

FIGHTING TALK .

DS 31

P.O. Box 4088

Johannesburg.

May 20 1955.

I

The Congress of Democrats,
Durban.

Dear Friends,

At the end of 1954 you owed FIGHTING TALK £3.3s. Since then we have continued to send you 36 copies a month, so your account is now £5.8s. We have never received a payment from you. Do you receive the magazine? If so, do you sell the three dozen copies? Please let us hear from you.

We will have to stop sending you your monthly order if we do not hear from you before the end of May, when our June issue is appearing. There is a good demand for FIGHTING TALK these days .. but far too little income from sales, so we will be compelled to stop supplies to poor payers. We would not like to do that in your case, so look forward to your cheque, and to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Ruth Jank
editor.

See letter attached.

to Mr. RENOVED f 5-8-0.

01

Bought of

DURBAN

P O Box 700

M/S. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

24/55. 19

INVOICE

2

I.

40 Box 700

Durham

24 May 1955

The Secy

P.O. Box 4068

Johannesburg

Dear Friends

Re Durham Literature

- 1) Please let us know what we owe you for literature in detail.
- 2) Discontinue Fighting Talk for the time being & let us know details of what we owe we haven't in the past been receiving all the stuff sent.
- 3) In future please send only 20 copies of Speakers Notes, Council Attacks, or any other material for distribution to members.

Yours fraternally
Tommy
Branch Secy.

I

DS 34

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

PHONE 33 0911

HEAD OFFICE:

5, SOMERSET HOUSE,
110, FOX STREET,
P.O. BOX 4088,
JOHANNESBURG.
30th May, 1955.

The Branch Secretary,
Durban Region,
P.O. Box 700,
Durban.

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your letter of the 24th May. As requested we are enclosing a detailed account of literature supplied to you, and shall be pleased if you will endeavour to let us have a settlement.

We have passed on your instructions re "Fighting Talk" to the Committee.

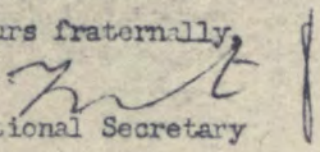
We note that in future we should only send 20 copies of Speakers Notes etc. We are thus sending you under separate cover 20 copies of Resolutions submitted by the N.E.C. for National Conference. We sent you some time back copies of the Chairman's report to Conference and political discussion notes to be used as a basis for discussion at Conference. Although we wrote and asked you for an acknowledgment of receipt of these documents we have heard nothing. We are completely in the dark as to what mail you receive and what you do not, as you know there has been material that has gone astray. Please let us know whether you receive these resolutions. It is important for us to know what the position is. We trust these resolutions together with the other reports mentioned will be discussed by your region, and that you will send in your own resolutions to Conference as soon as possible. Deadline should be June 18th. Please elect delegates for Conference which is being held on June 24th a day before the C.O.P. We have written previously

2

about Conference, but don't know whether you received the letter.

Please let me have a reply right away.

Yours fraternally,


National Secretary

P.S. Last week we sent you 1000 leaflets calling for a National Day of Protest against the Senate Bill. We hoped you received them. We ran a telegram ~~xxx~~ campaign calling for a National Day of Protest, and the response of the public who willingly paid their 2/- was gratifying. Approximately 1500 telegrams were sent to Strauss asking him to call for a National Day of Protest.

Could you please let me have a report of your membership, number paid up, and not paid up, literature sold, activities, functions etc. It is needed for the Secretary's report to Conference.

①

679

1st June, 1955.

The Secretary,
S.A.C.O.D.,
P.O. Box 1294,
Port Elisabeth.

Dear Friend,

Under separate cover we are sending 20 copies of the Resolutions to be submitted to Conference on the 24th June. You should have received the Chairman's Report and political notes for discussion, and we trust these have been discussed by your NEX members. Please let us have your resolutions for Conference, and any amendments to the N.E.C. resolutions which you wish to move.

We trust you will send delegates to Conference which is being held one day before C.O.P. We have had so little contact with you, that we would welcome the opportunity of meeting one or two of your members again. We never have any response to our letters or mail that we send you, and I would appreciate it if you acknowledge receipt of such mail. We would then know whether you are getting the material.

