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VOLUME 2 WORLD SERVICE OFFICE, INC, (818) 780-3951
 NUMBER 5 16155 WYANDOTTE STREET, VAN NUYS, CA 91406

NEXT YEAR -- LONDON!

The Fellowship has selected the site for the 1986 World Convention of Narcotics Anonymous to be in London, England. The excitement of this announcement has not yet reached a level of calm discussion. We are all still talking of the importance of having a world convention outside of the U.S. It is just one of a growing number of indications that ours is indeed a worldwide Fellowship.

The Convention in Washington D.C. was excellent, and all who worked on it are to be commended. The workshops were well chosen, the speakers were clear and inspiring, with an N.A. message of recovery coming through solidly each time someone took the podium. Those in attendance carried themselves like the "responsible members of society" that we are striving to become (partly because the waiters took away the napkins). It was really a treat.

All weekend in D.C. there was strong evidence of the European and Australian Fellowships, as the discussions were sprinkled with the various accents. One meeting on Friday night was devoted entirely to hearing from members from around the world. At the bid meeting, the spirit of worldwide unity, in the form of support for the London bid, was thick in the air, and London got the bid. It was truly a symbol of the changing times in N.A.

The London convention will however, present a few new challenges that previous conventions have not presented. This all comes during the transition of World Conventions from independent handling, to being more directly related to the World Service Conference of the Fellowship. This has added a few ingredients that will take our understanding and unity.

At a meeting between the London Bid Committee and the WSC Convention Committee immediately after the Banquet in Washington D.C., the foundation for cooperation was firmly established. The Conference Convention Committee will assist the

London Committee with some of the duties associated with the conventions. One of those important shared activities will be the handling of the registrations for WCNA-16. Reservations made to attend WCNA-16, if they are being made from members of the U.S. Fellowship or paid by check drawn on a U.S. bank, will be made through the WSC Convention Committee at the WSO.

This course was selected as a means of avoiding a substantial financial loss that would be encountered if the registrations were made directly with the London Committee. For each check that the London Committee deposits in their checking account that is drawn on a U.S. bank, their bank will charge a processing fee of about ten U.S. dollars.* All of these international checks require special processing, and all banks charge these additional fees.

Consequently, the WSC Convention Committee will accept and process registrations made in the U.S. This will be managed through an account recently opened by the WSC Convention Committee at the bank used by the WSO in Van Nuys. The World Service Conference at the April 1985 meeting adopted a motion assigning the WSO responsibility for being the treasurer for the Convention Committee, so the WSO staff will receive, record, and deposit funds for registrations. A monthly report on registrations will be made by the World Service Office for the WSC Convention Committee and the London WCNA-16 Committee. This report will include a computer print-out of all registration information and financial data. Funds will be transmitted to the London committee from this account when requested by the London committee through single checks, and therefore realize a considerable savings.

*This is the same experience the WSO has with orders received from outside the U.S. when paid for on checks drawn against banks outside the U.S.

Those making plans to attend from other countries should register directly with the London committee. Their address for registration will be printed in the next *Newsline*.

Because the London convention will not have the immediate physical access to the majority of the Fellowship that previous conventions had, certain activities, such as fund raising may be handled in a variety of new ways. In the past, WCNA committee members traveled to neighboring regions and areas to hold fund raising events and to encourage registration. Because this is not as easy to do from across the Atlantic, these types of activities may be handled by regions or areas, or special committees may be created to assist the London committee. For information about how to assist in this way, contact the London Committee directly.

Transportation is, of course, an important matter that needs to be considered soon, and on a large scale. The WSC Convention Committee, in cooperation with the London WCNA-16 Committee, has initiated a search to find the most practical and cost efficient travel arrangements for members to select. At this time, information is being gathered and alternatives analyzed. You will be informed as soon as information on this is available.

Obtaining passports and entry visas for this trip will present new experiences for many of us. For those who have never obtained a passport, it will take some time and a little patience. To be on the safe side, those who are considering going should make their application for a passport as soon as possible. Prior arrests may present some with obstacles unless there is sufficient time to overcome the administrative requirements that such prior personal history may necessitate. The travel agencies with whom we are negotiating large charter packages have stated that they can be of assistance in this by contacting state and federal parole and probation departments directly. We will be passing more information along to you regarding this in the next few weeks.

