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SYMPOSIUM IN LONDON: 'NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE STUDY OF THE ROMA GENOCIDE.'

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PHOTOGRAPHS
SHED LIGHT ON
THE EVENTS OF
THE NOVEMBER
POGROM

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We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

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RARE PHOTOGRAPHS SHED LIGHT ON THE EVENTS OF THE NOVEMBER POGROM

A new photo album recently donated to Yad Vashem, features rare photos of the events of the November Pogrom of 1938, coined "Kristallnacht", by the Nazis. The photos, taken by Nazi photographers, depict scenes from one particular location but are representative of the destruction and attack on the Jewish community across much of Germany and Austria during the two-day pogrom.

Nearly a year before the outbreak of World War II, between 9-10 November 1938, German and Austrian mobs looted, torched and vandalized many Jewish-owned shops, businesses and homes. In just a few hours some 1400 synagogues were set ablaze and destroyed. Jewish citizens were viciously attacked and publicly humiliated. 30,000 Jewish men were rounded up and sent to concentration camps. The November Pogrom claimed the lives of 92 Jews.

Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan said: "Seeing these images of humiliation of Jews, and the destruction of their homes, businesses and even synagogues is extremely disturbing and difficult. But all these years later we must bear witness to the atrocities of the past. These photographs clearly show the true intention of the Nazis and the systematic and deliberate lengths they would go to in order to accomplish their murderous agenda. These photographs constitute important documentary evidence of the atrocities that were inflicted on the Jews of Europe. It is critical that these images and other documentation from the Holocaust be preserved and kept at Yad Vashem forever. They will serve as everlasting witnesses long after the survivors are no longer here to bear testimony to their own experiences and will convey for generations to come the individual stories and history of the Holocaust to everyone, in Israel and abroad."

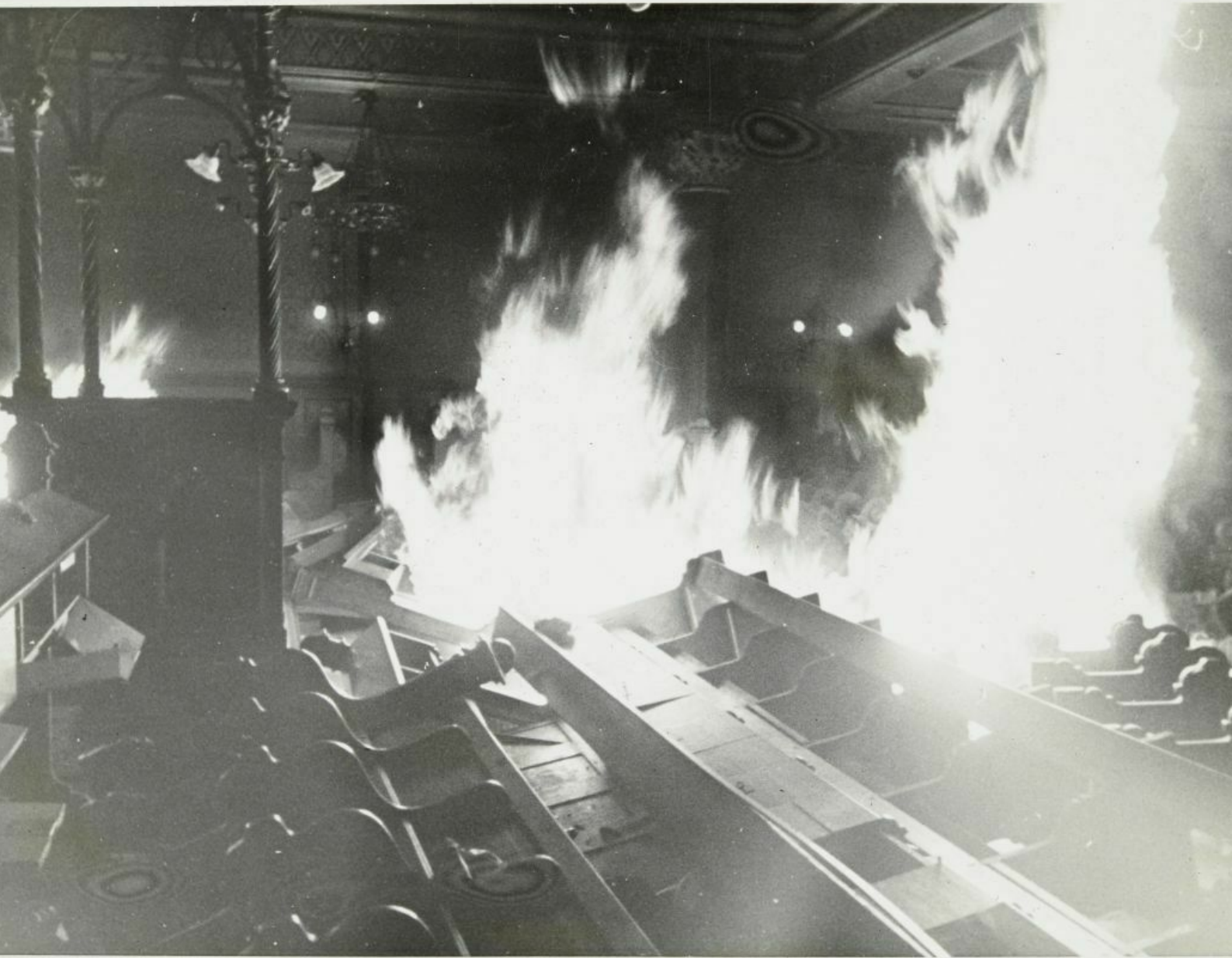
The album was kept for many years in the

