

International Peace Bureau

IPB WELCOMES NOBEL PRIZE FOR ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

11 October 2013 — Efforts to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction undoubtedly fall within the scope of the will of Alfred Nobel, whose commitment to disarmament is well established. Nobel was himself a chemist and before embracing the peace cause, held the view that his dynamite would become so powerful that states would no longer resort to war. He was of course quite wrong in that regard, and for that reason alone we have no doubt that the 'later Nobel' would have approved of an international machinery to eliminate chemical weapons. The award can be seen as honouring one positive outcome of the tragic Syrian war and the recent crisis in which military strikes were threatened by the USA. We hope it is a sign that the international community has finally learned the painful lesson of Iraq: better inspections under the auspices of a competent UN body than rough justice at the hands of a self-appointed sheriff... [Read full text](#)

IPB TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Following the Triennial Gathering in mid-Sept, reports and photos now available at [the IPB website](#)

Overall summary of the Gathering

- Two photo galleries: General and Portraits (in pdfs)
- Notes on conference presentations
- Texts (and weblinks) of speeches
- Members of the new Board and the Council, who will serve for the next 3 years
- Profile of new Co-President Reiner Braun
- Conference statement: *Putting an End to Militarism*
- Three new background papers: on Military Spending and on Alternatives to Military Intervention



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Disarmament for Development

MILITARY SPENDING

[The Pentagon's Italian spending spree](#)

By David Vine, Tomdispatch.com

3 October 2013 – The U.S. military, along with the CIA and U.S. intelligence, is moving [more deeply](#) into Africa, from Libya to the [Central African Republic](#), turning the continent into Terror Central. In this process, Italian military basis play a strategic role. In fact, in the last two decades Italy has become a crucial bridgehead to reach Africa, the Middle East, and beyond, with hundreds of millions of tax dollars in military investments.

[The Stimson and CATO diets for nuclear weapons spending](#)

By Alexander Pearson, Nukes of Hazard -Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

09 October 2013 – The Stimson's "defense advisory committee" presented a set of [27 specific recommendations](#) for nuclear budget reduction. The report, named "Strategic Agility" is based on the high priority of visible evidence of US commitments and capabilities (i.e. a combination of the triad of nuclear delivery systems: bombers, intercontinental ballistic missiles and submarine launched ballistic missiles). Conversely, [a recent study by the CATO Institute](#) questioned the strategic and fiscal rationale for the triad. Like the Stimson's, the CATO report proposes a reduction in the number of strategic nuclear weapons. However, CATO calls for a shift from a triad of nuclear delivery systems to a dyad of systems based on land- and submarine-based missiles.

[Military targets waste and inefficiency in redeploying funds](#)

By Steven Chase, The Globe and Mail

07 October 2013 – While National Defence is the largest federal government department, accounting for about seven per cent of all federal spending each year, its reputation for fiscal management has taken a beating following problems with the F-35 stealth fighter project and other procurement problems. This year, with Ottawa's books awash in red ink, the Canadian military started a \$2.1-billion hit to its budget over several years as a result of recent belt-tightening. To be on [top of the chopping-block list are managerial jobs](#), rather than procurement or other controversial spending.

[Defence budget: first regiments cuts announced](#)

By FRANCE 24

3 October 2013 – Presented at the beginning of August, the law on military programming (LPM) must be considered in the Senate on October 21, before moving to the National Assembly. The first restructuring of the LPM - to allow the deletion of 23,500 jobs between 2014 and 2019 - was announced Thursday, October 3. Affected sites are currently six in number. To better accept the reforms, Chiefs of Defence Staff were invited to "inform and support" personnel and defense minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said he "interacted" with the territories affected. Of the 23,500 jobs lost, 9,000 target operational force and 14 500 affect the support armies.