In future articles, discussions will also be presented on currency matters, transportation and travel inside England once you are there, also information on the difference between customs related to purchases, tips, and other items you may find helpful.

THE LONDON EXPERIENCE

In the spring of 1985, the London Regional Service Committee was formed, and the minutes of their meetings began arriving in the World Service Office. Shortly thereafter Mary B. was elected to serve the

N.A. community outside of the continental United States through the WSC International Committee. Many issues on this committee had been unanswered, like how involved should we become in the autonomy of groups outside the U.S. The London Fellowship answered that question with a request for assistance with the upcoming European Service Conference II, which they were hosting July 19, 20, 21, 1985. Like many things in Narcotics Anonymous, the answer to the request wasn't as simple as it may at first seem—the date for the Kansas City meeting had already been set for the same weekend. However, through the combined efforts of the WSO, WSB and the WSC, a solution was found, and London was notified that George H., WSC Chairperson and Mary B., IC Chairperson would spend a week in service to the London Region. This report was written for inclusion in this Newsline by Mary B.

We arrived on Monday July 8, 1985 at 10 am. Based on my "clock" it was the middle of the night! George and I met at the hotel where I went to sleep for a bit and George and Brad (a member of the Florida Fellowship) went off to an afternoon meeting. Monday evening we attended the regular monthly meeting of the London Regional Service Committee. This meeting was attended by twenty-five to thirty members, and represented the three areas in London.* There was discussion regarding the need to increase participation from the areas in England outside the city of London. These outlying areas have a large population of members as many of the treatment centers are located in these various cities such as Bristol, Brighton, and Manchester. We shared some thoughts on strengthening the areas by using area services committees as working committees and coordinating these services at the regional level. The regional service subcommittees were reporting a great deal of work in progress. H&I is active in both hospitals and penal institutions, and suffers as we all do from not enough bodies to fill all the requests coming in for institutional meetings. They are working under the WSC guidelines, and are growing in their commitment to get the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers, and to support the addict who cannot come out to the meetings. Public information, literature, European Service Conference II, Central Office, and WCNA bid committees all had scheduled meetings for the week which we were requested to attend. As in all regions, the London Regional Service Committee was experiencing growing pains. We shared the knowledge we had about the similarity of the growth in regions everywhere and some possible solutions.

*An interesting observation here: the population of London is around twelve million.

1ST ANNUAL ALASKAN CONVENTION FOR



FEB 22nd, 23rd & 24th 1985

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FUN-FELLOWSHIP-RECOVERY-WORKSHOPS- SPEAKERS-DANCE

When I'm at home and being my lazy self, the last thing I do is get up early on weekends. I had been asked to share at the Early Risers meeting on Saturday morning, and thought it would be a small group. Was I shocked when one hundred or more regular members were present.

Saturday afternoon was the planning meeting for the Second European Service Conference. The reports on who was coming and from where, were pouring in, the final days were here. The committee was much like we see everywhere when an event is happening. Months of careful planning were evident to me. They were right on time. Much of the apprehension seemed to come from the fact that few of the people involved had ever had the opportunity to be at a Service Conference, and had little input on how they were doing. I strongly encouraged their efforts, and shared all of the information I had from WSC 84-85. I left knowing that I didn't want to go home. I wanted to be a part of the experience that would happen in London the next weekend. I am one of those who just hates to miss out on anything, especially when you know how God's miracles work as a result of the service experience. Just outside of the main stream of London (I think that's where I was!) is a lovely hospital where a Saturday night recovery meeting is held.

The love I had shared with the addicts in London brought many tears to my face, sad to be leaving yet full of gratitude for the opportunity to experience such a wonderful recovery, and such a strong foundation of service for Narcotics Anonymous.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Mary Banner,
I.C. Chairperson

NOTICE FROM THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

UPDATE ON REVIEW-FORM LITERATURE:

The World Literature Committee needs input from the Fellowship on those draft materials which are out for review and input. We want to remind everyone that the nine-month review period is almost over. The following pieces of new literature were distributed to the Fellowship at the beginning of this year for review and input:

1. *In Times of Illness*—(Previously titled "Use of Medication in Recovery")
2. *The Loner: Staying Clean in Isolation*—I.P. 21

3. *Welcome to Narcotics Anonymous*—I.P. 22

It is important that you send us your input on the review drafts as soon as possible.

