

**AL30**



Row "AL 30"  
**UNITED  
DEMOCRATIC  
FRONT**

EASTERN CAPE

# million signature campaign

Briefing for Fieldworkers



*Go to the people,  
live with them,  
learn from them,  
love them—*

*Start with what they know,  
build on what they have—*

*..... but of the best leaders,  
when their task is accomplished,  
their work is done,  
the people all remark:*

*"We have done it ourselves."*

## INTRODUCTION

Over the coming months we, the activists, will be going to the people to collect 100 000 signatures for the UDF declaration.

We will be speaking to the people in their homes, at churches, in the streets, bus ranks, wherever people are to be found.

It is important that we have adequate information on the topics we are going to be discussing, ie. the UDF, Constitution, and the Koornhof Bills. (and why we reject the latter two) Very important also is that we use the correct approach when speaking to the people.

This briefing will guide us in our work. We need to add on to this document information about our area, local organisations and other issues not mentioned in here.

The briefing will be done in two sections. The first will be about the house-visit and some suggestions on our approach, the second will be on the information we will be needing.

Read through this briefing and discuss the ideas in here before going into the field.

Remember that when we are out in the peoples houses, we are carrying the name of the UDF and its policies and principles. CARRY IT WELL.

## THE MILLION SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

The reasons for the million signature campaign are spelt out clearly in the 5 objectives of the campaign.

1. to collect a million signatures to show that we will never accept Apartheid.
2. to popularise and show the support the UDF has.
3. to educate our people about the UDF, Constitution and Koornhof Bills.
4. to show a clear rejection of the constitution and koornhof bills and support for a non-racial democratic South Africa.
5. to use the campaign to popularise and build our local organisations.

The campaign will be conducted by all UDF affiliates in S. A. over the next 4 months.

## THE HOUSE VISIT

### WHY?

- \* Because we need to reach all the people in our community, even if we have to go to their homes. Not all people will come to meetings.
  - \* We need to educate people about UDF, the constitution and koornhof bills. This can best be done in a small group or one to one discussion in which we can clarify any misunderstandings, answer any questions and give people individual attention which has the maximum impact.
- We need to learn about our people. We need to find out about their problems, about how they feel about various issues, their willingness to take part in activity, their level of understanding about the political situation in the country. All this we can only do by speaking to people individually, asking questions and listening carefully when they speak.

### HOW?

There are various approaches to conducting a house-visit. The approach we use will depend on , who we are speaking to, what are the issues affecting that community (eg. election; koornhof bills) other conditions such as the history of work, amount of work done in that area. This must be considered when working out the approach to a house-visit in your area.

However there are some basic points that we can keep in mind. Here is described a particular model , which must be modified for your area.

Let us assume that a pair of you are working in a particular street in the township.

### STEPS FOR THE HOUSE - VISIT

Our first step is to knock on the door.

Greet the person answering the door, Good evening , I am \_\_\_\_\_  
from the (name of local org.). or I am from the UDF.

I wonder if I could take up a few minutes of your time, or any similar statement, without mentioning politics or such words.

GETTING INTO THE HOUSE IS VERY IMPORTANT.

Once you are in or have the person willing to listen, attempt to draw in other members of the family into the discussion. This can be done by asking if there are other people at home, as the matter you want to discuss affects everybody.

Once you have the maximum number of people, explain your purpose.

You are a member of an organisation affiliated to the UDF. You and others are going on a door to door campaign to discuss \_\_\_\_\_ This may differ from area to area. EG. you are discussing the constitution. The UDF is \_\_\_\_\_, give a brief explanation, and at present it is conducting a campaign to collect a million signatures.

At this point ask a few questions, or enquire as to whether the person knows of the UDF, or about the constitution, koornhof bills. This must be done carefully, not in any way frightening the person, or in an abrupt manner. ASK GENTLY. eg. Have you heard of the UDF and constit. What do you know about it.

The answer you receive would allow you to assess how much the person knows, and how much you need to explain.

If you need to explain, use the knowledge in the earlier pages. DO NOT GIVE A LONG SPEECH, EXPLAIN BRIEFLY, MAKE SURE THE PERSON IS FOLLOWING WHAT YOU ARE SAYING. ....

Encourage discussion, get the people to talk. This can be done by asking the right type of question. How long have you been living here, Are you happy with the way the township is, what do you feel about it are some ways of getting people to talk.

Answer all questions - if possible. If you are unable to, take down the address and tell the person you would get someone else to visit them.

At the correct time give an explanation of the signature campaign, and why it is important for people to sign.