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES

CANADA

FRANCE

Departing Norwegian Government raises military budget

By Gerard O'Dwyer, Defense News

14 October 2013 — Norway's 2014 defense budget is \$7.2 billion, up from \$7.06 billion the previous year. It will be also the last major executive financial action by Labor Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg's socialist administration, which has been in power since 2005. The main thrust of the FY 2014 budget continues to be modernization of Norway's core national defense systems and financing major programs, such as the acquisition of F-35 combat aircraft and related airbase construction projects in Norway's south and the High North regions. In a time of austerity, Norway's 2014 budget is also notable for being the biggest per-capita defense spend among nations allied to NATO in Europe. The \$7.2 billion allocation will rank among the top 10 defense budgets in Europe in 2014.

Quarter of Russia's budget to become classified by 2016

By RIA Novosti

14 October 2013 — Almost one-quarter of government spending in Russia is to become classified within the next three years. The Russian government has undertaken a major drive to revamp the country's military-industrial complex, which it is estimated to require 24 trillion rubles (\$750 billion) worth of investment by 2020. According to a report released by the [Gaidar Institute for Economic Policy Defense](#), spending accounts for the increase in secrecy with 59 percent of military expenses to become classified in 2014, up from 52 percent this year. By comparison, classified military spending in the United States was estimated by Transparency International to stand at 8 percent of the total defense budget in 2013.

NORWAY

RUSSIA

New report: Spanish arms exports 2003-2012

By Centre Delàs for Peace Studies

October 2013 — Spanish exports of defense material in 2012 amounted to € 1,953 million, which is 19.7% lower than the exports of 2011 but 410% higher than 2003. However, this decrease does not necessarily indicate a trend, because what is exported only makes up 25% of total authorizations. In the world ranking of arms exporting countries, Spain was ninth in 2012, representing 2.6% of total world exports and 0.88% of the Spanish trade balance. Every day Spain exports more than € 5 million in arms, and many of these continue to be exported to countries in armed conflict or countries where there are grave human rights violations.

Download full Report in [English](#), [Spanish](#) or [Catalan](#)

SPAIN

Gripen jet order faces referendum next spring

By Malcolm Curtis, The Local

17 September 2013 — Swiss citizens are expected to vote next spring on whether to accept a government plan to purchase 22 Swedish fighter jets for 3.12 billion francs (\$3.37 billion). The Swiss government initially announced its decision to order the Swedish fighter jets back in November 2011, saying they were the cheapest of three options. The process of getting legislative approval, however, has been drawn out, with differing views over whether the Gripen is the right plane or if the jets are even needed. Speaking to the lower house of parliament on September 11th, Swiss President Ueli Maurer defended the planes as necessary. But politicians from the Liberal-Green and left-wing parties are vowing to mount a referendum against the deal.

SWITZERLAND

Disarmament for Development

SWEDEN

[Sweden plans defense spending boost](#)

By Gerard O'Dwyer, Defense News

15 October 2013 — The Swedish government's promise to bolster defense spending and inject more capital into equipment procurement programs has failed to impress the country's military establishment. The Defense Ministry said in September that expenditures on defense would increase by US \$220 million in 2014-17, yielding an annual increase of \$60 million a year. The armed forces budget for 2013 amounts to \$6.2 billion.

THAILAND

[Thai submarine base nears completion, now Navy needs a fleet](#)

By Bangkok Post

13 October 2013 – Royal Thai Navy plans to complete the construction of a submarine squadron headquarters and training centre in March next year, despite not having any submarines in its fleet. Construction on the project began last year at Chon Buri Sattahip Naval Base. The navy is eyeing the purchase of at least three submarines as part of its next 10-year procurement plan. Submarine squadron chief Panu Punyavirocha said the new headquarters will cost 540 million baht. About 200 million baht of that is being spent on the Submarine Command Team Trainer, which will include a crew training stimulator.

UNITED KINGDOM

[New Scientists for Global Responsibility report: Offensive Insecurity](#)

By Scientists for Global Responsibility

30 September 2013 — SGR released a new report on UK military Research&Development, and the alternatives, based on in-depth analysis of new data obtained using freedom of information requests.

