FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you Dave Wakely for inviting (east) German journalist, Olaf Wittke, to speak at our January meeting on the aftermath of German reunification. For those who were unable to attend, I would like to share a few of Olaf’s insights. While no one in the east really wants to go back to the old system, reunification has wrought depression-level unemployment which has, in turn, engendered hatred of foreigners (primarily Vietnamese guest workers) and a dangerous right wing faction that wants to take back German lands ceded to Poland after the war. Rather than blending the best of both systems, the west has pretty much taken over the governmental and business institutions of the east, which is unfortunate because the east had some good things to teach the west, for example, recycling and neighborhood councils. On the positive side, the people of the east now enjoy civil rights under law whereas before they lived under a “comfortable repression”—in return for subservience, the rulers placated the masses with food, entertainment and a small car to drive to the weekend cottage, but no one was allowed to leave. As a journalist who had been blacklisted for his independence, Olaf especially appreciates the First Amendment freedoms that we enjoy in the USA, where the officials fear the journalists and not vice versa, but acknowledges that nowhere is there a truly independent media in that the publisher, the person who signs the checks, calls the shots. So, thank you, once again, Dave and Olaf for the interesting and informative discussion.

Speaking of discussions, thank you Don Sauer for reminding us about the town meeting at the Capitol on the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. It was moving to hear ordinary citizens tell their elected representatives their views. Especially moving were the religious leaders who reminded us that war must be morally just and the last resort; the parents who expressed both support and fear for their sons and daughters over there; and the veterans who have experienced first-hand the horrors of war. I know all of you, like myself, are deeply concerned and frustrated because there are no easy answers to such questions as: Why are we really there? Will sanctions work? What are the consequences of war? I encourage all of you to become informed, think hard with both your heads and your hearts and express your opinions to Hon. Klug, Kasten, Kohl and Bush. I also think we should spend some time at the end of our next meeting to discuss the situation and, perhaps, agree upon a course of action as a group.

On the lighter side, don’t miss our 10th Birthday Party at Meredith’s on February 15th. Bring a small cash donation for our local food pantries. It’s been a harsh winter for our homeless brothers and sisters and the cupboards are bare.

Peace,

Gordon
1. Unfortunately, the minutes for this month's meeting have not yet reached me, so check for them next month. I do want to tell you that we have decided, at long last, to affiliate with the National Council. A check for $140 was sent to them a week ago.

2. If your expiration date on your mailing label is 1/91 and you have not yet sent in your dues for 1991, please do so NOW! Membership information can be found on the back page of this newsletter. Next month's newsletter will be the last you receive if you do not pay dues.

3. Please note that the Global Education Committee will be meeting on Sunday, Feb. 3 at 7 PM in the Red Oak Grill at Union South. This committee is trying to complete a very ambitious project and needs help from as many of our members as possible. Please attend and offer your help if at all possible.

4. The deadline for submission of material for the next newsletter is Thursday, Feb. 14.

**NEWSLETTER POLICY:**
Since we're always trying to get new members, I'll send three copies of our newsletter to anyone we think will be interested. After that, you have to pay to stay on our mailing list. Details can be found on the back page. ONE EXCEPTION: contacts in other RPCV organizations can continue to receive our newsletter if they will send us theirs.

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**NEXT MEETING!**

Next month's meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 6 in Union South on the UW campus at 7 PM. Check the "Today in the Union" sheet on various bulletin boards in Union South for the room.

Future meetings are scheduled for:

Thursday, Mar. 7
Friday, Apr. 5 (Potluck! Any volunteers? Call Gordon Malaise at 255-3261)
Monday, May 6

**BUDGET BACKS EXPANSION**
An operations budget of $186 million, representing the largest one-year increase for the Peace Corps since the mid-1960's, was approved for fiscal year 1991 by the 101st Congress. The spending measure represented a vote of confidence for the Peace Corps at a time it is going through one of the greatest new country expansions in its history. Other legislation to create a Peace Corps memorial in Washington was passed by the House but action wasn't taken in the Senate by the time adjournment rolled around. That proposal is expected to be brought back for consideration when the new Congress begins next year.
WAT IS THE ASHOKA SOCIETY?

