hearing

Hokuriku Electric Company is planning to build its first nuclear power plant in the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture. The Company has been laying the groundwork for construction since last November, though it has not managed to obtain all the land in the proposed site.

On February 24 the Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC) held the second public hearing at the city hall in Shiga, Ishikawa Prefecture under heavy riot police guard. The first public hearing sponsored by the government was held in September 1986. These hearings, however, are mere token procedures, to give the public the impression that the government and utility companies are going through "democratic" channels. Opponents of the construction plan have either boycotted the hearings or staged demonstrations. This time more than 2,000 people gathered and held a demonstration outside the hall.

If approved, the Noto plant will be the first nuclear plant to be constructed in Japan since the Chernobyl accident. The nuclear lobby is seeing this project in Noto as a means of breaking through the stalemate which has arisen with mounting anti-nuclear sentiment. □

Mutsu Conducts Tests at Its New Port

On January 27 Japan's first and only nuclear-powered ship, the Mutsu, arrived at its new home, Sekinehama Port on the Shimokita Peninsula, at the northern tip of mainland Honshu. The Mutsu has been out of commission since a radiation leak occurred during its maiden voyage in 1974.

The Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI), which owns the ship, has started to conduct various tests, such as raising the reactor's temperature and pressure to simulate operating conditions. They plan to increase power as well. Since the nuclear fuel and control rods have been out of operation for more than thirteen years, these tests are likely to be quite dangerous.

After a series of tests, the Mutsu will be used in a one-year experimental voyage in fiscal 1990, after which it is to be scrapped.

The Sekinehama Fishing Cooperative passed a resolution at their general meeting on March 6, opposing the output-increase test and the discharge of radioactive waste into the sea. □

Kubokawa Mayor Abandons Plan

The mayor of Kubokawa, Susumu Fujito, announced on January 28 the abandonment of his plan to invite the utility company to build a nuclear power station in the town. He also resigned from office the next day.

In March 1981 Fujito was ousted due to the strong anti-nuclear movement in the town. However, he was elected again in April when he promised voters that he would set up a referendum system.

Electricity demand has not increased for the last several years
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Chernobyl Anniversary Rally in Tokyo Hopes to Receive Messages From The World

As we announced in our previous newsletter, there will be a national rally in Tokyo on April 23-24 to commemorate the Chernobyl accident. Since the accident quite a few new people have become active in the anti-nuclear movement. We expect to draw 10,000 people and it looks as if there may be even more.

On April 23 we will have meetings with government officials from various ministries in the morning and seminars in the afternoon on different aspects of nuclear energy as well as on new and creative ways to stop it.

On 24 there will be a rally and a festival with music, theater and dances. Then we will be marching through one of the busiest streets in Tokyo.

Two guest speakers will be participating in the rally, Peter Weish from Austria and Pal Doj from Lapland. We would also welcome solidarity messages or reports on anti-nuclear activities from groups abroad, so that we can read them out at the rally.

KUBOKAWA MAYOR ABANDONS PLAN

Continued from page 8
and Shikoku Electric Power Company, which owns Ikata nuclear power station, has become more cautious in its plans to build new plants, especially in localities where the anti-nuclear movement is strong.

On March 20 the people of Kubokawa elected a new anti-nuke mayor, putting an end to the eight year long nuclear plant controversy.

Please send any such messages to:
1988 National Rally Steering Committee
c/o Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

MORE THAN 3,000 PEOPLE...