Please let us have a report of your membership, just in numbers, paid up and others, literature sold, activities, functions, money raised etc. etc. I need this information for the organisational report to Conference, so please attend to it immediately.

With best wishes,

Yours fraternally,

National Secretary,

6420

N 191. SA 00D (NEC)

Swysstak No.
Gekry by..... S.A.C.O.S.
Deur.....
Te.....
25.

27-9-55

2nd June, 1955.

The Secretary,
S.A. Coloured Peoples Organisation,

Dear Friend,

We are holding our National Conference on
Friday 24th June at Kholvad House, 27 Market Street. The
opening will take place at 2.P.M.

We have pleasure in inviting your organisation to
send a fraternal delegate to our Conference. In times like
these when the fight against fascism and for peace is more
urgent than ever, your expression of solidarity in the form
of greetings, will be valued by us.

We trust we shall hear from you shortly,

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

S.A. Congress of Democrats ⁷

Cape Western Region

P.O.Box 4552,
CAPE Town.
13/6/55

The Secretary,
African National Congress,
P.O.Box 1294,
Port Elizabeth.

Dear Friend,

We send the following message to your Annual
Provincial Conference.

"As an organisation representing the progressive Europeans
of the Western Cape, we extend brotherly greetings to the
African National Congress. May our close ties and cooperation
be ever improved so that united we can march to a democratic
South Africa. We believe that a large section of the Europeans
will soon learn that they can only liberate themselves from the
yoke of Strydom Fascism by alliance with the Non Europeans. We,
the vanguard of the progressive Europeans, urge all peoples
of South Africa to unite and march to freedom for all.
Let our slogans be—Equality now !! Forward to Freedom.

L.B. Lee
L.B. Lee Warden M.P.

Chairman.

W (26) SAEOD (Cape Western R.)

S.A. Congress of Democrats ⁸

Cape Western Region

P.O.Box 4552,

Cape Town.

13/6/55.

The Secretary,

Cape Province,

African National Congress,

P.O.Box 1294,

Port Elizabeth.

Dear Mr. Tshunungwa,

Thank you for your note asking for a message for your annual conference. Although the note was addressed to ~~me~~ me personally, I assume that it is intended for the C.O.D. Enclosed please find a message from our executive.

Yours fraternally,

B. Turak.

20183 SACOD

① 6.356

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

HEAD OFFICE:

5, SOMERSET HOUSE,
110, FOX STREET,
P.O. BOX 4088,
JOHANNESBURG.

20th June, 1955 .

PHONE 33-0 Bewysstuk No.....
Gekry by..... *S.A.C.O.D.*
Deur..... *J. M. M. M.*
Te..... *Box 87-110*
Datum..... *27-9-55*
Verwysings No. *10*

The Secretary,
A.N.C.,
Johannesburg.

Dear Friend,

We would be very pleased if you would appoint a nominee to read out the enclosed message to our Conference on Friday 24th June at Kholvad House at 2.p.m.

This message from Chief Luthuli was received in response to a request by us for a message with which we would open our conference. As this message will be the first on our Agenda, we shall be pleased if your nominee will be there at 2.p.m.

We trust you will be able to send a nominee.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

J. M. M. M.
National Secretary.

①

6.360-

Bowsstuk No.
 Gely by *S.P.C.D.*
 Deur *Chapman*
 Te *Lot 87-110, J.P.*
 Datum *27-9-55*
 Verwysings No. *27*

7th July, 1955.

Chief A.J. Luthuli,
 P.O. Groutville Mission,
 Via Durban.

Dear Friend,

Please forgive the delay in replying to your letter of the 25th June, and for not acknowledging receipt of your message sooner. As you can well understand we were unindated with work before and after the Congress of the People and our own Conference.

Thank you very much for your message to the Congress of Democrats Conference which was very well received by delegates and all present. I am enclosing a copy of your speech as requested.

We all missed you at the Congress of the People which was a magnificent, inspiring, assembly, but we were heartened by your message.

With best wishes,

Yours fraternally,

for National Secretary.

N190. SACOD (NEC)

6. 419

Bewysstuk No.....
Gekry by..... S.A.C.O.D.
Deur..... D. M. M. M. M.
Te..... For No. 110
Datum..... 27-9-55
Verwysings No..... 1.