Read [Press Release](#) and [Full Report](#)

IMPACTS OF WEAPONS ON DEVELOPMENT

[How the World Health Organisation covered up Iraq's nuclear nightmare](#)

By Nafeez Ahmed, EarthInside (The Guardian)

13 October 2013 — Last month, the World Health Organisation (WHO) published a long awaited [document](#) summarising the findings of an in-depth investigation into the prevalence of congenital birth defects (CBD) in [Iraq](#), which many experts believe is linked to the use of depleted uranium (DU) munitions by Allied forces. For years, [medical doctors](#) in Iraq have reported "a high level of birth defects." [Peer-reviewed studies](#) have documented a dramatic increase in infant mortality, cancer and leukaemia in the aftermath of US military bombardment.

Save Pagan Island

By Root Action



October 2013 – Pagan Island, the “Crown Jewel” of the Marianas, is again slated for certain environmental devastation, this time by a [proposal from the U.S. Military](#) to use it for “live-fire training” which includes everything from artillery to bombing. The U.S. Military has already destroyed [Farallon de Medinilla](#), another island in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which it used for bombing and military exercises.

Call for Action! Sign the [on-line petition](#)

Uruguayan Government gives out bikes in exchange for guns

By Stephen Messenger, Treehugger

February 2013 – Uruguay, under the [current administration](#), has garnered a reputation for its “thinking outside the box” approach to leadership, and it has got results. Now, in an quirky effort to reduce the number of firearms in circulation, the government is again trying something new, offering citizens to turn in their unregistered guns in exchange for something [infinitely more amusing](#) -- a shiny new bike. As Uruguay's Interior Ministry [puts it](#), the tradeoff is “Weapons for Life”. The [Association for the Fight for Civilian Disarmament \(AFCD\)](#) has praised the scheme, saying that it hopes it will change attitudes towards guns.

ARMS TRADE

Launch of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Network

25 September 2013 — The Geneva Forum and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) are pleased to announce the launch of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Network. Based in Geneva, the Network will coordinate activities related to the promotion of the Treaty and its implementation, in particular facilitating the work of the actors involved in applying the Treaty provisions.

A return to arms

By Charles Clover, Financial Times

2 October 2013 – Russia's arms makers have been so focused on Middle Eastern buyers that they even named their latest cruise missile the Iskander, Arabic for Alexander. But now Russian arms dealers are prioritising a new client: the Russian state itself. Last year Russia's defence spending soared 25 per cent and this year Moscow's expenditure is set to overtake that of the UK and Japan. That would make Russia the third largest arms buyer in the world, spending \$68.8bn in 2013, trailing only China (\$131.7bn), and the US, which spends more on defence (\$637.8bn) than the next 10 countries combined. In a sign of his determination to rebuild Russia's presence as a credible diplomatic and military force, President Vladimir Putin announced last year a decade-long spending spree on weapons expected to cost \$755bn. Many believe that Russia cannot afford the costs of a superpower military, especially as no credible threat has yet been identified.

Disarmament for Development



Peace Activists take action against the militarization of Europe

By Vredesactie and Agir pour la Paix

07 October 2013 – Activists from Vredesactie and Agir pour la Paix took action against the European Commission. Posing as arms dealers, they hosted a 'Thank You EU' reception in a pool of blood. "The arms dealers thank the EU for its generous support", was the message. With the action Vredesactie and Agir pour la Paix drew attention to the growing militarisation of the European Union. They also denounced the grip of the arms industry on EU policy.

In big win for defense industry, Obama rolls back limits on arms exports

By Cora Currier, ProPublica

14 October 2013 – The United States is loosening controls over military exports, in a shift that former U.S. officials and human rights advocates say could increase the flow of American-made military parts to the world's conflicts and make it harder to enforce arms sanctions. Come tomorrow, thousands of parts of military aircraft, such as propeller blades, brake pads and tires will be able to be sent to almost any country in the world, with minimal oversight – even to some countries subject to U.N. arms embargos. U.S. companies will also face fewer checks than in the past when selling some military aircraft to dozens of countries. However, despite the worrisome general picture, a positive note arrived this month from the US State Department. After months of foot-dragging, the United States suspended deliveries of major military hardware and cash assistance (\$260 million in cash aid) to Egypt to signal deep concern over the mounting bloodshed and the lack of a democratic transition. Marking a dramatic break with years of unqualified support to Cairo, the decision will prevent deliveries of big-ticket items, including Apache helicopters, F-16 fighter jets, M1A1 Abrams tank parts and Harpoon missiles, officials told reporters