If person is antagonistic, disagrees with you, try to persuade them gently, if this does not work, thank them and leave. DO NOT BE PROVOKED INTO ARGUMENTS, ANGER OR VIOLENCE. DISCIPLINE IS IMPORTANT.

If the person is supportive but scared, then explain that the UDF is a legal organisation, the campaign is legal, millions will be signing, the forms are not going to handed to the government, etc. BE PATIENT.

If the person you meet is very interested, spend more time, ask if he is prepared to join or help in some way . WATCH OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Before you leave the home, ask if there is any other information they would like to have, make sure that you have explained all the important issues to the people. ENSURE THAT PERSON IS ADEQUATELY INFORMED AND HAS UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU HAVE SAID.

GET THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SIGNATURES OF PEOPLE OVER THE AGE OF 16 BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

Your last message to the people, tell them to continue to support the local organisation and the UDF. They can do this by reading all the newsletters that will be distributed, coming to meetings, talking to friends and taking an active part in your campaigns. .

Ask them to read and discuss the newsletter that you leave with them.

thank them warmly .

While in the house, make a note (mental) of the way people respond, the questions they ask, problems they talk about, their attitude towards you, the local organisation and the UDF.

THIS FORMAT MUST BE MODIFIED TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

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b u t            r e m e m b e r

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- \* DRESS NEATLY - APPEARANCE IS IMPORTANT
- \* BE POLITE - PEOPLE ARE DOING YOU A FAVOUR AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND
- \* ALLOW PEOPLE TO TALK , ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS ETC. LISTEN AND LEARN
- \* DO NOT ARGUE WITH PEOPLE. IF THEY DISAGREE WITH YOU ,TRY PERSUASION, IF IT FAILS THANK THE PERSON AND LEAVE.
- \* SPEAK IN LANGUAGE PEOPLE WILL UNDERSTAND, NO NEED TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WITH BIG WORDS. SPEAK IN A WAY THAT THEY UNDERSTAND.
- \* SIGNATURE ARE NOT THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING, EDUCATE AND LEARN.
- \* LOOK OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS,            \* WORK HARD - THERE IS NO EASY WAY.

YOU ARE NOW READY FOR THE HOUSE VISIT. TRY IT, LEARN FROM EACH VISIT,  
USE WHAT YOU LEARN IN THE NEXT VISIT.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKED

There will be some questions that may arise during your discussions with the people. PREPARE YOURSELF WELL TO ANSWER THEM.

Some of these questions may be difficult, discuss these with the committee so that we have the best answer and also that all of us use the same approach to such questions.

To this document must be added issues that are specific to your community.

Some of the questions one can be asked.

Why doesn't the UDF participate in the constitution?

What do we expect to achieve by boycotting everything?

Is it not illegal to boycott?

In Indian and Coloured areas, the fears people have about majority rule. Won't South Africa be another Uganda etc.

It is illegal to fight the govt. , if I sign the police will take me away , and similar questions.

Why does UDF not join Inkatha, why are they fighting amongst each other

And many similar questions,

WE MUST BE ARMED WITH ALL THE NECESSARY INFORMATION ,WITH THE ANSWERS TO DIFFICULT QUESTIONS. We must remember that our approach to people is important.

ONCE WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN HANDLE THE HOUSE - VISIT.....

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GO FOR IT

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## WHY THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED ITS NEW DEAL NOW? - WHY THE UDF WAS FORMED

For over 300 years our people have been fighting for Freedom and Justice in South Africa. Today that fight continues.

### WARS OF RESISTANCE

During the 1700 s and 1800 s our people fought against the colonisers, to get back the land taken away from us. With spears against guns, this phase of our struggle ended with the Bambata Rebellion , when 4000 people were killed, in 1906.

### EARLY POLITICAL RESISTANCE

Then came the period when Whites ruled through denying the Black people political rights (VOTE) In 1910 the Whites came together and formed the UNION. Blacks were excluded. After this first constitution was drawn, many laws were passed which further deprived us of rights. For eg. the Land Act of 1913 gave 87% of the land to 20% of the people. Our people formed political organisations to represent them and fight for equal rights. The Natal Indian Congress and ANC were active in this period. Petitions and delegations were used to voice our demands.

### PERIOD OF MASS CAMPAIGNS (1950 s)

This continued until 1948. In this year two things happened. The present Nationalist government came into power. The new government began introducing many apartheid laws (group areas, separate amenities, suppression of communism etc) It took away what little voting rights people had. With this the peoples organisations changed their way of taking up the fight for a better South Africa.

