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FM HONG KONG 290940Z SEP 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1443 OF 29 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT OFFICE LONDON, PEKING,
UKMIS NEW YORK (FOR S OF S PARTY), WASHINGTON (FOR PS TO PM)
INFO ROUTINE HK GOVT REPS WASHINGTON, CG NEW YORK, UKMIS GENEVA,
BRUSSELS

FUTURE OF HONG KONG: PRESS COVERAGE.

1. THE MAIN STORY IN TODAY'S INDEPENDENT PRESS WAS THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY MR LUCE YESTERDAY EVENING. THREE POINTS WERE HIGHLIGHTED:

(A) MR LUCE'S REITERATION OF HMG'S FIRM COMMITMENT TO SEARCH FOR A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO BRITAIN, CHINA AND THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

(B) HIS REMARK THAT COMMENTS BY CHINESE OFFICIALS ON THE BRITISH POSITION WERE UNHELPFUL.

(C) HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF EXCO WOULD ACCOMPANY ME TO LONDON NEXT WEEK.

2. THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN LITTLE COMMENT BY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS. WAH KIU YAT PO REGARDED MR LUCE'S REMARKS AS A BOOST TO CONFIDENCE WHILST EDITORIALS IN THE FINANCIAL DAILY AND MING PAO URGED BRITAIN AND CHINA TO AGREE ON CONCRETE MEASURES TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE IN HONG KONG'S FUTURE.

3. THE LEADING COMMUNIST PAPERS (TA KUNG PAO AND WEN WEI PO) GAVE THE PRESS CONFERENCE ROUTINE COVERAGE ON THEIR BACK PAGES. THESE WERE LARGELY FACTUAL REPORTS. IN HIS EDITORIAL TA KUNG PAO ARGUED THAT MR LUCE'S VISIT WAS PART OF BRITAIN'S TACTIC TO PLAY THE 'PUBLIC OPINION CARD'. ALTHOUGH HE HAD MADE MUCH PLAY OF LISTENING TO THE VIEWS OF VARIOUS COMMUNITY GROUPS, THESE WERE ALL UNDER THE CONTROL OF OR SET UP BY THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT. THE EDITORIAL DENIED THAT CHINA HAD BREACHED CONFIDENTIALITY IN THE TALKS SO FAR. A SHORT COMMENTARY IN WEN WEI PO SAID IT WAS THE BRITISH, NOT THE CHINESE, SIDE WHICH HAD TALKED TOO MUCH IN PUBLIC. IT CITED AS EXAMPLES REMARKS MADE BY HONG KONG 'COUNCILLORS'

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(NOT SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED BUT BY IMPLICATION, SIR S.Y. CHUNG AND THE URBAN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, HILTON CHEONG-LEEN). THE COMMENTARY JUSTIFIED CHINESE STATEMENTS BY THE NEED TO DISTINGUISH "RIGHT FROM WRONG" WHICH HAD MADE NECESSARY "CLARIFICATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS".

YOUDE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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HD/PLANNING STAFF

HD/PUSD

PS

PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS

MR JAMES

MR GIFFARD

MR DONALD

MR WRIGHT

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MR MARTIN ASSESSMENTS STAFF
CABINET OFFICE

MR FLOWER PUSD

MR COLES NO 10 DOWNING STREET

SIR A PARSONS NO 10 DOWNING STREET

MR WALKER RESEARCH D OAB 2/82

HONG KONG GOVT. OFFICE, LONDON

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Hong-kong:

Text agreed
~~the~~ reply sent via
RMC/MZ

DRAFT PRESS NOTICE WHICH ROGER BONE WOULD LIKE JOHN COLES' APPROVAL ON -
THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAS ALREADY APPROVED IT

As a further step in the continuing process of consultation on the future of Hong Kong the Governor of Hong Kong, accompanied by the unofficial members of the Executive Council will visit London on 6 - 8 October. While in London they expect to call on the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Minister responsible for Hong Kong in the Foreign Office, Mr. Richard Luce.