18th July, 1955.

The Acting Secretary-General,
The African National Congress,
P.O. Box 9207,
Johannesburg.

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your letter of the 8th July which was considered by my National Executive Committee, and I have been asked to advise you that we have pleasure in accepting your invitation to the Conference in Durban.

We anticipate that approximately eight of our Executive Members will be able to attend, and we shall contact you again at a later date for final details.

With best wishes,

Yours fraternally,

for National Secretary.

Bewysstuk No. ①
Gedry by S.A.C.O.S.
Deur Bakerwe P. O. Box 700,
Te Box 84, 110, Durf DURBAN.
Datum 27-9-55. 9. 8. 55.
Verwysings No. 15. **6585**
Dear Ruth,

I hope you received the photo's I sent ?
Please let me know if you have.

Also please send me a list of subscribers
in Natal for Fighting Talk as some of our chaps
want to go out on a drive to enrol subscribers.
If you have ~~sub.~~ subs., forms please send them down
also.

With very best wishes to Joe, the children
and self.

Yours,

Mr. Naicker

① Send Books
② Copies.

attached to 19/9/52
file

✓

b. 245

121 Union Centre,
31 Pritchard Str.,
JOHANNESBURG.

8th August, 1955.

The Secretary,
S.A. Congress of Democrats.
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Friends,

I have been advised that the Executive Committee of your organisation is considering the question of how it, as an organisation, can further the interests of trade unionism. It is because of this, that I am taking the opportunity of directing this letter to you.

As you are no doubt aware, the Toy Workers Union is a comparatively new union, and at present not very strong. A portion of the workers in this industry are not covered by any wage regulating machinery, such as wage determinations or agreements, with the obvious result, that they are amongst the lowest paid workers, particularly here in the Transvaal. Female workers earn, or rather, paid £1. 5. 0 per week inclusive of c.o.l.a. There is very little opportunity for them to get increases. The male worker receives approximately £2. odd per week inclusive.

The Toy Manufacturers are holding an exhibition under the auspices of the "Buy South African Campaign" committee. This exhibition is being held on Friday the 12th. instant at 164 Market Street. (it is unknown at this stage, for what period the exhibition will be shown)

The Union, as an affiliated member of S.A.C.T.U have submitted the following plan to the local committee, which has been approved.

a) We wish to distribute a leaflet issued by the local committee of S.A.C.T.U outside the premises in which

the exhibition will be held.

b) At lunch hour, we wish to have volunteers to parade in the hall of the exhibition with posters which will bear slogans representing the worst aspects of the workers conditions in certain factories.

As the exhibition is open to the public, there should be no difficulty in gaining access. In the past, these exhibitions have been open to the European public only, thus, we would appreciate it, if your organisation would assist us officially by obtaining volunteers for the demonstration.

Should you so desire, the draft leaflet and the proposed slogans could be submitted to your Johannesburg Regional Secretary for approval.

Please be good enough to advise us immediately if your organisation will be in a position to help.

Thanking you,

Yours fraternally,

J. Kados
SECRETARY

Bewysstuk No.....
Gekry by..... *J. Kados*
Dcur..... *J. Kados*
Te..... *J. Kados*
Datum..... *27-9-55*
Verwysings No..... *A 67*

①

Cape Town R.F. 106
13-8-55.

Dear Ruth,

Thanks for the note. Now I can sleep again o' nights!

Airmail subscription rates to Israel are £3.2.8 per annum - cash in advance. Just send the boodle and we'll operate the works.

Our book-keeper is busy drawing up a full report on the pamphlet position. I'll chase the outstandings up myself and send you a cheque. Or how must I make it out?

Enclosed a leaflet being distributed in Cape Town. All me own work! Reports by those who have been dishing them out say that it's going over well. Of 1000 copies distributed, only one miserable specimen threw his away.

Love to all.

Fred

6430

(2)

S.A. CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.
Johannesburg Regional Committee.

5, Somerset House,
110, Fox St.,
Johannesburg.

9th Nov. 1953.

TO ALL BRANCH SECRETARIES.