For those of you scratching your heads and saying to yourselves, "What is the Ashoka Society and why should we support it?"

The Ashoka Society is an international organization which makes the best possible efforts to identify, select and support "public service entrepreneurs" in a constantly growing number of countries around the world.

What is a Public Service Entrepreneur?

A Public Service Entrepreneur is an individual who combines the features of economic entrepreneurs, ie vision, creativity, practicality, willingness to take risks and pragmatic optimism, with a concern for improving the life of his community or region. These people are all around us. I like to think that the Peace Corps appeals to that segment of the population who carry these values. Obviously these people exist all over the world and are already doing things in their own communities to improve the lives of their fellow citizens. And, they don't have to learn the language, become accustomed to the food or dope out the political lay of the land. They aren't going home soon; they are home. Thus, they are the finest of PCVs cubed.

How does the Ashoka Society identify and select Public Service Entrepreneurs?

In each country where the Ashoka Society operates there exists a panel of Nominators whose function it is to locate and investigate individuals who are already exhibiting the entrepreneurial characteristics Ashoka wishes to support. These Nominators are individuals who have shown in the public and/or private sector genuine concern and significant achievement in improving the life of their communities. At regular intervals a panel of Selectors, consisting of former Ashoka Fellows, Founders and others, meets to consider the nominations. There are almost always many more Nominees than available Fellowships. The Selectors must then make the difficult choices regarding which Nominees are most likely to have the most long-term positive impact on the life of the community.

How does the Ashoka Society support its Fellows?

Ashoka provides two main kinds of support. The most obvious is financial. In each country a determination is made as to the amount of money which is a reasonable stipend. The stipends are designed to be a temporary replacement for the income that the family and dependents of a Fellow might otherwise expect from the Fellows work in a remunerative occupation. Just as important as the financial support is the Ashoka Network. This consists of Ashoka Alumni, current Fellows and sympathetic individuals both on an inter- and intranational basis. These people are a source of ideas, encouragement, contacts and constructive criticism. This interaction makes us all, at the ideal level, able to participate in the Ashoka idea. Another main component of the Ashoka idea is that the ideas, encouragement and support flows in all directions around the world. This reminds us that we who were born in the industrialized West have no monopoly on good ideas or resourceful solutions.

What do Ashoka Fellows do?

They are aiding in the reformation of the Indian Elementary Education system; they are helping the working poor of Sao Paolo, Brazil provide day care for their children; they are designing and organizing selfbuilt housing for the slum dwellers in Brazilian cities; they are involved in the effort to form extractive reserves as a means of preserving the Amazon Rain Forest; they are forming cooperatives of independent coffee growers in Mexico; they are designing and implementing environmental education in Nepalese schools. This list barely scratches the surface.

Where does the Ashoka Society operate?

The list is now nine countries long and includes Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Thailand and Zimbabwe.
This group has generously supported the Ashoka Society in a major way for the past five years. Originally we made quilts and raffled them off. This was done three times and each time we raised substantial funds for Ashoka. The last two years we have provided very substantial contributions from the profits derived from our Calendar sales. For a couple of years now I have toyed with the idea of a "dedicated fund raiser" for the Ashoka Society. This would identify the Ashoka Society as one of our primary group focuses and allow even more money to divided among the other worthy causes we support by means of the Calendar sales.

This Thanksgiving Bill Drayton, one of the Founders of the Ashoka Society, sent me a letter and a gift. The gift was a ten ounce roasted coffee beans grown by members of an independent coffee growers cooperative in Mexico. This cooperative is being assisted by Arturo Garcia, an Ashoka Fellow. The cooperative members are attempting to become more involved in the whole process of marketing their own coffee rather than selling it all to big corporate buyers who pay the lowest possible price. This is a complex and difficult task but one which needs to be done.

Now we have the opportunity to do a fundraiser in which every penny will go toward the useful goals of the Ashoka Society. The bottom line is this. We buy the "Aztec Harvest" coffee (the growers' brand name) at $3.50 per 10 ounce foil package. We resell it for $5.50 to $6.00, whatever the market will bear. The original $3.50 directly benefits the coffee farmers with whom the Ashoka Fellow, Arturo Garcia is working. The proceeds from our sale of the coffee would then be directed to the Ashoka Society as our contribution. This would involve a minimum of effort on our part as well. This is desirable because our other major fund raisers involve so much time and effort from such a large number of people. I'm thinking mainly of the Freeze for Food and the Calendar.