Please remember that the review draft of *It Works* is not Conference-approved literature. For this reason, it should not be read at N.A. meetings. It should be reviewed individually by N.A. members or at special meetings held specifically for the purpose of reviewing unapproved literature. It is possible that unapproved literature which is out for review or approval may contain tradition violations or material that is erroneous or offensive to some members of the Fellowship. Although the World Literature Committee tries to anticipate such problems before a piece of literature is released for the review stage, we are human and cannot always see potential problems that might arise over material contained in new literature. It is only through the somewhat lengthy process of review and approval outlined in the *Procedural Guidelines for World Literature* that we can attempt to detect and improve on material that is inadequate. For the good of N.A. as a whole, it is imperative that we use only N.A. Conference-approved literature at our meetings. This should not present a problem, since we are fortunate at this time to have so much other N.A. Conference-approved literature which contains some excellent material on recovery.

There is another area where the Literature Committee needs your help. We are currently developing a booklet entitled *In Times of Illness*. This booklet is the revised version of a pamphlet previously entitled *The Use of Medication in Recovery*. A preliminary draft has been prepared, and is now being evaluated and refined. In its recent Kansas City meeting, the Literature Review Committee recommended that three personal experiences be included in the booklet—one each about illness, injury and mental disorder. One story about illness has already been selected. We are therefore in need of personal experiences about coping with injury and mental disorders. We ask any N.A. members who have faced these circumstances in their recovery to share their experience, strength and hope with us in the written form. Please try to include information about the following questions:

1. What type of spiritual process did you go through to find acceptance of your condition in conjunction with the principles of the N.A. Program?

2. How do you maintain your recovery on an ongoing basis while coping with your physical limitation and the threat/possibility of required medication?
3. Do you have any suggestions for other addicts who may be faced with a similar situation?

Please send your input to the World Literature Committee in care of the World Service Office. We thank you for your interest and support.

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The following article was written by Tom M., a new Trustee from Hawaii, giving his personal experience in understanding the Seventh Tradition.

SEVENTH TRADITION

This is a program of attraction rather than promotion. One of my first attractions to this program was when I heard, "you are a member when you say you are," and that it didn't cost anything to join.

When they passed around the basket I was skeptical; then someone reassured me that I didn't have to put anything in, and if I needed some, I could even take some out. Well I never did take any out, but it was a long time before I ever put anything in.

When I realized that we were self supporting from our own contributions, that we paid for our coffee and paid rent for the meeting room, I figured it would be only fair to pitch in. So I'd throw a quarter in the basket, figuring that would cover my share. Oftentimes I would contribute nothing. I didn't have much money, and I wasn't going to give what I had.

I knew someone had to be covering the main bill the Central Office, the phone, literature and the WSC. It just somehow didn't feel like it should be my responsibility.

As I grew and became more involved in the program, and as I started to make more money, I worked my way up to putting in a dollar when I felt I could afford it. Eventually, after I had been clean a long time, I made a commitment to put in a dollar whether I felt I could afford it or not.

In my region when we first decided to open up a phone line and hire a twenty-four hour answering service, a bunch of us members made a commitment to see that the phone line stayed open. We were willing to put up the money each month if the rest of the Fellowship didn't contribute enough. It was the first major thing we had done as a region. For

years before that, certain members had been the main N.A. contacts. For some reason, we never did come have to come up with the money, and the bill got paid every month through our contributions.

We did pretty much the same thing with our Central Office. Quite a few of our members put up pledges that could be called upon if there was not enough money coming in from the basket. But the money came in and the pledges were not needed.

We, like so many other regions, were experiencing such tremendous growth that we barely had the resources within our Fellowship to keep up with its demands. We had to look at what our expenses were, and how much money was actually being donated by the groups. It was plain that the groups weren't donating enough money for us to be self supporting. Our expenses for literature were skyrocketing. Our hospital and institution committee had become active as never before, and its need for literature was never-ending; yet its primary purpose to carry the message to the addict who is locked up couldn't be ignored. Our Public Information Committee was also getting more and more requests from the public, and that meant more money.

