

The Outside Agitator

"Only Justice can stop a curse."

—Alice Walker, *In Search of My Mother's Garden*

March 1989

No. 3

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS BEGINS

The Outside Agitator would like to wish you all a happy new year! We, formerly of the National Campaign to Abolish the Lexington Women's Control Unit, are excited about the new direction we're taking and the new human rights campaign: Freedom Now. We look forward with this new year to progress in our struggle to free all political prisoners and Prisoners of War.

As mentioned in our August '88 issue the Lexington Campaign has begun a transformation. 100 activists met in NYC last October to consider proposals for a change in focus of work. We began the process of forming a national campaign to demand human rights and amnesty for political prisoners and POWs held within the U.S. The human rights campaign will focus on building international support for political prisoners. In addition the campaign will mobilize religious, professional, medical and political organizations. The participants at the October meeting represented Progressive forces who have worked against human rights violations of those incarcerated in the U.S. or defended political prisoners and POWs.

The issue of those women formerly incarcerated in the High Security Unit, Lexington, continues to concern us deeply. Susan Rosenberg, Alejandrina Torres, Silvia Baraldini and Sylvia Brown are not forgotten. The HSU was closed last August. But the government has not stopped the harassment and torture of those political prisoners and POW who were locked in Lexington. In fact their actions toward our brave sisters are quite punitive.

The BOP has designated Silvia and Susan to Metropolitan Correctional Center(MCC), New York and Alejandrina to MCC, San Diego - long term. We do not consider MCCs appropriate long term facilities. There is no access to recreation, medical care, work or educational programs. (articles about the women's experience since leaving Lexington follow). Last July Susan and Silvia won an important victory in federal court. Judge Barrington Parker ruled that their placement at Lexington was a violation of their First Amendment Right to Free Speech and ordered placement into general population. Therefore, their placement in MCCs is in direct violation of this July decision.(see article on MCCs) Sylvia Brown is not a political prisoner. Her friendship and solidarity with the political women at Lexington is well remembered. She has been transferred to a new women's prison in Marianna, Florida.

The Outside Agitator urges our readers to become involved in the human rights campaign. For more information contact the following addresses. Any political prisoners who have not yet heard about this effort should notify their representatives on the outside or contact the campaign directly. **FREEDOM NOW!**

Freedom Now Campaign
c/o Movement Support Network 666 Broadway
N.Y.,N.Y. 10012

3543 18th Street, Box 17
San Francisco, Ca. 94110

UPDATE ON ALEJANDRINA TORRES

The Lexington High Security Unit officially closed on August 19, 1988 after almost two years of existence. Federal marshals arrived on that day at 7AM and removed Deborah Brown, Sylvia Brown, a witness protection prisoner, and Lynnette Fromm from the women's control unit. When it became obvious that Puerto Rican POW Alejandrina Torres would not be going with them, Lynnette, in a protest to the institutional staff refused to leave the basement unit without Alejandrina. She finally agreed to leave at the urging of Alejandrina, who feared that the guards would use physical force to remove Lynnette.

Alejandrina was left alone in the unit, and she was not given any information about plans for her transfer. The marshals finally returned at a little past three in the afternoon, and took her to a county jail about 25 miles from Lexington. She was put in an extremely cold, air-conditioned cell, once more isolated in a basement, where she froze for two days. The Federal marshals then flew Alejandrina to San Diego in a private jet.

All of Alejandrina's paperwork indicated that she would go to the women's prison in Marianna, Florida with the other women who were in the Lexington Control Unit. Political prisoner Susan Rosenberg is designated to N.Y., MCC. Previously she was transferred to

a D.C. jail (see article on Susan Rosenberg). Political prisoner Silvia Baraldini is designated to N.Y., MCC (see article on Silvia). When Alejandrina arrived in San Diego neither the Federal marshals at the airfield nor the jail keepers at MCC, San Diego were expecting her. When they discovered who she was, they immediately threw her in the hole.

Alejandrina remained in the hole for one day. She reported it was disgustingly filthy place. Human excrement was smeared on the walls. Food was not provided for her and she was not allowed to phone a lawyer. The officers waited 8 hours to bring her any bedding for the cot. When she was brought upstairs, Alejandrina was put in a double bunk cell with two other women. She stayed in these over crowded conditions for a month before a bunk was available and she was moved to a cell with one other woman.