I propose that our group authorize the sum of $140 to purchase 40 bags of this coffee with the idea of selling to ourselves, our mothers, our friends and anyone else who likes good coffee and who likes the idea of getting as much of the money as possible back to the producers. This would be a starter. I have big ideas and I see no reason that this effort could not go on year around. But, as we know from the Calendar and other ventures, we must crawl before we walk. The worst outcome of this effort would be that our group would be the owner of a batch of good coffee. It is hard for me to believe though that we would be unable to sell 40 bags of coffeea in a relatively short time. I ask that this be put to a formal vote at the February 1991 meeting. Thank you.

Don Sauer

WELCOME MAT OUT— Africa, which hosts nearly half of all the Peace Corps volunteers serving worldwide, continues to invite Americans with special skills and abilities to help fulfill their development needs. The first Peace Corps volunteers ever will enter the newly formed nation of Namibia this month. Volunteers also are re-entering Cote d'Ivoire, formerly the Ivory Coast, where a Peace Corps contingent previously served. Peace Corps volunteers will enter Sao Tome in September. Later this year, Peace Corps volunteers will start service in Uganda and the Congo.

MINORITY RECRUITMENT— The Baltimore Sun recently reported that the Peace Corps has stepped up its recruitment of minorities to serve as volunteers by showing the benefits of international service. Covering a volunteer recruitment campaign in Maryland, the newspaper said that the Peace Corps' nationwide goal is to have minorities make up 10 percent of the Peace Corps' ranks by next year. A concerted effort at minority outreach has already resulted in a significant increase in minority participation on the Peace Corps staff at home and abroad. Twenty percent of all Peace Corps country directors are now minorities.
DATES TO NOTE

ANUARY 26 Sat FREEZE FOR FOOD 10K RUN--Vilas Park Shelter, 11:00 a.m. Contact Deb Stapleton at 244-8609. Our big event for Oxfam. Everyone comes. Chili feed afterwards at Kevin Neis', 619 S. Orchard St. 255-3241.

FEBRUARY 6 Wed GENERAL MEETING--Union South, 227 N. Randall--7:00 p.m.

14 Thu NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--Submit material to Walt Zeltner, 6187 Sun Valley Parkway, Oregon, WI 53575

15 Fri RPCV MADISON 10TH BIRTHDAY PARTY/POTLUCK BASH--Meredith Green's, 2975 Rimrock Road, 271-0998, 6:00 p.m. until early. Bring photos, memorabilia and a $5 (suggested) donation for our local food pantries.

16 Sat RPCV MILWAUKEE CARNIVAL PARTY--International Institute of Milwaukee. RPCV Milwaukee's big fundraiser event. For details call Gary Krukar (414) 481-2295.

22-24 FSS WINTER RETREAT--Camp Lucerne, Wautoma, WI. Skiing, sledding, skating, potluck feast, slides, stories around the fireplace. Register early--registration form elsewhere in this Newsletter.

MARCH 7 Thu GENERAL MEETING--Union South, 227 N. Randall--7:00 p.m.

9 Sat BARON BLISS TROPICAL HEATWAVE PARTY--Dress for tropical conditions in overheated house. Venue to be discussed at February meeting.

14 Thu NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--Submit material to Walt Zeltner, 6187 Sun Valley Parkway, Oregon, WI 53575

APRIL 5 Fri POTLUCK MEETING--Venue to be discussed.

11 Thu NEWSLETTER DEADLINE--Submit material to Walt Zeltner, 6187 Sun Valley Parkway, Oregon, WI 53575

21 Sun PARENT'S BRUNCH--Great Hall, Memorial Union--11:00 a.m. Brunch and program for parents of current PCV's. Bring country-of-service items for centerpieces. Dress in clean clothes and look respectable.

BRUNCH every Sunday 10:00 a.m. to noon. Lakefront Cafeteria, Memorial Union.