Dear Friend,

1. WESTERN AREAS REMOVAL SCHEME:

The Yeoville Branch very energetically arranged for a post-card campaign in this connection, and the Hillbrow Branch has prepared a leaflet.

The Regional Committee asks all Branches to participate in this campaign in the following manner:

(a) The post-cards, leaflets, and lists of City Wards and Councillors to be fetched from the above address.

(b) Branches to arrange a canvas of their areas, getting citizens to sign post-cards addressed to the Ward Councillor and to pay threepence to cover postage and cost of printing. Leaflets to be distributed at the same time.

2. EDUCATION.

We hope that Branches are having regular theoretical discussions, using the notes which have been distributed. The Committee would be glad to hear if these notes have proved useful, and to have suggestions for further notes.

3. REPRESENTATION ON REGIONAL COMMITTEE.

As far as possible we ask the Branches to appoint either their Secretary or Chairman to serve on this committee. May we remind you that the meeting will take place at the above address at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 12th Nov.

Yours sincerely,

Violet Weinberg - Secretary.

P.S. We enclose the names of those members of your Branch who complete application forms. Please let me have the rest of the names and addresses of members of your Branch.

S.A. Congress of Democrats

Cape Western Region

① P.O. BOX 4552,

CAPE TOWN.

17/6/55.

The Secretary,
Congress of Democrats,
P.O. Box 4088,
Johannesburg.

Dear Friend,

In reply to your letter of the 15/6/55.

1. Although C.O.D. will be sending about 7 delegates to the C.O.P. only two will be there in time for the COD conference. They will both be requiring accomodation.
2. Our original delegate to the N.A.C. was Mr. Thorne who is now banned. We are sending someone to take his place as you have requested.
3. We have received Liberation and the 5 dozen are nearly all gone.
4. I am sorry that I have not sent you our resolutions for the COD conference. Things have been a big rush for the C.O.P. and COD has of course been neglected, as a result, I have however some amendments to the N.E.C. resolutions as proposed by the SeaPoint branch at their branch meeting. As it is already so late I may bring them up to you rather than type them out now.

C.O.P is coming along well and as expected there has been a big rush of money and delegates at the last minute. We are going to fulfil our target of delegates. The country branches of the A.N.C. have on the whole done a really sterling job. When one thinks of the difficulties in raising a large sum of money through the pennies and ticckeys of the workers the work done in this respect must have been herculean.

SACPO has unfortunately left their work a bit late in the day but we nevertheless expect a delegation of up to 30 Coloured people.

5. Thank you for the further 3000 leaflets on "One day Protest" and for the 10 Good Reasons. These will be used at U.P. meetings etc.
6. You have no doubt read of our great succes in taking over the U.P. meeting on the Parade. Fully 2/3 of the people stopped to listen to our loudspeaker and half the crowd came over to us. There were loud cheers from the crowd around the car and when we got out we received handshakes and cheers. The crowd would not leave us and showed clearly that the idea of a day of protest was one they would support. The U.P. meeting itself was terribly dull. There were prayers and nonsense about South Africa's history being that of the White Man etc. When Devilliers Graaf finished his speech (He was the main speaker ~~thk~~ there was hardly any applause. See you soon.

682

Ken Turd

① L. 171.
REPORT TO COUNTER-ATTACK FOR NEXT ISSUE.

CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS.

Claremont Branch - Cape Town.

7th June 1955.

The branch is beginning to conduct more activity after its "winter sleep." During the past month we have raised thirty pounds out of our target of £50 for the Congress of the people and hope to reach our target in time for the great event.

Our main organised activities are branch meetings and functions and literature drives conducted by the hardier elements. One group is now selling regularly to working class Europeans and we are making great use of the new COD leaflet "10 reasons why you should join COD." This sort of explanatory leaflet is long overdue and is a welcome addition to our propoganda. Literature sales are mainly of New Age and "Where the devil drives" with occasional copies of Fighting Talk and Bantu education. A second group will be conducting sales among lower middle class Europeans and basing their approach more on political rather than on social issues as with the working class.

So far we have not been given a lead on opposition to the Senate Bill and there does not seem to be the opposition to it in the Cape that has developed in the Transvaal. The United Party's formal opposition is betraying those who would oppose the Bill and so far we have not been conscious of a counter campaign led by COD and like-thinking elements.