28 September 1983

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DESKBY 290100Z
FM FCO 281700Z SEP 83
TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG
TELEGRAM NUMBER 986 OF 28 SEPTEMBER
INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR)
YOUR TELECON WITH CLIFT: VISIT TO LONDON BY EXCO UNOFFICIALS
1. NO 10 HAVE AGREED THAT YOU MAY MAKE THE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT:

'AS A FURTHER STEP IN THE CONTINUING PROCESS OF CONSULTATION ON
THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG THE GOVERNOR OF HONG KONG, ACCOMPANIED
BY THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WILL VISIT
LONDON ON OCTOBER 6-8. WHILE IN LONDON THEY EXPECT TO CALL ON
THE PRIME MINISTER, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR HONG KONG
IN THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, MR RICHARD LUCE.'

HOWE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED
HD/HKD
HD/FED
HD/PLANNING STAFF
HD/PUSD
PS
PS/LADY YOUNG
PS/MR LUCE
PS/PUS
SIR J BULLARD
MR GIFFARD
MR DONALD
MR WRIGHT

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MR COLES NO 10 DOWNING STREET
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MR WALKER RESEARCH D OAB 2/82

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10 DOWNING STREET

Willie, Thank you
28/9

HONG KONG UNOFFICIALS
PRE-MEETING.

The Prime Minister
hopes that E. Y. will
be able to change
his engagement and
attend the meeting on 5/10.
If not it will unfortunately
be necessary to go ahead
without him. Thursday
6 October is not possible.

Susan.

27.9.

SECRET



47

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 September, 1983.

This is just to confirm that the Prime Minister has agreed that Mr. Luce should be authorised to invite the unofficial members of EXCO to call on her at 0930 on 7 October. We have set aside 2 hours in the diary for this meeting.

This is also to confirm that the Prime Minister would like to hold a meeting with the Foreign Secretary and Defence Secretary at 1630 on Wednesday, 5 October, to prepare for the meeting with EXCO. No doubt you will be arranging for Sir Edward Youde and Sir Percy Cradock to attend this meeting as well.

I am copying this letter to Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence).

W. F. S. RICKETT

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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SECRET

FM HONG KONG 260550Z SEP 83

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1408 OF 26 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE OTTAWA (FOR PS TO PRIME MINISTER) UKMIS NEW YORK
(FOR PRIVATE SECRETARY) PEKING

MIPT AND PEKING TELNO 937: FUTURE OF HONG KONG

I HAVE DISCUSSED THE SITUATION WITH MR LUCE. ON TIMING. IN THE LIGHT OF THE TWO TELEGRAMS UNDER REFERENCE, WE HERE ALL TAKE THE VIEW THAT WE MUST ENDEAVOUR TO GET THE UNOFFICIALS BACK TO LONDON FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND YOU BEFORE THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS ON 19 OCTOBER. AS SUGGESTED IN YOUR TELNO 960 WE SHALL BE CONSIDERING POSSIBLE TIMING WITH EXCO TOMORROW. THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO OFFER TO COME TO LONDON AT ANY TIME CONVENIENT FOR MINISTERS. BUT IF WE ARE TO HAVE A WORTHWHILE DISCUSSION IN EXCO ON THIS, WE SHALL NEED TO KNOW BEFOREHAND WHAT SEEM TO YOU TO BE THE PRACTICAL POSSIBILITIES FOR A MEETING IN LONDON IN THE PERIOD.

2. IN VIEW OF THE DATES OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE (11 - 14 OCTOBER) AND MY OWN COMMITMENT TO GIVE MY ANNUAL SPEECH TO LEGCO ON 5 OCTOBER, IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE SLOT IS FROM 6 TO 10 OCTOBER. WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING EARLIER BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO PREPARE WITH YOUR APPROVAL A PAPER FOR EXCO SETTING OUT THE COURSES OPEN TO US. (SEE MIPT). WE THINK A MEETING WITH UNOFFICIALS SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY A MEETING AT WHICH YOU AND THE PM COULD GO OVER THE GROUND WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND MYSELF.