VERY SPECIAL ARTS— Very Special Arts, a non-profit organization devoted to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities through adaptive arts, and the Peace Corps, an independent government agency made up of citizen volunteers, have agreed to collaborate. Through this cooperative venture, Very Special Arts and the U.S. Peace Corps will work together to help interested countries in addressing the needs of the disabled. Some of the joint activities will include developing training modules for Peace Corps volunteers to use in early childhood education programs and implementing workshops in adaptive arts techniques for Peace Corps volunteers in interested countries.
GED TUTORS NEEDED

United Refugee Services of Wisconsin is looking for volunteers to tutor refugees who are trying to get their GED’s. If you can spend two to four hours a week tutoring someone, please call Kathleen Sajdak, Volunteer Coordinator, at 244-6680.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Dane County Advocates for Battered Women needs all kinds of volunteers: provide recreational activities for children in shelter, answer the crisis line (we provide training beginning February 18), help us paint, clean, shovel, raise money — we have many opportunities! Contact RPCV Leslie Bird at 251-1237.

FREEZE FOR FOOD T-SHIRTS

Freeze for Food T-Shirts are still available! These 100% cotton Fruit of the Loom shirts are royal blue and feature the Freeze for Food logo in white ink. Please help us support Oxfam America by ordering yours now! They are $5.50 each and are available in medium, large and extra-large sizes. Send a check, payable to RPCV’s of WI, to: RPCV’s of WI, PO Box 1012, Madison, WI 53701, or call Nancy Westbrook at 241-5332 or Deb Stapleton at 244-8609.

WANTED TO RENT

An RPCV family of three is looking for a reasonably-priced house or flat to rent. Two or more bedrooms, a private yard and off-the-street parking would be especially nice! If you know of any such place, please call 238-3027.

NEW PC RECRUITER

Congratulations to Jim Smith, RPCV Liberia 1987–90, who will replace Hank Drennon as the University of Wisconsin–Madison Campus Peace Corps Recruiter!

GLOBAL ED

A Global Education Committee meeting will be held Sunday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Red Oak Grill in the Union South. (If the Red Oak is too loud we will steal away to a quieter room, so please be on time or you may not be able to find us). Topics to be discussed include: finishing the pilot teachers’ manual; the manual writing and training of trainers workshops that Nancy attended in Washington, D.C.; and establishing a regular meeting time. ANYONE interested in global ed. is invited!

SLIDES NEEDED

Don’t forget to bring slides that have calendar potential to the winter retreat! New members are especially encouraged to show their slides.

GIVE PEACE A DANCE

Give Peace a Dance, a benefit for the Nuclear Weapons Freeze, will be held on February 23 from 7:45 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Turner Hall, 21 S. Butler. Tickets we be on sale beginning in January. Great bands, food and prizes!

80,000 LOST!

Eighty thousand names of former Peace Corps Volunteers were lost in the 1970’s. As our world shrinks, their international expertise is needed more than ever. If you or someone you know is a former volunteer, please send their name, address, telephone number, and country and years of service to: National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, 1319 F St. NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20004.

FRIENDS OF MALI

Friends of Mali is working on building a slide library. They are asking RPCV’s to mail (donate) duplicate slides with descriptions to: Pam Wessels Greene, 230 Ellsworth Ave., New Haven, CT 06511. Plans include making and distributing a slide catalog so that RPCV’s can order slides at 75 cents each, and ultimately to develop a traveling slide library and/or a set of rental slide show. People with large personal slide collections are asked to just catalog their own slides with descriptions and send a list.

The main Friends of Mali address is: Phil Lesniewski, 6 Wycklow, Overland Park, KS 66207, (913) 649-0573.

Send items for the Thorn Tree to: Nancy Westbrook, 225 Jackson St., Madison, WI 53704, or call 241-5332. Remember, I need to receive submissions a few days before the regular newsletter deadline.
Director takes heat as Peace Corps shifts gears

By Al Kamen
Washington Post

Peace Corps Director Paul D. Coverdell's efforts to make the corps "a vibrant, vital part of U.S. foreign policy" have upset traditionalists who say he is distorting the agency's image as a largely nonpolitical, person-to-person effort to help the Third World.