As we are aware that Johannesburg has carried the main financial burden up to now, we are gradually improving our financial organisation so as to carry some of that burden.

6171

(2)

The branch has discussed the Chairman's Report and the Political Report the latter especially merited a great deal of study. Members felt the need for more pamphlets or at least an up to date reprint of the Threatened People which we still feel is the best we have produced. We have agreed to submit regular monthly reports to Counter Attack to keep the Executive and COD informed of our work down at the Cape. We felt that the Chairman's report tended to be somewhat complacent allowing for the fact that Johannesburg is far ahead of us in practical work. Our main failure is our tendency to work too much inside our own group and not to establish new contacts by door-to-door work. Unfortunately there is a definite resistance to this among a number of our members which can only be broken by greater political understanding and more enthusiasm in our work.

We congratulate the Executive on its Political Report which is well and accurately presented. Two points in particular must be brought home to COD members. First that COP is just the beginning of a campaign to get the Charter known to people throughout South Africa. Secondly to do this, there must be a great increase in our public work. Too many of the members still fight shy of meeting the European public face to face and we ~~still~~ seek to conduct our meetings like a semi-underground organisation. This is fatal to the popularisation of our programme and ideas. We agree with the idea of producing a Congress Manifesto in which we set out our aims, with co-operation between the four Congresses as the keystone of our programme.

2

S A C O D

40 Box 700

Durban

16/6/55

The Sec/

P.O. Box 4088

Johannesburg

Dear Friend,

I thank you for your letter of the 30th May, received by me on the 11th inst. I will deal with each point as raised in your letter.

1) Speakers Notes etc We have received the 20 copies of Resolutions submitted by N.E.C. for National Conference, also Chairman's report to conference & political discussion notes. Our Region Resolutions were sent to you about 2 weeks ago.

It seems fairly certain that 1 delegate will be attending conference from Durban.

2) Literature This dept of the Durban Region certainly seems to be in a muddle I took over the job of Secretary/Treasurer in the middle of May & am trying to sort things out. It seems fairly certain that pamphlets

+ leaflets have not been arriving - the latest one "National Day of Protest" for which you sent an invoice dated 1/6/55 is still not to hand. I feel the P.O. that we are using is causing a lot of delay & confusion in mail so will forward my personal address to you with our delegate + I think in future all mail, letters, pamphlets etc. should be addressed to me personally & not C.O.P. However the amount of £45.2 will be met by us as obviously a proper check was not kept. but in future you will be advised immediately of any mail not received, as in the case of this last pamphlet. We are holding a Jubilee Sale on the 25th + hope to be able to recite the a/c from the proceeds.

Telegram Campaign We received your letter + specimen telegram + the members met immediately to discuss same. It was decided to attend the Liberal Party Protest meeting the following evening to try & get a joint Action Committee formed, to handle such a campaign + any future activity. The meeting formed a Resolution calling for joint Action from all Parties to present to the U.P.

3 4

Protest meeting + of course it was turned down & we heard no more from the Liberal Party. We were a bit confused as to whether the campaign had been started in your Region, as the letter was not clear on this point also that the campaign was put to the public & not confined to Groups & organisations as your letter suggested. I agree this is no excuse for not getting something done, but it's the old story of our small (pitifully so) numbers.

Membership Activity etc I am sending you the last Secretary's annual report for Part Activity as from Nov 1953 to May 1955. Since I took over we have distributed "Locations in the Sky" leaflet helped Peace Council on Peace Petition & are holding a Jumble Sale on the 25th. Membership of the Durban Region is now 10 that is paying members like the monthly sub has been increased from 2/- to a minimum of 5/- per month. Region meetings are held monthly & as from next month will be followed by a lecture for the political educating of members.

Sorry these letters are not typewritten, I have no machine & until other arrangements can be made this will have to do

Yours faithfully
S. G. G. G.

I DS 36

SOUTH AFRICAN CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS

PHONE 33-0975

HEAD OFFICE:

5, SOMERSET HOUSE,

110, FOX STREET,

P.O. BOX 4088,

JOHANNESBURG.

19th August, 1955.