United States in the home of a Jewish US soldier, who served in the counter-intelligence department of the US Army in Germany during World War II. The former serviceman never spoke about his experiences during the war. After he passed away, his daughter, Ann Leifer, and her two daughters, discovered the album while cleaning up her father's house.

"When I opened the album, I felt as if a hole had been burned through my hands," said Elisheva Avital, granddaughter of the soldier, describing that moment when they first saw the photos contained in the album.

The Gold Family chose to donate the album to Yad Vashem as part of the "Gathering the Fragments" project, which collects Holocaust-era possessions kept by Holocaust survivors and their descendants. The album arrived in Israel thanks to the assistance of a family member, Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Nefesh B'Nefesh. The photographs were taken by two Nazi photographers during the pogroms in Nuremberg and the nearby town of Fürth.

The first pages of the album contain photographs of vandalized homes belonging to local Jewish families. Next, they depict images of Jews in dressing gowns or pajamas, some wounded, and others still in bed – classic propaganda photos taken by the Nazis. Flipping the pages of this rare album, the viewer also encounters pictures



photos taken by the Nazis. Flipping the pages of this rare album, the viewer also encounters pictures of SS men gathering piles of books, both religious and secular. These books were presumably being collected in order to burn later on.

Head of the Photography Section of the Yad Vashem Archives Jonathan Matthews explains: "We can see from the extreme close-up nature of these photos that the photographers were an integral part of the event depicted. The angles and proximity to the perpetrators seem to indicate a clear goal, to document the events that took place. These are indeed rare photos that shed light on the November Pogrom events

we did not have until today. We see SS men and SA actually carrying out the events – setting the fires, vandalizing homes and Jewish businesses and humiliating the Jewish population. All this serves as further proof that this was dictated from above and was not a spontaneous event of an enraged public, as they tried to make these pogroms appear."

The focus of these rare photos is the portrayal of the rioters in action and in the background, onlookers standing by, watching, and doing nothing to stop the violence or defend their Jewish neighbors.

BIM DIGITAL BUILDING INFORMATION MODELLING TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS CONSERVATION AT THE AUSCHWITZ

After several years of preparation and testing, as part of the ongoing project to implement BIM (Building Information Modelling), a BIM model of the state of preservation and condition of a fully conserved brick prisoner barracks at the Auschwitz II-Birkenau site was created at the Museum. The result is a faithful, three-dimensional image of the building, with available data and related information associated with the building.

BIM is the use of a digital model in the construction industry to improve the design, construction and operation processes. The information contained in the model provides a basis for making optimal decisions at all the listed stages of a facility's existence.

The BIM models of Barrack marked with no. 7 at the BIb section of the former Auschwitz II-Birkenau camp were created based on cloud points from laser scanning, orthophoto plans of walls, foundations, and floors, panoramic pictures, photographs and archival documentation, design and as-built documentation.