The people responded by going on defiance campaigns and similar mass campaigns involving thousands of people. They drew up the Freedom Charter. In this document they put down their ideas of what kind of South Africa they wanted for the future. This was done by the Congress Alliance. The alliance represented the UNITY of the people at that time. The alliance was made up of the Natal and Transvaal Indian Congress, the ANC , The Coloured Peoples Congress , Congress of Democrats and the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU)

The alliance was crushed by the government in 1960. Organisations were banned, people were banned or jailed and many leaders went into exile.



## PUPPETS REPLACE LEADERS ( 1960 s)

It was during this period of little resistance from the people that the government introduced its puppet bodies, to represent us. The SAIC, LAC, HOMELANDS, CRC etc were born in this period.

## RE EMERGENCE OF PEOPLES ORGANISATIONS (the UDF phase)

But the people rejected these stooges. In the 1970's we saw once again people coming together to form their own organisations. Over the past 6-7 years we have seen many youth, women, civic, political and trade unions organisations being formed to take up the problems of the people. We have heard the voice demanding a non-racial democratic South Africa grow louder.

We have seen this resistance and other factors result in great difficulties for this government. The Economy has been hit by increasing unemployment, inflation and other serious problems. The education system has been rejected both during the 1976 and 1980 boycotts and student organisations like COSAS and AZASO. We have seen the people rise against housing and transport problems, and we have witnessed South Africa being isolated from the world as tremendous pressure being brought onto the govt. to change.

All these factors, and an increased amount of disunity among the white govt. put South Africa in a crisis. It had to respond. It would never be prepared to give up Apartheid and give us the genuine change we are demanding. It came up with its new deal, another fraud. The government hopes that the NEW DEAL would win over the Coloured and Indian people (Through its new constitution) and a section of the African community. (Through the Koornhof Bills) It hopes that the new deal would improve its image in the eyes of the world.

But our people nor the world has been fooled. When these plans were announced, the peoples organisations all over the country discussed them. The call was unanimous, a clear rejection of the new deal. The world voted against it at the United Nations, a vote was taken on the new constitution, 147 countries said NO and no country voted in support of it.

AT A TIME WHEN THE GOVERNMENT WAS THREATENING TO FURTHER DIVIDE THE PEOPLE, TO DESTROY THE UNITY WE HAVE BUILT OVER THE YEARS AND TO GIVE APARTHEID A NEW FACE, WE NEEDED TO SHOW OUR UNITY AND CLEAR REJECTION OF THE NEW DEAL .....

THE UDF WAS BORN

## THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT

### ITS FORMATION

The idea of the UDF was first introduced by Dr. Alan Boesak at the Transvaal Anti-SAIC conference in January 1983. It was at this conference that a draft declaration was passed, and delegates from the different provinces were elected. The delegates were given the responsibility of consulting in their regions about the idea of forming a united front.

A long process of consultation resulted in the formation of regional committees of the UDF. This occurred during the months of March to July. There was general acceptance of the need for the United Front.

The national UDF was launched on the 20 August 1983. The launching took the form of a conference and mass rally. The conference was attended by 2000 people from over 400 organisations. The rally which followed the conference was held at the same venue in Mitchells Plein, Cape Town. The UDF launch was attended by over 15000 people from all parts of the country and people of all races.

Since then the UDF has grown both in numbers and experience.

Today in the UDF there are over 600 organisations. The UDF is made up of 7 regions. They are Natal, Western Cape, Transvaal, Eastern Cape, Border, Orange Free State and Northern Cape.

Its short but eventful history speaks proudly of peoples victories.

- \* In Cape the UDF led a campaign against the management committees (LAC) which resulted in a 98% stay away.
- \* In Transvaal and Cape the Black Local Authority elections were boycotted successfully.
- \* A well publicised campaign was organised against the violence in Cape Town.
- \* Peoples Weekend, over 30000 people attended various meetings held throughout the country on 30 October.
- \* The Natal Indian Congress, a UDF affiliates campaign showed that the Indian people reject Rajbansi and the Constitution.
- \* The United Committee of Concern led the campaign among the Coloured people of Natal to show their rejection of the Labour Party and Constitution.

Through these campaigns the UDF has won the support of hundreds of thousands of people.