At the world level it's astronomical. They literally cannot keep up with the demand. This year alone the Conference passed a budget of over \$150,000—up from \$60,000. last year.

What I am trying to get at is that it seems as though it is through our fundraisers that we meet our financial needs. Time and time again at our local ASC meetings we see that it's been the fundraisers that have pulled us through.

My concern for our future and the concern of many other members I have talked to is this: Where are we headed with these fund raisers? We frequently become dependent upon them as the means by which we are self supporting.

We are a world-wide spiritual Fellowship. We take great pride in our Seventh Tradition, that we pay our own way and decline the offer of outside contributions. It has given us a sense of integrity about ourselves and protects us from outside influence. Yet through many of these fundraisers, a lot of money is generated from people outside of our membership.

Some of this might be unavoidable, yet the trend towards reliance on these fundraisers as the means by which we support a lot of our service structure can lead us down a perilous path. The primary object of these functions is to carry the message to the addict who is still suffering and to enhance the quality of our own program through unity, love and service.

Last year it was mentioned that if each member in the Fellowship donated \$2.00 a year to the WSC,

that it would finance its budget. Just locally in my region we estimate that if each one of our members would contribute \$4.00 a month to our Area Service Committee, it would support our local services. It is not mentioned enough at meetings about what our Seventh Tradition really is or what our needs are. I put \$2.00 in the basket at each meeting, not that I've got the bucks, but because someone told me that that's what it basically takes for each member to contribute for this Fellowship to be self-supporting. Now I wouldn't have come up with that on my own, because I'm basically cheap when it comes to people passing around collection plates. It's an old idea that I've had to get rid of.

Interestingly enough, my God as I understand him has always provided me with that \$2.00 at each meeting, whereas before, when I wasn't even aware of our needs, I never seemed to have it. For myself and many other addicts, there is nothing more fulfilling than being uninvolved with putting on a function for this Fellowship that is geared towards carrying the message and financially breaking even.

Yours in love and service,
Tom Mc.

NEW WSO ORDER FORMS

A new order form is now being circulated by the World Service Office which provides information on material and items added to the inventory since the Conference last spring. While this order form does include information on a lot of things, part of the information is not useful for most orders. The current order form is four pages long. Copies of these four page order forms will continue to be used, and copies should be kept for reference use. A new order form will soon be prepared which will be only two pages long. You will find it convenient to use the longer order form to work from when preparing orders, but send in the short form with your order marked on it.

Several items on the new order form deserve additional comment. Medallions were approved by the Conference last spring for inclusion in the inventory. They are currently in stock, and can be ordered only in year anniversary periods. They are not made for months clean time commemoration. Only a few have been made that have twenty-five or more years, unfortunately, because there are so few of our founding members still with us.

The order form indicated that commemorative chips would be available about October 1. Unfortunately there was a delay in selecting the com-

pany, and an additional delay in the preparation for production. We will not have chips available for another six weeks or so.

The audio tapes which had been approved and placed on back order until a finalized tape was ready, have been sent out. We taped an introduction and a closing for each tape, and eliminated everything else from the tape except for the main speaker. One of the tapes approved was that of an individual whose language was a little strong in places (the others used no substantial "colorful" language). This was of concern by most members of the panels, even though the tape was approved by both panels. Consequently the label includes a line which states "CONTAINS STRONG ADULT LANGUAGE." In this way the purchaser will be warned, and can return the tape before using it if they decide adolescent, family, or other members may be offended by such language.

The order rate for copies of the Basic Text have become fairly standard again after the increase from last spring. We are now shipping out an average of 11,000 copies of the Text every month. Some months have been as high as 13,000 or 14,000 while others have been 6,000 or 7,000. While we have had enough on hand for this sales rate, we have recently had to place another order with our printer for another printing of 25,000 copies.