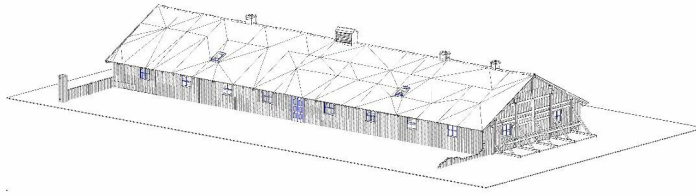
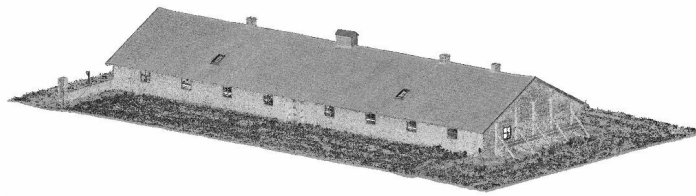
The BIM model of the state of preservation is a faithful representation of the condition of the barracks before the start of the comprehensive preservation activities. Conversely, the BIM model of the as-built state is a digital representation of what the barrack looks like today, three years following the completion of its comprehensive conservation.

'The BIM pilot project began at the Museum in 2017. For its implementation, we chose the historic brick barrack undergoing comprehensive conservation works at the time. During the work, we had the

opportunity to examine on an ongoing basis how the capabilities of BIM models could be utilised to plan, design, and implement conservation works. The conclusions drawn from the pilot project allowed us to decide on fully implementing the BIM methodology into the conservation works,' said project manager Tomasz Zemła.

'While searching for a database that would allow access to information about the buildings and their premises, we quickly realised that the most appropriate solution would be one that offered as accurate a visual representation of these buildings as possible. In 2017, when we became familiar with BIM, which has been used extensively in the construction industry, we figured it might suit our needs. After conducting a pilot programme, we decided that combining a faithful three-dimensional model of the building with its associated information and a database extension was the optimal solution for managing data about our facilities and, in the future, the buildings themselves,' said the head of the Master Plan for Preservation (GPK), Agnieszka Tanistra-Rózanowska.

'After a series of training sessions, consultations with experts, and reviewing the pilot project findings, we created our



own BIM model standard. It is the second study in Poland in this field dedicated to a specific contracting authority. Currently - in line with the methodology developed and in conjunction with the GPK specialists employed at the Museum - the contractor selected via a tender procedure is developing further BIM models,' added Tomasz Zemła.

BIM models shall be developed for 45 brick buildings – prisoners' barracks, kitchens, bathhouses, latrines, and washrooms within the BI sector. This will be correlated with a multi-year plan for comprehensive conservation works in these historic buildings.

'The implementation of BIM reflects our approach to conservation documentation, which should include all available historical and technical knowledge about the building and all undertaken preservation treatments. It is a tool as important as the technologies

and techniques used in the works themselves. Thus, since the beginning of the Museum's Conservation Laboratories, we have been improving the ways we gather and use information about the buildings,' said deputy director of the Museum Rafał Pióro, responsible for preserving the authenticity of the Memorial Site.

The subsequent phase of the project will involve the implementation of a Data Management System. The BIM-based system will be used to analyse the preservation status of individual buildings when planning and implementing conservation works and when carrying out various technical and conservation inspections.

The implementation of BIM is being carried out within the framework of the Museum's Master Plan for Preservation, funded by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation.

INSIDE OUT. ETGAR KERET IN BERLIN

Taking memories of his mother as his point of departure, the Israeli author Etgar Keret has written nine new short stories specifically for the exhibition at the Jewish Museum in Berlin. It had its world premiere on 21 October.



Etgar Keret. Photo: Lielle Sand

With these short stories, Keret draws an explicit connection to the Jewish tradition of passing down memories from generation to generation. He recalls experiences he had with his mother, who was born in Poland in 1934, and recounts stories she told him as a child, including ordinary anecdotes but also traumatic wartime experiences and encounters with violence.

The narrative voice alternates between the perspective of an adult and that of a child. Keret makes no claim that these literary writings depict reality or paint a complete picture of his mother. On the contrary, he emphasizes that such an attempt would be doomed to failure, and also wants the exhibition to illustrate the uncertain and fragmentary nature of his memory. The short stories are presented alongside

objects from the JMB collection selected by Etgar Keret as well as two installations, a piece of video art, and illustrations created by contemporary artists in collaboration with the author. Etgar Keret aims to defy museumgoers' expectations with this exhibition. He has no intention of imparting information or explaining anything to them, but instead hopes to share partial and un-verifiable memories of his late mother with them. Through the interplay of memories, objects, and art installations, the exhibition will forge evocative spaces that stir up feelings and associations.