The controversy grows out of Coverdell's changes in the Peace Corps' priorities as documented in a report last month by the corps' inspector general, Gerard A. Roy. The report said the agency is cutting back on aid to its former clients in the Third World and diverting those resources chiefly to Eastern Europe.

Coverdell's Peace Corps continues to assist the poor in Third World nations. But the 30-year-old agency also has begun expanding in other ways, sending English teachers to formerly communist nations in Eastern Europe and placing new emphasis on teaching American schoolchildren about other countries.

The traditionalists are particularly troubled by Coverdell's remarks that President Bush is "making (the Peace Corps) very much a part of his administration and his foreign policy."

"Sending some volunteers into Eastern Europe is okay," said Philip Liston, president of the board of the Northern California Council of Peace Corps Volunteers. "But (look at) what's happening to Africa and Latin America."

Roy's report to Congress in November noted that some Third World programs have been cut to fund new projects in Eastern Europe, where the agency expects this year to have more than 400 volunteers, nearly three-fourths of them teaching English.

"Limited resources for existing countries" must not be "redirected to support new country entries," Roy warned in his report. He added that he found "evidence of strain, confusion and chaos" as the agency has tried to respond to Coverdell's push for new overseas and domestic programs.

Attempts to define what the Peace Corps is and what it represents have generated disputes for years. The 1961 legis-

Corps

Continued from Page 1C

lation establishing the Peace Corps listed three broad goals: "To provide skilled manpower to nations seeking assistance; to help people in other nations learn about Americans; and to help Americans learn about people of other nations."

Coverdell, 51, a Republican former Georgia state senator who in 1986 headed the southern steering committee for Bush's campaign, briddles at allegations he is transforming the agency into an administration foreign policy tool by promoting rapid expansion into Eastern Europe. He pointed out that Sargent Shriver, the agency's first director, had backed the expansion.

"This is not your father's Peace Corps," Coverdell says in speeches, borrowing from an Oldsmobile ad. "It is a new generation of Peace Corps."

The rapid move to former communist satellites serves to make the agency more relevant, and that helps attract new volunteers to the Peace Corps, Coverdell asserted.

The Senate Appropriations Committee, in its report in October, praised some of Coverdell's domestic efforts and approved an 11 percent budget increase, but added, "the committee is deeply concerned by reorganization schemes at the Peace Corps that have reduced funding for traditional programs.

The article relates the philosophy of the new PC director Paul Coverdell. In my opinion, the direction being taken is unlike that held by previous PC directors, even Reagan's appointee Loret Ruppe---who proved to be a positive leader.

As we discussed at the meeting, I am seeking individuals who, after reading the article, will voluntarily write their Congressman or Senator. The purpose of those communications should be to seek retention of the PC's primary and historical thrust and important tradition: Third and Fourth World Countries should not be shortchanged in the allocation of Volunteers and programs.

Gary W. Slaats

Other RPCV organizations have our permission to use any material of interest in this newsletter.
Recommended Routes to Camp Lucerne:

From Madison: Take Hwy. 51 North to 22. Go through Montello to YY. Turn right (E) on to YY and follow it past the intersection with Hwy. 73. Camp Lucerne is 1/2 mile East of 73 on YY.

From Milwaukee: Take Hwy 41 North to Fond du Lac. Exit at Rt. 23 and go W. to Princeton. Turn right (N) on Hwy 73 and go through Neshkoro. Turn right (E) on YY. Proceed 1/2 mile to camp entrance.

From La Crosse: Take Hwy 21 East through Wautoma. Turn right (S) on Hwy 73. Proceed about 3 miles and turn left (E) on YY. Camp entrance will be on left in 1/2 a mile.

Once at camp grounds: Turn in at the main entrance and turn left at the first road. At the end of that short road take another left. Stay to your right and follow that road around until you see a parking lot. We will be in the two cabins across from each other to the left of the lot ("Elm & Pine") and in the main lodge across from the lot.

Note: Camp Lucerne is a United Methodist Church Camp and as such, has strict rules against the use of alcohol or illicit substances on the premises. As the official organizer and leader of retreats at this camp, I could be held responsible for any infringements of this policy. Therefore, I would prefer it if people were to leave such substances at home. If any feel it necessary to take such items along, I don't want to see or know anything about it.