3. IF YOU TAKE THE VIEW THAT DATES BEFORE 19 OCTOBER ARE IMPOSSIBLE, THEN THE ONLY OPTION OPEN TO US IS FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO APPROACH YAO GUANG TO SEEK A DEFERMENT OF THE NEXT ROUND FOR, SAY, SEVEN TO TEN DAYS ON THE GROUNDS THAT WE NEED EXTRA TIME FOR REFLECTION. WE THINK YAO WOULD PROBABLY AGREE TO THIS. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, REQUIRE PUBLIC EXPLANATION AND WOULD CAUSE SPECUALTION, BUT WE THINK THIS WOULD BE MANAGEABLE.

4. THE ONE COURSE WHICH IN OUR VIEW IS TO BE AVOIDED IS TO DEFER MEETING THE UNOFFICIALS IN LONDON UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT ROUND: FOR THE REASONS GIVEN IN PEKING TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE THERE IS A HIGH RISK OF A PUBLIC BREAKDOWN AT THIS MEETING, AND WHATEVER COURSE OF ACTION WE WISH TO ADOPT WILL NEED TO BE DECIDED IN ADVANCE.

H-K: future

SECRET

5. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE VIEWS ON WHAT CAN BE MANAGED. MR LUCE FEELS IT ESSENTIAL TO BE ABLE TO INVITE EXCO TO LONDON WHEN HE SEES THEM TOMORROW MORNING, AND HE WOULD LIKE IF POSSIBLE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM AN INDICATION OF DATES.

YOUDE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

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PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

PS/PUS

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MR WALKER RESEARCH D OAB 2/82

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ZZ OTTAWA

GRS 120

CONFIDENTIAL

FM UKMI S NEW YORK 261540Z SEP 83
TO FLASH OTTAWA
TELEGRAM NUMBER 003 OF 26 SEPTEMBER
AND TO IMMEDIATE FCO, HONG KONG, PEKING.

FOLLOWING FOR PUS (WITH PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY)
FROM PRIVATE SECRETARY.

FCO TELNO 500: FUTURE OF HONG KONG.

1. THE SECRETARY OF STATE AGREES WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN TUR.
IN PARTICULAR HE AGREES THAT WE SHOULD AVOID IF AT ALL POSSIBLE
ANY POSTPONEMENT OF THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS, AND THAT A
MEETING WITH EXCO SHOULD THEREFORE BE ARRANGED FOR 6 OR 7
OCTOBER, DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES.

THOMSON

NNNN

42
RS/PM

~~ADZ~~



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr. Clift suggested
that you would want
to take the attached
on the trip. X

Mal

P.S. He also wanted to
talk to you urgently
on an unrelated matter.
Switch have numbers for
him at home and work.

OUT TELEGRAM

Future of HK

Classification and Caveats
CONFIDENTIAL

Precedence/Deskby
IMMEDIATE 250100Z

1 ZCZC
2 GRS
3 CONFIDENTIAL
4
5 250100Z
6 FM FCO 241100Z SEPT
7 TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG
8 TELEGRAM NUMBER
9 INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING DESKBY 250100Z (PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR/
10 CHARGE)
11 MY TELNOS 940 AND 941: MR LUCE'S PRESS CONFERENCE
12 1. Following are suggested amendments to a number of points
13 to take the present situation into account. References are to
14 second TUR.
15 (a) Paragraph 3 and 18 and 19. Combine in composite answer
16 covering "Confidentiality, British silence and Chinese
17 propaganda", as follows: "I quite understand why ~~the policy of~~
people would
like us to say more.
~~confidentiality causes concern and uncertainty.~~ I have given
19 you a full description of the basis of the British position.
20 People in Hong Kong need to know that. I still believe that it
21 is right that the actual content of the talks should be
22 confidential. The negotiations themselves are what matter. We
23 must not prejudice them. We have of course seen a number of
24 reports of remarks by Chinese public figures or media agencies.
25 Some have been made to the press, others to Hong Kong people.