"The Jewish Museum Berlin wants its exhibitions to tell stories about Jewish life," says Hetty Berg, Director of the JMB, "and Etgar Keret is beyond doubt a master of story-telling. I am delighted that he has written short stories about his family speci-

Etgar Keret himself says that he wants the visitors to get a sense of his mother, but without them having any objective details about her. This way, he says, they will learn about her just as he did: "Instead of sharing her parents' names or her date of birth in the exhibition, I want the visitors to know which part of her hand she would touch my face with, and what bedtime stories she

All the stories will be available in the exhibition itself – and, after it opens, on the JMB website – in three languages, in both print and audio versions. Etgar Keret has recorded himself reading his pieces in Hebrew and English, and the award-winning writer Daniel Kehlmann has narrated the German translation.

The exhibition will be open until 5 February 2023.

A crumpled piece of paper with German text, set against a blue background. The text is partially legible and includes words like "Handels", "Erige", "Tag", "Ordn", "die", "sation", "Ker", "wird", "habe", "alle", "und", "an", "sich", "ne", "sich", "den", "den", "ein", "und", "Tag".

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"TREBLINKA II EXTERMINATION CAMP" AUDIO GUIDE IN GERMAN

The "Memory of Treblinka" Foundation and the Janusz Korczak School in Halle (Germany), in collaboration with the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, have prepared an audio guide version of the Treblinka II extermination camp in German.

The audio guide - educational trail Treblinka II extermination camp is available on smartphones (iOS and Android systems). It can be downloaded for free via Google Play or the AppStore. The history of the Treblinka camp and the fate of selected individuals is recounted in 15 points. These points are outlined on a paper map and a map visible on the phone. As the visitor approaches the next point, the corresponding audio recording is activated automatically.

The trail leads the user along the route taken by those murdered at Treblinka. The content of each of the fifteen points consists of two components: historical information (from the founding of the Treblinka I and Treblinka II camps, through the camp layout, perpetrators, and inmates, to the Holocaust mechanism and the uprising of 2 August 1943), including witness narratives (selected quotes from testimonies and memoirs). The trail is intended to convey essential information and present the prisoners' perspectives - those for whom Treblinka marked the end of their lives and those who survived.

The authors of the project - the Treblinka Memory Foundation and the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, with the support of the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund and the Treblinka Museum-German Nazi extermination and labour camp (1941-1944) - seek not only to tell the story of the camp but also to restore the memory of the lost communities. Through the recollections of Samuel Willenberg and other witnesses, the tragedy of people who lost their lives and their names is portrayed. The authors implore, in the words of Halina Birenbaum: "visit Treblinka - don't leave them lonesome".

The German version was created thanks in part to a grant from the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation.

The Treblinka II extermination camp audio guide is now available in four languages: English, Hebrew, German and Polish. The Jewish Historical Institute's internet site offers a virtual walk-through with a paper version of the map.



Audioguide

Vernichtungslager Treblinka II

Über diesem Ort wird immer Nebel liegen. (Rachela Auerbach)



English



עברית



Deutsch

Anfang

Über die App

WAVE OF ACTIVITY IS STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

One year ago, when world leaders met in Sweden for the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism – Remember-ReAct, there was much cause for optimism. We were beginning to see the end of the pandemic and there was a general sense that we could, and should, work together to address increasing antisemitism, antigypsyism and Holocaust distortion. Indeed, the action-oriented approach taken by the Forum itself was testament to this.

The Malmö approach meant that all participating leaders were asked to go from words to deeds and make concrete pledges in the areas of Holocaust remembrance and education, and combating antisemitism, antigypsyism and racism in all spheres of life, including on social media.

Over 150 pledges were made by 60 governments, international organizations, and tech companies in even more areas than foreseen – an unprecedented push of activity. One of Sweden's pledges was to follow up on these commitments during the Swedish Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), whose mandate coincides with many of the pledge areas.

In October 2021, however, few expected Russia's unprovoked and unjustifiable aggression against Ukraine. Or that inflation, energy prizes and cost-of-living would soar.

Looking back now, it is clear that these crises have not halted the implementation of the

commitments made at Malmö. On the contrary, one year on, our reporting shows that the Malmö Forum provided the necessary impetus for multiple policy decisions and strategic initiatives to be set in motion.