MCC, San Diego is divided into two parts. There is a disciplinary section for women in the federal prison system and a section for people waiting to be sentenced. Alejandrina Torres is the only prisoner serving a sentence greater than one year that has been "designated" to MCC, San Diego. MCC's are set up as temporary facilities and do not have recreational, medical or educational programs. A prisoner is "designated" to a particular place as a permanent assignment. The BOP is just exercising another form of harassment by assigning POW Alejandrina Torres, serving a 35 year sentence, to a MCC.

Alejandrina has also been targeted for torture in other ways. Prison officials for many months refused to provide her with proper medical treatment and medication. They did not give her the prescribed heart medication and they resisted getting support hose for her varicose veins. They have severely limited her visiting rights, and have denied most people previously approved as visitors. She is allowed outside once a week, on Saturday, and only on the roof.

MCC officials told Alejandrina initially that she would be placed in a UNICOR job, even though her record shows that she repeatedly refuses to work for UNICOR. UNICOR are government industries which employ prisoners at \$1.47 an hour and do production for the U.S. Defense Department. There were other people at MCC, San Diego who were on a waiting list for UNICOR positions. She did manage to convince them to give her another job in the commissary, and avoided punishment for refusing to work for UNICOR.

Alejandrina presently suffers from a painful breast lump. Lawyer Jan Susler made 30 phone calls before a doctor was scheduled to examine her. The doctor ordered a mammogram early in January. The results are still pending.

All of these abusive attempts have failed to break the spirit of Alejandrina. She remains strong in her commitment to the just struggle for Puerto Rican independence and the ever-growing resistance to U.S. imperialism.



A Message From Susan Rosenberg

The specific repressive "mission" of small group isolation by the BOP that was temporarily stalled with the closing of the HSU at Lexington continues in other forms: in the on-going repressive and special treatment of the women political prisoners; in the BOP's appeal of Judge Parker's decision and their non-compliance and "bad faith" in not executing the order to place us in general population; it continues in the politically vindictive prosecution of the "Resistance Conspiracy Case" defendants in Washington, D.C.

In May, 1988 I, along with AB, TB, MB, LE and LW were indicted on conspiracy and bombing charges. The government indictment states that the goal of the conspiracy was to "protest, change, and influence U.S. foreign and domestic policies through violent and illegal means."

The case brought against us is a product of the same political program of repression stemming from the Meese/Reagan/Bush government—aimed at those of us who have taken militant action against the injustices in our society and against U.S. war crimes against Third World countries. As captured militants of the clandestine anti-imperialist resistance we have all been targeted for lifelong burial in amerika's worst prisons.

A Message From Silvia Baraldini

On July 15, 1988 Judge Parker issued his decision, finding the Justice Department and the Bureau of Prisons guilty of violating Susan Rosenberg and my First Amendment rights to free speech. He found that our placement in the unit was solely based on our political beliefs and associations. We won an important victory. The movement to close HSU led by the National Campaign and its member organizations was responsible for the victory. By its organizing, demonstrating, petitioning, and letter writing they had created the public awareness and support that made the suit possible.

The judge ordered Susan and me released into general population. My release coincided with a worsening medical situation. In February of 1988 I had complained to the medical department of a new lump in the pelvic region. After months of willful neglect, I was examined by the prison's gynecologist and a specialist from the University of Kentucky. Their diagnosis included a recommendation for an immediate hysterectomy at the University of Kentucky hospital. In spite of the order releasing me from high security treatment, the BOP continued to use my

Specifically on being brought here to stand trial in this case the government wants to make sure that the political advances made in the fight against the HSU get overturned. The BOP was not successful in utilizing the "terrorist exception" tactic, the labeling of PPs as terrorist in order to deny us our human and constitutional rights, at Lexington. It was not successful in the eyes of many parts of society, and it was not acceptable in federal court.

When I/we arrived at Washington D.C. Jail we were placed in "special handling," which is maximum security. It meant 23 and a half hours a day in solitary confinement. It meant never being outside the cell unshackled at the hands and feet. It meant a two person escort at all times. It means being defined as a "terrorist threat."