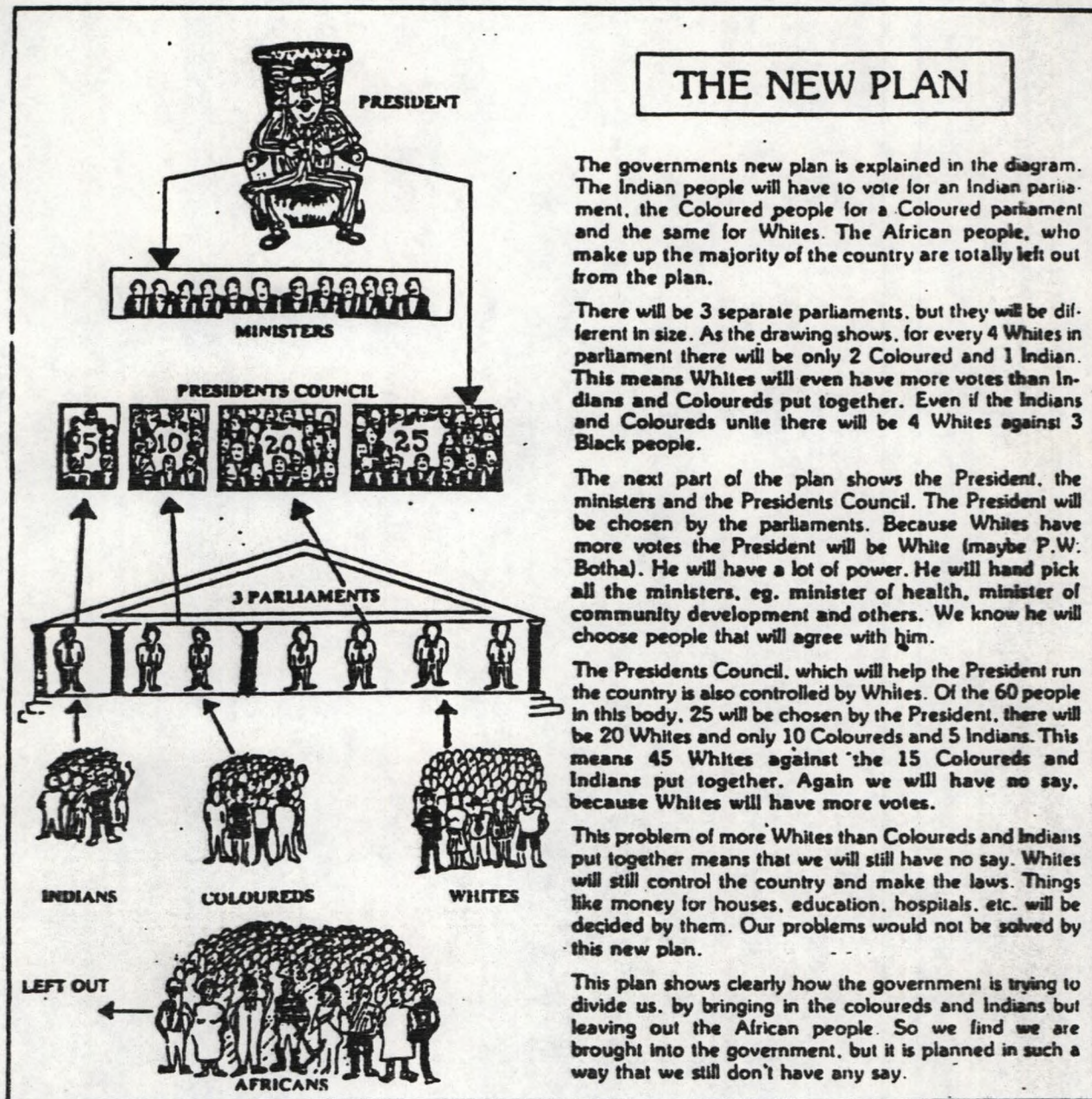
THE UDF BELIEVES IN .....

UNITY OF ALL PEOPLE, It brings together people of all races, young and old, workers, students, priests, businessmen, professionals, women, youth . It believes that we must defend the unity we have built and that we must struggle together so that we can build greater unity among all the people of south Africa, Black and White.

DEMOCRACY , The UDF operates in a way which allows all its affiliates and their members to be part of the decisions that are made. It believes that all South Africans have a right to take part in the running of their country. The UDF is working for a new South Africa in which the constitution will be drawn up by all the people, in which all people shall have a direct say in all decisions.

ORGANISATION. we the oppressed people have only one weapon in our fight to bring freedom to our country. This is the mobilisation and organisation of our people. It is only the people of South Africa, when they are organised and united, that will bring change.

## THE NEW CONSTITUTION AND WHY WE REJECT IT



Not explained in the above diagram are two parts of the constitution. These are the electoral college and standing committees. The electoral college is the group that will elect the president. The group will be made up of the members of the party that wins the majority in each parliament. Each parliament will have representation on the basis of the 4:2:1 ratio. This means the White majority party will decide who the president is. The standing committees will be made up of members of the three parliaments, again in the usual ratio. They will discuss that are issues of common concern to all races, eg housing, defence. The parliaments will discuss only their own issues eg education, welfare.