The pledges represent a wide range of activities, including research projects, funding initiatives, new museums, new government offices, training programs, and entire strategies to counter antisemitism, antigypsyism, and racism. Whether the pledges have launched brand new initiatives or strengthened existing programs and institutions, all of them fill important gaps in our approach to strengthening our pluralistic democracies and to countering incitement to hatred and violence sparked by antisemitism, antigypsyism, or racism.

One year on, the Malmö Forum continues to guide policy agendas in the field. While some pledges – like Australia's first-ever nation-wide survey on Holocaust knowledge and awareness – have been completed, others are





progress. This includes pledges like the opening of Romania's National Museum of Jewish History and the Holocaust, the permanent exhibition for which is currently being designed. Likewise, discussions on the United Kingdom's pledged Online Safety Bill, which aims to tackle harmful content online, are ongoing, as are the IHRA's efforts to develop recommendations for teaching and learning about the genocide of the Roma. While many pledges reflect national projects, some were steeped in international cooperation from the outset. An Austrian pledge that resulted in recommendations equipping teachers and school administrators to better address antisemitism both within and outside their classrooms was based on research conducted in Austria, Bavaria, and Switzerland. Other countries have taken note, using the insights gleaned from the Austrian project to inform their own teacher training programs.

The Malmö Forum, and the Swedish IHRA Presidency's continued follow-up of the pledges, has made it easier for good practices to be identified and implemented elsewhere. When developing policies of their own, countries no longer need to start from scratch. The Malmö Forum effectively has lowered the barrier to entry. Each pledge represents a starting point for countless other new initiatives.

The pandemic reminded us that people quickly turn to hate when faced with a seemingly insurmountable crisis. Today, we are facing many of these. As the cohesion of our pluralistic democracies is tested on many fronts, we must respond with policies that strengthen civil society and counter antisemitism, antigypsyism and racism – we must continue to implement the Malmö Forum pledges – a bulwark against the most damaging effects of today's multiple crises.

SYMPOSIUM: NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE STUDY OF THE ROMA GENOCIDE

The two-day, in-person symposium organised by The Wiener Holocaust Library and the University of Cambridge, taking place at the Library on the 10th-11th May 2023, will bring together early career researchers with senior academics to discuss new directions in the study of the Roma genocide.

In recent years, scholars have turned their attention to the experiences of persecuted Romani individuals and families, producing research that seeks to restore the agency and the voices of Roma victims of genocide, and contest narratives of anonymous mass victimhood. This has included increased research on resistance, memory, and memorialisation, as well as an interest in the post war legacy of the Roma genocide and its links to the persistent discrimination against Roma and Sinti communities.

With a focus on Romani agency and Romani voices of the past, this symposium seeks to give a platform to new research on the Romani genocide that explores the methodological approaches of gender, microhistory, oral history, and family history. Increased research on gender has begun to illuminate the sexual violence and medical experimentation faced by Romani men and women. Microhistorical studies exploring local archives have emerged as a way to tackle the 'silences' on the Romani genocide in larger state archives. Similarly, oral history, with increased work on testimonies and ego-

documents, and a focus on family history have been used to piece together Romani perceptions of their own persecution.

Postgraduates and early career researchers are invited to submit papers for panels presentations. The conference aims to bring together academics from different national backgrounds, and scholars of Romani origin are especially encouraged to participate.

Some possible themes may include:

- Gendered perspectives on persecution and how this was tied to ideas about race
- Family history and ethical implications of its use
- Working with testimonies and other ego-documents
- Microhistories of the Roma genocide

The symposium will take place at The Wiener Holocaust Library's premises in London, co-convened by Clara Dijkstra (Cambridge), Dr Barbara Warnock (The Wiener Library) and Dr Celia Donert (Cambridge). The Wiener Library is the oldest Holocaust archive in the world, and its holdings contain a collection on the



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The Wiener
Holocaust Library



Margarete Kraus, a Czech Roma who was deported to Auschwitz. WHL Collections

its holdings contain a collection on the Roma genocide including many survivor accounts

The organisers hope to be able to provide some funding to cover panellists' travel costs to and from the conference.

Please send an abstract (250 words) to

Clara Dijkstra
(cdijkstra@wienerholocaustlibrary.org) by the 31st of January.

Please include the title of your paper and a short biography.



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