The strategy of the U.S. attorney's office in this case was to use the same information of political history and association that Judge Parker had determined was protected by the 1st Amendment, in order to enforce this maximum security status. The government has specifically used my inclusion in this case to obtain a different decision in opposition to Parker's Lexington decision. In this case, Judge Harold Greene has refused to respond to any of the substantive conflicts created by the government's use of political association as the justification for maximum security status.

alleged "dangerousness" to veto an operation outside of a prison.

On July 22, 1988 I was moved in the early morning hours to the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, MN, a male prison whose facilities included an operating theater within its walls. The pathology after the first operation revealed endometrial cancer. A second operation was done followed by radiation treatment at the end of September. To date I am the only woman prisoner ever operated on inside a federal prison. When I asked the treating doctor if I was their guinea pig, he answered, "Let's not be crude, you are our champagne bottle." I am convinced that the stress and lack of proper medical care at HSU contributed significantly to my worsening state of health.

A month later the BOP transferred me to the Metropolitan Correctional Center in NYC, a jail for pre-trial detainees. The conditions are bad—there is little access to fresh air, limited to three hours per week. There is no work, no educational or recreational programs. MCC is terribly overcrowded. One hundred eight women are squeezed into a space built for forty-four. At times people are forced to sleep on cots in the hallways.

A further example of this same repressive program (the government's manipulation of "security needs" to enforce greater and greater restrictions on our rights) is the government's insistence that our trial be held in the "terrorist courtroom" in the federal court building in Washington, D.C. What makes this a special courtroom is the construction of a plexi-glass wall that divides the spectators from the well of the court, and the installation of cameras that are trained on the public/spectator section of the courtroom, and at the defense. These measures are being used in addition to two metal detector searches at the door for those who attend, and at least one strip search of us (the defendants) before we walk into the courtroom. The wall was designed for use in federal extradition cases. But our trial will be the first domestic conspiracy case where it is used. By its very structure it denies us the right to a public trial, and it begins the practice of creating special courts for special trials.

The use of isolation as a method of imprisonment for political prisoners is designed to persecute, to force political capitulation, to intimidate, to sow fear and to prevent the development of any sympathy or human solidarity between the prisoners and those on the outside. In this sense, the wall in the courtroom serves the same ends.

The cameras are a so-called security measure, and yet the U.S. Marshals, the FBI, and other police agents are in full attendance at all court proceedings. There is no security need to video those who choose to attend the trial. Rather it is a blatant attempt at political surveillance on our movement by taping those who support us through attendance at the trial.

On a personal note, coming to D.C. and being placed in solitary confinement, seeing all of my comrades for the first time in several years—seeing the effects of almost two years at Marion on Tim, the battles with cancer that Alan waged being in maximum security status the whole time he was ill, the harsh conditions that Linda, Marilyn and Laura all were/are subjected to, made me realize that we political prisoners are in a war of attrition: the government's strategy of counterinsurgency aimed at revolutionaries, militants, and our movements versus the length of our lives.

The work of support and solidarity that shut the HSU was the critical difference in stopping this abuse. It can make a critical difference here, in this case and in the ongoing struggle for the human rights of political prisoners. In defending us against these extreme measures, it strengthens us and it strengthens all who resist.

(Cont'd on page 6)

(Cont'd on page 4)

ALEJANDRINA, SILVIA & SUSAN DESIGNATED TO "MCCs". THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

No sooner had Judge Parker made his decision that Silvia Baraldini and Susan Rosenberg be placed in "general population" facilities, than the Bureau of Prisons started figuring ways to get around it. Silvia was transferred out of her hospital bed in Rochester, Minnesota to the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in New York City; Susan Rosenberg was also designated to MCC New York, but temporarily transferred to a jail in Washington, D.C. while awaiting trial; and Alejandrina Torres was transferred to the MCC in San Diego, California. (Alejandrina did not participate in the lawsuit along with Silvia and Susan regarding their incarceration at Lexington. As a Puerto Rican Prisoner of War, she rejects the jurisdiction of the U.S. courts. However the spirit of Judge Parker's decision extends to her as well as to all other women political prisoners and Prisoners of War.)