WE REJECT THE CONSTITUTION BECAUSE .....

- \* the constitution comes nowhere near our idea of Democracy , it does not talk about a system where all the people would be involved in taking decisions that affect their lives
- \* The constitution was drawn up by the same government that has been responsible for our suffering, we were not consulted, we were not involved in the drawing up of this new plan.
- \* The constitution still practices racism, separation and denial of rights based on colour.
- \* The African people , the majority in the country are left out of the constitution. The govt. is further dividing us.
- \* Whites will still control the country, they have more say at every level of the constitution, White domination continues.
- \* Laws that have been responsible for our suffering all these years, and which we reject will remain eg. the group areas act. Added to this the Indian and Coloured people will be forced to make laws against the African people.
- \* We will be forced to join the army and fight on the border , to defend an unjust system.

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE WORKINGS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND THE REASONS FOR REJECTING IT BEFORE WE GO INTO HOUSES. WE MUST BE IN A POSITION TO EXPLAIN SIMPLY AND YET CLEARLY WHY THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE REJECTED BY ALL PEOPLE THAT BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE AND PEACE.

AN IMPORTANT POINT TO REMEMBER IS THAT NO MATTER WHO WE PUT INTO THE PARLIAMENT (EVEN THE BEST OF OUR LEADERS) HE WILL HAVE NO POWER TO CHANGE ANYTHING.

## KOORNHOF BILLS

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

The 3 bills which make up Koornhof's so called reform plan are:

1. the orderly Movement and Settlement of Black Persons Bill.
2. the Black Local Authorities Act
3. the Black Communities Development Bill

The first two bills were withdrawn and referred to the Grosskopf Committee and they can pass through parliament at any time this year.

### 2. THE BILLS:

#### 2.1 ORDERLY MOVEMENT AND SETTLEMENT OF BLACK PERSONS BILL:

Who will have urban rights?

- a). Only the new category of persons called PERMANENT URBAN RESIDENT will have urban rights.
- b). Permanent Urban Resident Status will be given to those who own properties, this include those with 99 year leasehold but not people renting houses and staying in hostels.
- c). And also those S.A. citizens who have lawful resident in a prescribed area for 10 years may apply to be granted permanent urban rights - this excludes 8 million people who are citizens of independant homelands.
- d). Persons born in prescribed area to parents with urban rights may apply to become (PUR'S).

What will happen to other people?

- a). Those who have section 10 rights at the moment but without approved accomodation will have them taken away.
  - b). People who are citizens of independant homelands won't be granted these rights.
  - c). Kwa Zulu residents have no urban rights nor will they have under this section.
  - d). Everyone who is not a PUR will enter the prescribed area as a contract worker and may not remain in the area, without a permit, between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- No one will have a visitors permit for more than 14 days in the year. People who will now and then be required to produce permit to be in the area, and if they can't they will be arrested.

Those found in the prescribed area between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. will be sentenced to 6 months or R500 fine for each person. Employers who employ people without permits to be in the prescribed area will face 12 months in jail or R5000.

#### Resettlement of people.

- a). Farm tenement boards will be set up to determine the number of people that should be in an area. The Board may order that a group of people in excess of the areas labour needs, be removed.
- b). The minister may remove people if he thinks they are being a nuisance or are congregating in an area where it is undesirable or if their presence may canvass support for a public campaign to change the law. The people may be ordered to be removed with dependants to any place the Director General may decide.

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#### 2.2 THE BLACK LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACT OF 1982:

This law sets out how local government will take place in some black townships in the prescribed area. For people in Durban it applies to Lamontville, Chesterville, etc.

- \* Community Councils will be replaced by local authorities elected by PUR'S only.
  - \* The local authorities will be responsible for; refuse removal, water supply, drainage, electricity, health services, etc.
  - \* The local authorities will still have to raise money for improvement because they won't have access to revenues.
  - \* They will be completely autonomous, that means they will also finance themselves.
  - \* Unlike other Indians, Coloured and White local governments the black local authorities will have no representation at govt. level.
- This law details the powers, functions and obligations of the local authorities and the powers of the Minister to intervene in the affairs of the local authority.

#### IMPLICATIONS OF THE BLACK LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACT:

- \* No one is eligible for election if he/she has ever been found guilty of an offence under any security law.
- \* The minister determines the number of members in the local authority and the basis for election. If the community boycotts the election The Minister can appoint persons until further elections.

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