The office has become overcrowded during the past six months because of the increase in the level of our stock for most inventory items, and because we have added a few additional employees since the beginning of the year. For this reason, the staff and board have been looking for an additional building that was close enough to be leased and utilized. A building was recently available about 150 feet to the east of our existing building. This was leased, and the shipping, receiving and accounting functions have been moved to the new building. Unfortunately, because the buildings are not contiguous, we were not able to have our existing telephone lines expanded on a rotary system. So new telephone numbers have been installed in that building. Calls can be made to the principal number and the call transferred to the new building, but once that is done the call cannot be transferred back to the main office. For calls that need to be made that pertain only to check on an order, you may dial direct to (818) 780-7822.

In June we began production of "Press Kits," which involved production of pictures of the PSA's made from an electronic graphic machine by the company who made the PSA's for us. There was a considerable delay because we were not fully satisfied with the "blue line" print of two of the frames.

It took some re-working, but they are done and they look pretty good. They will do a fine job of presenting our PSA's to the station managers who make decisions on their use.

At every recent place where I had been, the subject of the PSA's was discussed. One message came through very clear in every case. There is a specific concern that we approach their use very cautiously and prevent, if possible, the purchase of the PSA's by individuals acting without the support of an appropriate area or region Public Information Committee. Accordingly, we have consented to check on each purchase before they are sent, to determine if the purchase is related to a Committee.

We will follow up each purchase with a notice to the region in which the purchase is made to alert the regional P.I. Committee that they have been sent. We have been almost harassed by people wanting to purchase copies for their personal collections on VHS home video tape. We investigated this, and can accommodate these requests. In doing so, we have had a message inserted on the master copy we will work from which displays the message in the lower third of the picture that the tape is not to be recopied for broadcast use. We have not determined what a price should be as we have not had copies made yet.

Yours in Service

Bob S.

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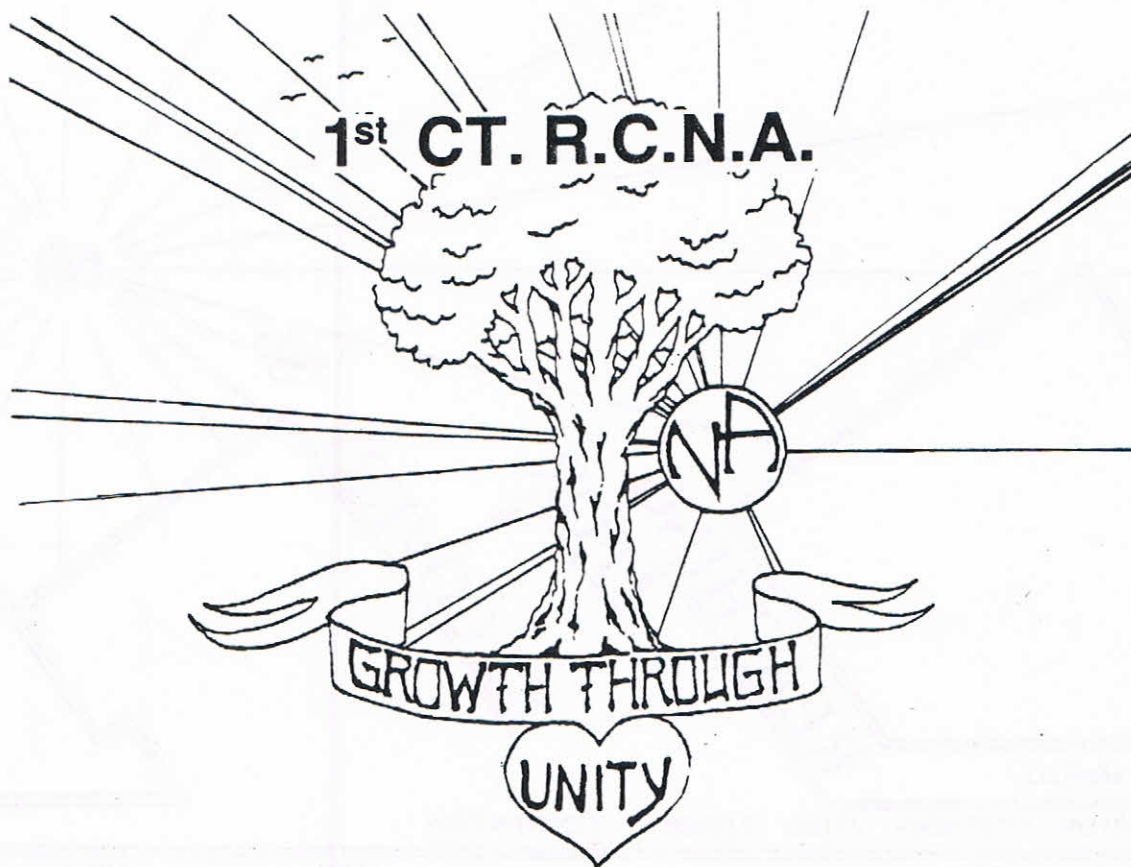
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JANUARY 3,4,5 1986