MCCs are specifically intended for

short-term prisoners who are awaiting trial or transfers. They don't have the educational programs, jobs, or outside recreation areas that long-term prisoners must have. Since the other prisoners are frequently transferred it's impossible to develop any lasting relationships. Visiting rights are severely limited to one hour sessions available only a few days during the week, never two days in a row. This creates an extreme hardship for long distance visitors. (Silvia's family lives in Italy while most of Alejandrina's family and friends live on the East Coast.) MCCs also don't have full medical staffs, which is particularly difficult for Silvia and Alejandrina. Silvia requires constant monitoring after her serious surgery; Alejandrina's attorney had to make 30 phone calls to the San Diego facility to get her a much needed medical examination. The health of all three women has been damaged from their time in the Lexington Control Unit.

As the government was forced to shut Lexington by popular demand the next step was a somewhat

modified, but nevertheless, high control program at a facility in Marianna, Fla. The government made its intentions perfectly clear when they filed a motion to appeal Judge Parker's decision. They said they intended and needed to transfer women political prisoners to the new facility in Marianna, and were being prevented from doing so by the judge's order. Placement in MCCs was the "next best thing." This move was a clear political attack amounting to an absolute human rights violation.

Judge Parker's decision was a hard-won victory, brought on by an international campaign which involved thousands of people. We can't let the BOP subvert it by designating Alejandrina, Silvia, Susan or any other political prisoners to MCCs. Write to J. Michael Quinlan, Director, U.S. Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, to demand that Silvia, Susan and Alejandrina be designated to the general population of an appropriate facility.

Graphic design by Marilyn Buck is also available on notecards. See page 5.



Baraldini

My designation to MCC is permanent. Alex is at San Diego MCC, and Susan is designated here. We are the only long-term prisoners doing time at MCC. It is our collective punishment for having resisted the Lexington experiment and for the victory that the movement won.

While celebrating the closing of the unit, we should continue to organize for Alex's, Susan's, and my release into general population. We must also examine and raise the issue of the new high security unit at Marianna, Florida where over 100 women (more than 50% Black) have been moved.



3 Design by Timothy Blunk



2 "botánica salvadoreña 2" by Timothy Blunk



1 "Azanian flower" by Laura Whitehorn



4 "Palestine Lives!" by Laura Whitehorn

Solidarity is an expression of the philosophy of the world.



5 "Solidarity" by Susan Rosenberg



6 "Palestine Will Win!" by Linda Evans

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3543 18th Street
Box 30
San Francisco, CA 94110



7 "Mourners at Queenstown" by Timothy Blunk



8 "Roots of the Tree" by Susan Rosenberg

RESISTANCE IS NOT A CRIME!

NEW WOMEN'S FACILITY AT MARIANNA

Seventy-five miles outside of Tallahassee, Florida in a rural and isolated area, lies Marianna Federal Prison. Opened in August, 1988, this medium to high security unit for women is now operating at near capacity, 104 beds. Sylvia Brown and Lynnette Fromme were moved here from Lexington when it closed.

The Bureau of Prisons has promised that they would "transfer the mission" of Lexington to Marianna. While overcrowding has replaced small group isolation, many of the same problems that plagued Lexington are being played out here. Typical general population facilities for prisoners serving long-term sentences have educational/training programs, recreational facilities, libraries, a commissary, and job opportunities. The attempt to create these conditions here have so far been inadequate--few educational programs, no commissary, a poorly stocked library, and jobs for less than half the prisoners. This appears to be a convenient set-up to justify and possibly further restrict a set of already repressive conditions. The BOP is using this situation to redefine a general population simply by imposing oppressive conditions and calling it general population.

The BOP has repeatedly pointed to Marianna as a continuation of the "mission" of Lexington to break the

will of women who oppose U.S. policies and struggle for social justice. We must not allow this to happen! Judge Barrington Parker who ruled that the BOP and the U.S. Justice Department had illegally designated two women to Lexington based on their political affiliations and personal beliefs, also stated that any potential candidate for assignment to Marianna must show sufficiently documented and "credible evidence that their incarceration presents extreme security risks, irrespective of their political affiliations."