NNNN ends telegram	BLANK	Catchword I
File number	Dept HKD	Distribution FUTURE OF HONG KONG
Drafted by (Block capitals) R D CLIFT		
Telephone number 233 3184		
Authorised for despatch <i>[Signature]</i>		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats

CONFIDENTIAL

Page

2

1 <<<<

2 I believe that statements made outside the talks, but referring

3 directly to the negotiating position on either side, are not

4 helpful. They are too easily misunderstood and, as we have seen,

5 damage confidence severely. It is of course helpful if Hong

6 Kong people make their views known on any of these statements,

7 not only to us but to the Chinese. (If asked whether we have

8 made representations to the Chinese about propaganda). Yes,

9 we have told them why we think this is unhelpful. We have

10 explained why in our view the only place for an exchange of

11 views is the conference table."

12 (b) Paragraph 9. ~~This is being covered in a separate telegram~~ *"This is covered" The Governor described*
his visit to Peking on his return. The next round "on 19/20
October is the earliest practical date for both sides.

13 ~~on a statement by Mr. Luce.~~

14 (c) Paragraph 17. Reword: ~~"We are entering the discussions on~~
~~the basis of firmness and flexibility: we are firm in our~~
~~commitment to seek a solution which will maintain the well-being~~
~~and way of life of Hong Kong. We have no inflexible preconceived~~
~~view on the means of achieving this. The important point is~~
~~that continuity should be effectively guaranteed."~~

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20 (e) Paragraph 20, reword: *how worried* "I well understand ~~that~~ Hong Kong

21 people are ~~worried~~ about the future. This arises partly from the

22 length of the negotiations. They are bound to take time. But

23 the Prime Minister has made clear that HMG is committed to

24 *a solution which will find acceptance among the people of*
~~seeking the best possible arrangements for~~ Hong Kong, ~~since~~

25 ~~1997~~. We are determined to make a success of this. Meanwhile

26 I know it is not easy but I would ask you and investors to be

27 patient. I am impressed by the basic good shape of the Hong

28 Kong economy. The present damage to the exchange rate and the

29 stock markets stems from political uncertainty and unhelpful

30 stories circulating outside the talks. I know you understand

31 ~~very well~~ the limitations on intervention in a free economy by

32 governments to smooth out erratic shifts in the exchange rate.

33 But I know that the Hong Kong Government are doing all they

34 can."

NNNN ends
telegram

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Catchword

(e)

OUT TELEGRAM (CONT)

Classification and Caveats
CONFIDENTIAL

Page

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2 (d) Paragraph 23, for "testing" read "determin^{ing}"

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4 HOWE

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NNNN ends
telegram

BLANK

Catchword

AJC

Future of MK

Mr. Clift phoned. A line was omitted from one of the telegrams which the FCO sent over last night,- the third telegram headed "Mr. Luce's discussion with EXCO: talking points".

Paragraph 6 should read:-

"I know you have discussed this. I am grateful for your views. I think we generally agree that there is a danger in formal public statements which describe our position too precisely"

Mark

24 September, 1983.

39^A

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GRS 583

SECRET

FM FCO 231315Z SEP 83

TO IMMEDIATE HONG KONG

TELEGRAM NUMBER 961 OF 24 SEPTEMBER

INFO IMMEDIATE PEKING

MIPT. PROPOSED STATEMENT FOR MR LUCE'S USE WITH THE MEDIA IN HONG KONG.