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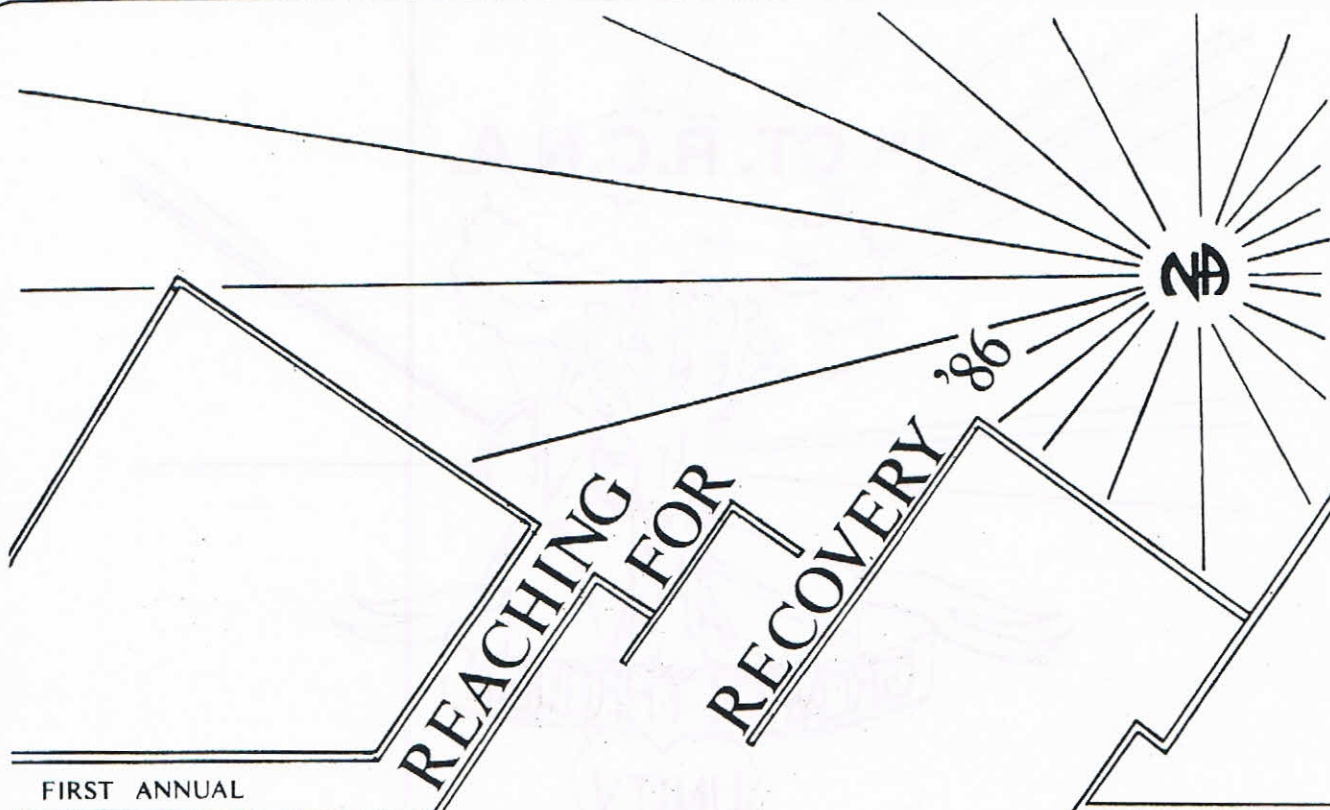
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