The government appealed this decision and made clear its intention to transfer women political prisoners and prisoners of war from less restrictive prison to Marianna. They specifically mentioned the case of four Puerto Rican Independentista women who have been held for years without incident, but then suddenly posed some "security threat" by government standards. The court has declared unconstitutional the government/BOP attempt to incarcerate women associations. However, in January 1989 Carol Manning (Ohio 7) was transferred to Marianna. Already the BOP is violating the terms of Parker's decision. At this time it is important to stress that prisoner's political beliefs and associations are not acceptable criteria for placing them in Marianna or any other high-security facility. Please write us to see what you can do.

Freedom Now
3543 18th Street, Box 17
San Francisco, Ca. 94110

Join The Torture Study Group

The end of the Lexington Campaign presents the opportunity for us to continue our work for social change and justice in many ways. I would like to interest you in joining a new project. This new effort will first study and then help to expose the torture that occurs in America's prisons.

The Lex Campaign brought together many people from various points of view. Some joined to support political prisoners, some to aid women prisoners and others because of civil rights concerns. I was among those who joined because of my interest in stopping the use of high security control unit prisons.

The Lexington Medical Committee prepared an informational booklet entitled "Control Units: Health and Human Rights Violations" (copies available by request) to support a presentation to the recent convention of the American Public Health Association in Boston. As we prepared the booklet it became clear that basic information on the extent of torture in U.S. prisons needs to be gathered. Such a study presents many difficulties and barriers. Prisons are closed, insulated institutions. The success of this project will depend on the abilities of the people involved.

I hope the Torture Study Group will be able to share the information obtained with many people. It is our desire to work closely with the new Human Rights for Political Prisoners organization, the ACLU, Amnesty International and the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown.

Most of the work can be achieved through correspondence, so we do not have to be in the same area. In fact, the more parts of the country we cover, the better it will be for contacting other human rights and anti-prison groups, prisoners and correctional employees.

So far the Prison Rights Union of California has offered its office address for our use (see below) and the Jail and Prison Health Committee of the American Public Health Association will sponsor a forum on "Torture in U.S. Prisons" at its October '89 convention in Chicago.

Please write to me if you want to join the Torture Study Group or desire more information. Also write if you know people, organizations or resources we should contact. My address is:

Corey Weinstein, MD
c/o Prisoners Rights Union
1909 - 6th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

I hope you will continue to work for social justice. The study and exposure of the torture and brutality occurring daily in our prisons will contribute to the building of a new and more decent society. We need your help!!

► Rosenberg

For more information on the "Resistance Conspiracy Defendants" contact:
Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners' Rights
P.O. Box 28181
Washington D.C. 20038-8191

STOP GOVERNMENT REPRESSION

REMOVE THE BULLETPROOF WALL AND THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

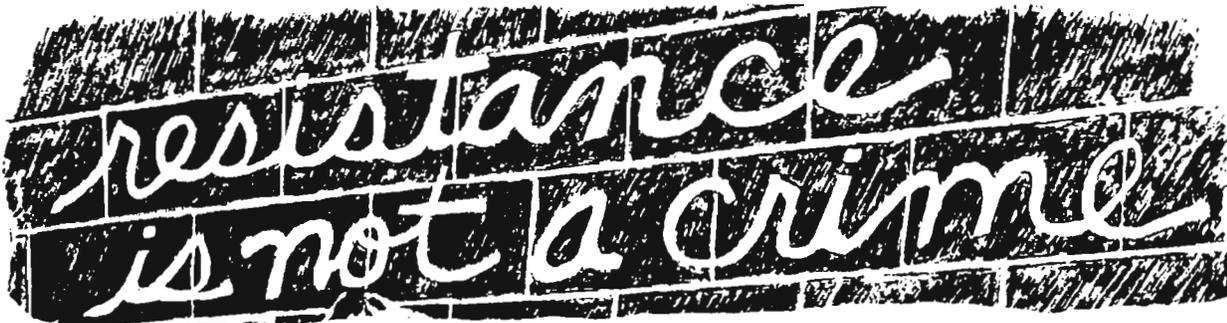
This spring, six political activists, Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, and Laura Whitehorn, go on trial for political conspiracy charges at the federal courthouse in Washington, D.C. The government has erected an unprecedented 3-inch thick bullet-proof wall to separate the six from their supporters and friends. Behind the wall are surveillance cameras installed to intimidate all spectators. The wall and the cameras must be taken down. The outgoing Reagan and incoming Bush administrations must not succeed in this vicious attack on our movement.