1. AS YOU KNOW THE TALKS WITH THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ARE CONTINUING. THE NEXT ROUND WILL BE ON 19 AND 20 OCTOBER. IT IS OF COURSE VERY USEFUL FOR ME TO BE IN HONG KONG SO SOON AFTER THE LATEST ROUND AND TO HEAR THE VIEWS, NOT ONLY OF THE GOVERNOR AND AMBASSADOR BUT ALSO OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND UMELCO ON THE PRESENT POSITION..

2. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE SAID VERY LITTLE ABOUT OUR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF HONG KONG. WE THOUGHT IT BEST THAT OUR TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SHOULD BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. WE HAVE DELIBERATELY AVOIDED NEGOTIATION IN PUBLIC AND WE STILL BELIEVE THAT IS RIGHT. ABOVE ALL WE MUST AVOID PREJUDGING THE FINAL SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, OUR SILENCE HAS BEEN IN SOME QUESTIONS MISUNDERSTOOD AND MISINTERPRETED. I THEREFORE THINK IT MAY BE HELPFUL IF I GIVE YOU SOME BACKGROUND TO EXPLAIN OUR APPROACH TO THE QUESTION.

3. AS YOU KNOW, CONTRARY TO THE BELIEF OF SOME, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DRAW NO DIRECT ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM THE PRESENT STATUS OF HONG KONG. WE RECEIVE NO TAX REVENUE FROM HONG KONG AND HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT'S RESERVES. CLEARLY WE HAVE A VERY STRONG INTEREST IN THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY OF AN IMPORTANT TRADING PARTNER AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, IN WHICH COMPANIES FROM BRITAIN AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENTS. BUT OUR COMMITMENT TO HONG KONG DOES NOT STEM FROM THAT, OR FROM ANY CONSIDERATION WHICH COULD RIGHTLY BE LABELLED COLONIAL. IT IS BASED ON OUR SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE

CHOSEN TO MAKE HONG KONG THEIR HOME.

4. THE STORY OF HONG KONG HAS BEEN ONE OF ALMOST UNPARALLELED ECONOMIC SUCCESS. THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE ENTERPRISE AND SHEER HARD WORK OF THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, AS WELL AS COOPERATION WITH CHINA. BUT IT IS ALSO DUE TO THE WELL-TRIED FRAMEWORK OF STABILITY AND CONTINUITY WHICH THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE PROVIDED FOR SO MANY YEARS. IT IS OUR BELIEF, AND, WE ARE CONFIDENT, THE BELIEF OF THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE OF HONG KONG, THAT THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF HONG KONG IS TO AVOID DISTURBING THE COMPLEX ARRANGEMENTS WHICH NOW PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF HONG KONG'S SUCCESS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS APPROACH REFLECTS THE INTERESTS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO OVER THE YEARS HAVE CHOSEN TO LIVE HERE.

5. THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS WE ARE OF COURSE CONCERNED TO GET A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE VIEWS OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, AS THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN PREPARED TO LISTEN TO OUR VIEWS. ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING WE BELIEVE THAT THE TALKS SHOULD FOCUS PARTICULARLY ON HOW FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS CAN GUARANTEE THE CONTINUATION OF HONG KONG'S FREE ECONOMY AND WAY OF LIFE, AND THUS SUSTAIN THE CONFIDENCE WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO HONG KONG'S SUCCESS.

6. AS I HAVE SAID, WHAT IS AT STAKE IS THE CONTINUATION OF A NOTABLY SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY. WE ARE THEREFORE COMMITTED TO SEEKING A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG. WE ARE CONDUCTING OUR TALKS WITH THE CHINESE IN GOOD FAITH AND WITH A SENSE OF REALISM. FROM THE PRIME MINISTER DOWN WE ARE DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF HONG KONG'S CONCERNS AND ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN BUILD ON OUR GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA AND OUR MUTUAL RESPECT TO WORK OUT TOGETHER A SOLUTION WHICH WILL ACHIEVE THIS.

HOWE

FUTURE OF HONG KONG

LIMITED

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PS/LADY YOUNG

PS/MR LUCE

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