--- Karen King
7th ANNUAL WINTER RETREAT

When: February 22nd to 24th, 1991. The site is reserved for us from 5pm Friday to 3pm Sunday, but people are welcome to arrive or leave any time during that period.

Where: Camp Lucerne, about 70 miles North of Madison. See map below.

Facilities: We will be staying in winterized cabins with semi-private rooms. There are some cribs and play pens in the cabins and high chairs in the dining hall for children. There are bathrooms in the cabins and shower facilities in the retreat center. The cabins are furnished with beds, chairs, desks, fireplaces, and even kitchenettes.

Activities: The camp grounds are criss-crossed with scenic cross-country skiing and hiking trails. A steep, fast toboggan hill runs down to a beautiful lake just outside of the retreat center. Ice skating is possible on the lake, if it has been cleared this year.

As for organized activities, there is traditionally an informal meeting/brainstorming session in the retreat center Saturday afternoon, a potluck dinner Saturday evening, and an opportunity for people to show slides after dinner that night.

What to bring: Bedding or a sleeping bag, towels and toiletries, warm clothing, a dish to pass Saturday night. If you bring a hot dish, there are facilities available to us at the camp for cooking and/or reheating.

Skis, snow-shoes, sleds, toboggans, slides, musical instruments, good stories, poetry, etc.

Registration: Registration forms must be turned in to Karen King (1032 Fiedler Ln.; Madison, WI 53713) by Friday, Feb. 15th with payment (non-refundable) so that she can call the camp to plan meals.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR 7TH ANNUAL WINTER RETREAT

NAME: 
PHONE NUMBER: 
ADDRESS: 
NUMBER ATTENDING: Adults ________ Children (1 to 12 yrs.) ________

Check the nights and meals you plan to attend: 

___ Friday Night (Adults $11.75, Children $7.00) ________

___ Saturday Breakfast (A: $3.75, C: $1.90) ________

___ Saturday Lunch (A: $4.75, C: $2.50) ________

___ Saturday Night (A: $9.50, C: $7.00)
This rate applies only if you stay both nights. Otherwise, pay Friday night rate.

___ Sunday Breakfast (A: $3.75, C: $1.90) ________

TOTAL (Complete pkg. A: $33.50, C: $20.30) = ________

How many in your party (if any) would like to be served vegetarian meals? 
Will you need a ride to the camp? 
If driving up from Madison, how many additional people could you take up?
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

All RPCVW, Inc. members receive the newsletter on payment of annual dues shown below. To avoid record-keeping hassles, we would prefer that our members pay through December of the year of joining ($1 a month for each month to December), then pay for a full year membership at that time. Reduced rates are available for those in extreme financial circumstances.

You can also join the National Council of RPCVs through us by paying a further $20. We strongly encourage all members to join the National Council, which provides us a way to affect national issues.

[ ] I want to join RPCVW, Inc. and am enclosing $____.
  ___ Individual - $12 for one year (or $1 per month to next January)
  ___ Joint - $17 (Two people receiving one newsletter)
  ___ Overseas Individual - $20
  ___ Overseas Joint - $25

[ ] I am also enclosing $20 for National Council membership ($27.50 for joint membership).

[ ] I do not want to join, but I would like to receive the newsletter and am enclosing $7 ($15 for overseas) to cover the costs.

[ ] I'M MOVING! Please change my mailing address on your records.

NAME: ___________________________ COUNTRY OF SERVICE: ___________________________
ADDRESS: ___________________________ SERVICE DATES: ___________________________
PRESENT JOB: ___________________________ TELEPHONE: ___________________________
PC JOB: ___________________________

Please make checks payable to RPCVs of Wisconsin, Inc. and send to:

RPCVs OF WISCONSIN, INC. - Madison Chapter
P.O. Box 1012
Madison, WI 53701

marked ATT’N: MEMBERSHIP!

QUESTIONS? PROBLEMS? Call me at 608/835-3083 most evenings and weekends.
Or try 608/262-2470 weekdays and ask for me - Walt.

RETURNED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS OF WISCONSIN
MADISON CHAPTER

Walt Zeltner, Editor
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