The six activists, known as the "Resistance Conspiracy Case Defendants," are political prisoners who are charged with being part of a conspiracy to bomb several government and military buildings, including the U.S. Capitol, following the 1983 invasion of Grenada. The government admits that it doesn't know who did the bombings, in which no one was injured or hurt, and instead seeks to convict the six because of their political affiliations and beliefs. They are being charged with sharing a "common purpose" in resisting U.S. foreign and domestic policies.

The government has always tried to label people struggling for change in this country — terrorists. It reserves polite judicial treatment and a hero's welcome for contra supporters and big time drug dealers like Oliver North. There won't be any walls or surveillance cameras in that courtroom.

Together we can remove the courtroom wall and the surveillance cameras and overturn the conspiracy indictment. The "Resistance Conspiracy Defendants" have a long history of support for national liberation struggles. They have been active in the anti-war, solidarity, anti-racist, women's and lesbian and gay movements in this country. Don't let the government succeed in separating us from our brothers and sisters in jail.

Join the campaign to fight government repression. The wall must come down. Fill out the coupon below and send it in today.



- I/my organization endorses this campaign.
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Clip and mail to: Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners' Rights, P.O. Box 28191, Washington, D.C. 20038-8191

RESIST GRAND JURIES

Activists in the San Francisco Bay Area were recently subpoenaed to testify before a municipal grand jury allegedly called to investigate the clubbing of Dolores Huerta by a police officer at the October demonstration against George Bush.

Ms. Huerta, a well-known farmworker activist, was hospitalized in critical condition with broken ribs and a ruptured spleen. Several people were subpoenaed less than 24 hours before they were scheduled to appear before the grand jury, allowing them no time to prepare a proper response, either individually or as a community. One person who did testify was not asked about police behavior, but was mostly questioned about his political affiliations and activities.

Rather than indicting the officer who beat Ms. Huerta and others, the grand jury produced a report which included a recommendation to increase police monitoring of progressive groups who plan demonstrations! The officer, who has been the subject of two other complaints of police brutality, remains on duty at full pay.

This decision is not surprising. Grand juries originated in the early '70s and are used by prosecutors, police, and FBI agents to gather information about and/or to criminalize people or organizations who resist or oppose policies of the U.S. government. Hundreds of political activists including Puerto Rican Indepen-

dentistas, Black community organizers, women's rights and lesbian and gay activists, and supporters of Third World liberation struggles have been jailed for refusing to talk to federal grand juries. Prosecutors, FBI agents and judges hope that most people will sacrifice their principles rather than go to jail. But cooperation does not guarantee protection from imprisonment, and testifying before a grand jury can be and has been used against political activists. Grand juries are a threat to progressive movements, and need to be resisted. Understanding how they work and how their powers can be abused is the secret of building effective resistance to this form of political repression.

Federal grand juries can subpoena anyone at any time to appear anywhere in the U.S. The subpoena can command the witness to come and answer questions, be fingerprinted, appear in a line-up, or to bring tax, bank, personal or business records. The witness may not have a lawyer present during the testimony nor make objections to questions on grounds of relevance, etc. Declaring the Fifth Amendment can protect one against self-incrimination, but must be done with regard to an entire line of questioning or subject. If one answers *any* question about a subject, one is required to answer *all* questions on that subject.

What to do if you are subpoenaed:

—Consider seeing a lawyer familiar with grand jury abuse. Be advised that

legal options are very few and very rare, but worth fighting for.

—Publicize the investigation, and organize resistance to the grand jury.

Political organizing is critical to grand jury resistance. The most important questions for a grand jury witness—whether she or he will go to jail and for how long—often depend more on successful organizing than on legal motions.

For More Information Contact:

Movement Response Network
3543 18th Street, Box 17
San Francisco, Ca. 94110



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