40
Mr D. SHANLEY

Dear Michael,

It was good seeing you and to be welcomed so genuinely at 5.a.m. on a cold and frosty morning.

There has been so much to do since we returned that I have not been in contact with you. However under separate cover we today posted you some copies of the recent "Counter Attack". Let me know if you receive them.

The N.E.C. finally got down to resolutions passed at conference, copies of which were sent to Durban some while back. In case you have not got them am enclosing a few copies. If you want more please let me know. The N.E.C. made the following recommendations with regard to resolutions :-

1. (1) to (ix) Political. Agreed to send copies of these to the press. to Strauss, Strydom, and the Leader of the Labour Party and U.N.O. (this has been done by Head Office. As far as the Press is concerned local papers and S.A.P.A. were covered, perhaps you could have a shot at Durban papers.)
2. Education (a,b,c, and d) as above.
3. Trade Unions - Please emphasise to your branch the need to implement as far as possible the direction given in a,b,c, and d. The N.E.C. recommends that an immediate liaison be established between Regions and local bodies of the S.A. Congress of Trade Unions with a view to C.O.D. drawing up a panel of helpers, who could assist with lecture notes, clerical assistance, drawing up of leaflets, and other special jobs. I feel here Michael that some of the Durban people who have complained for a long time that Trade Union work is the most important, could be drawn in. This last is purely a personal point of view.

With reference to clause (e) the N.E.C. are attending to

2.

the publishing of a pamphlet.

3B. Legislation affecting Trade Unions.

Send to Press etc. and Minister of Labour.
Regions should pay attention to this resolution.
Resolution 4. - Peace.

To be given to press etc.
Regions be asked to implement the resolution as far as possible, with special reference to clause (i) and (viii) which direct members to assist the S.A. peace Council in their campaigns for the outlawing of weapons of mass destruction and in their petition campaign against the preparation for Atomic War.

Resolution 5. Propaganda.

In terms of resolution 5(ii) a, b, and c your Region should make full use of the 5 lectures "The World we Live In" which should be issued in booklet form and your branch should make a regular feature of a study course at branch meetings. A period in which study course should be concluded will be stipulated by the N.E.C.

5 (iii) New Age.

Your branch should make a special effort to implement resolution 5 (iii) as far as possible, and should report back to Head Office on what steps you have taken to implement this resolution. Reports which show initiative will be published in ~~the~~ Counter Attack.

2 a) Bantu Education

I omitted to point out here what the Johannesburg Region is doing to assist the African Education Movement. Members of C.O.D. have helped to form local committees in their areas set up to assist the Cultural Clubs established in the townships to provide children who have no schooling, as a result of the boycott, with alternative occupation. Members have helped to draw up programmes, collect material, and given their ~~services~~ services in many ways. The local committees are functioning well and our members are working enthusiastically and hard on them. If there is a branch of A.E.M. in Durban members should assist.

There has been a great deal of discussion in C.O.D. Johannesburg Region concerning the Hillbrow By-Election. I am enclosing a statement issued by the N.E.C. to a special meeting called by the Johannesburg Region to discuss the N.E.C. resolution, contained in the statement. There was some disagreement as ~~members~~ some members felt that C.O.D. should throw all its weight behind helping Friedman. We felt that the general meeting would be a good thing and it was. There was plenty of good discussion on both sides, and by a majority the meeting accepted the N.E.C. decision. The spirit of the meeting was good, and the small minority expressed their intention to carry out the N.E.C. decision despite their difference of opinion, and the fact that the N.E.C. ruled before the meeting that those who wished to canvass were free to do so. I am also sending you for your interest a copy of the leaflet ~~xxxxx~~ which is going to be distributed to the voters of Hillbrow by a personal canvass on behalf of C.O.D. members.

Would you, or ask the secretary, to furnish me with a report of how things are going in Durban. Membership, activity etc. How about a fund ~~xxxxx~~ raising activity to help us along.

Leslie Margaret & family

Collection Number: AD1812

RECORDS RELATING TO THE 'TREASON TRIAL' (REGINA vs F. ADAMS AND OTHERS ON CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, ETC.), 1956 1961

TREASON TRIAL, 1956 1961

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand

Location:- Johannesburg

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