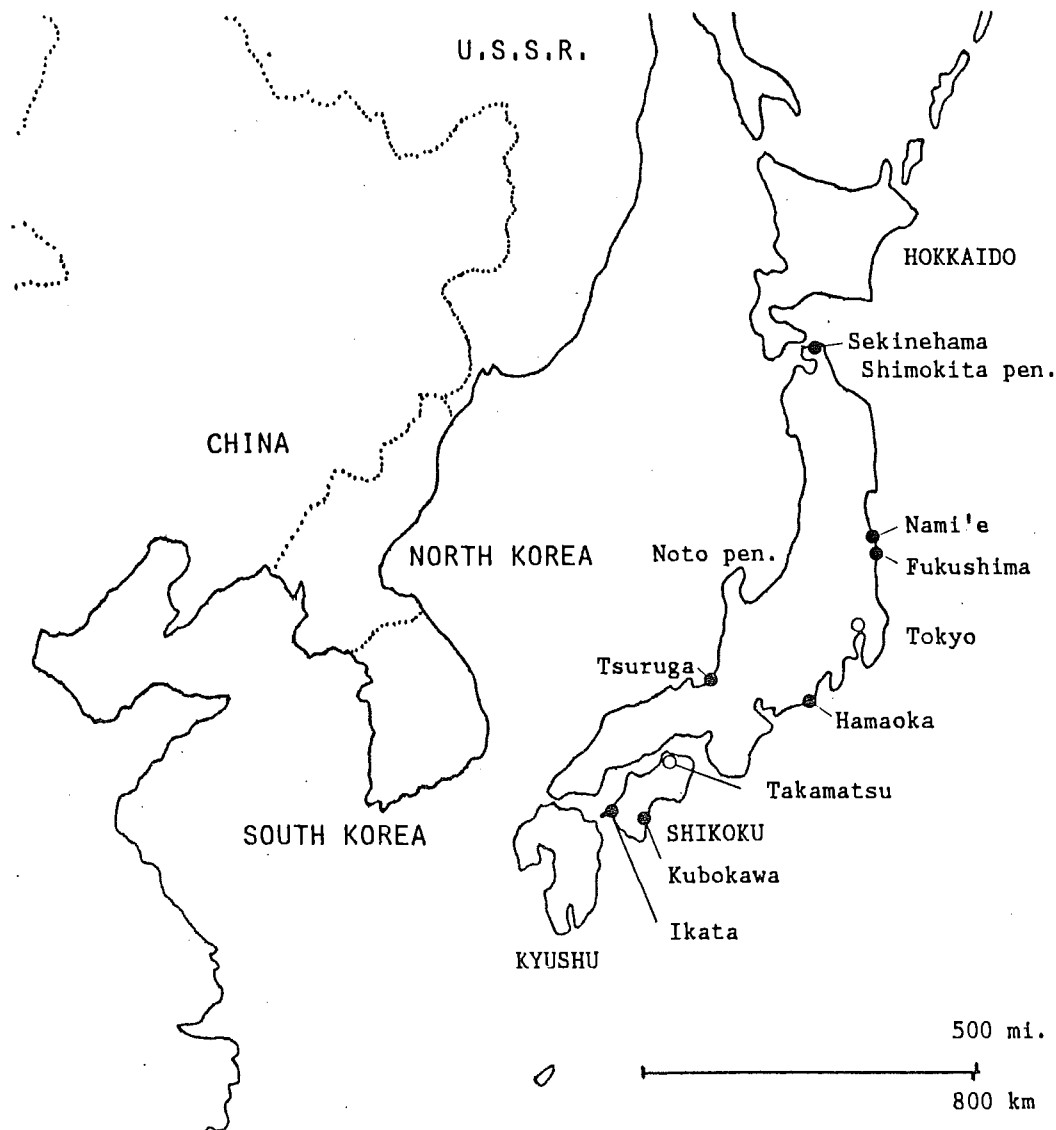
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1 million signatures had been collected was greeted with cheers.

Housewives, children, elderly and handicapped people took part. For many people it was the first demonstration of their lives. Citizens of all ages and many backgrounds were united in their conviction that nuclear power is a threat to our future.

The action, whilst failing to stop the test altogether, did achieve some success in several ways. Local campaigning, wide press and television coverage drew attention to the problem. The peacefulness of the demonstrations gave the movement a positive image. Many people became interested and involved for the first time.

Although Shikoku Electric Power Company went ahead with the test, they did change their plans. Output was reduced and increased over periods of 3 hours instead of 1. The test was performed on 1 day only, instead of on 3 consecutive days, as planned. This may well have been a response to pressure from the campaign.

Rosalind Bedlow
Nuclear Free Future Zentsuji
(Zentsuji datsu genshiryoku no kai)



NUKE INFO TOKYO is a bi-monthly newsletter which aims to provide foreign friends with up-to-date information on the Japanese nuclear industry, as well as on the movements against this industry in Japan. Please write to us for subscription (subscription rate: \$60/year). We would also appreciate receiving information and newsletters from groups abroad in exchange for this newsletter.

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