Saudi Arabia confirms a contract worth more than \$ 1 billion for France

By Michel Cabirol, La Tribune

07 October 2013 – Saudi Arabia announced Monday the effective entry into force of the LEX contract (Life Extension Sawari 1) signed in September, to launch the renovation of four frigates and two supply tankers for the Saudi Navy. This contract is worth 1.1 billion euros. In his third visit in the Kingdom since May 2012, the French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian discussed with his counterpart, Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz, who is also the crown prince, 'ways to strengthen bilateral relations'. In fact, there is on the table another contract that could amount to two billion euros (\$2.72 billion) for modernizing Saudi air defenses. It would involve supplying Saudi Arabia with new generation Crotale surface-to-air rockets, produced by Thales.

Nuclear Disarmament

Russia to up nuclear weapons spending 50% by 2016

By Sergey Kazak, RIA Novosti

8 October 2013 – Russia is to increase annual spending on nuclear weapons by more than 50 percent in the next three years, a parliamentary defense committee said Tuesday. In 2016, 46.26 billion rubles (\$1.4 billion) is to be spent on Russia's nuclear weapons systems, up from 29.29 billion rubles this year, according to the State Duma Defense Committee's report on the draft federal budget for 2014-2016.

Reaching Critical Will new publication.

Preventing collapse: the NPT and a ban on nuclear weapons

October 2013 — Recently renewed attention to nuclear weapons as instruments of terror and destruction rather than of security and prestige has reinvigorated global determination to eliminate them once and for all. For many, a key strand of the humanitarian discourse on nuclear weapons is the call for negotiations to commence on a new treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons. Some have expressed concern that such a treaty would cut across the NPT and divert attention from it. This paper argues that rather than constituting a challenge to the NPT, a process to ban nuclear weapons that arises from the discussion around the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has the potential to prevent the NPT's collapse.

Submission of 3.2 mln signatures to the UN for banning nuclear weapons

7 October 2013 – A delegation of [Japan Council against A and H Bombs \(Gensuikyo\)](#) in New York met Ms. Angela Kane, UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi of Libya, the Chair of the First Committee, on October 9 and submitted to them **3,286,166** signatures in support of the "Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons". The Chair encouraged the delegation's activity, saying that he would report to the First Committee that he received the signatures representing the voice of civil society in favor of a world without nuclear weapons.

Welsh dragons blockade nuclear weapons factory

By Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

3 October 2013 – 50 activists from Wales have been blockading the Main Gate of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Burghfield. CND congratulates the campaigners, who are calling for the Trident nuclear weapons system to be scrapped and plans to replace it to be cancelled. The protest, organised by [CND Cymru](#), has seen activists from across Wales, accompanied by three huge red dragons, 'lock on' with chains and pipes across the main entrance.



Miscellaneous

Conscientious objection to military service - Human Rights Council

27 September 2013 – The Human Rights Council has adopted without a vote the Draft Resolution A/HRC/24/L.23 entitled "Conscientious objection to military service" under the leadership of Costa Rica, Croatia and Poland which "recognizes that the right to conscientious objection to military service can be derived from the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief". This is another important step in the promotion and enhancement of world peace. It is not possible to live in a peaceful society without the recognition of our right to be a conscientious objector to military service. This resolution pays tribute to the great work performed by NGO during the 24 session of HRC, which has finished today after three weeks of intensive negotiations.



Peace Monitor Report - Documenting successful peace stories

By Svenska Freds

14 October 2013 – A new publication from IPB member organisation in Sweden **SPAS**: It is time to change the perspectives! The traditional way conflicts are reported on tends to focus on war and atrocities rather than the peace efforts being made around the world. By documenting and reporting these initiatives, success stories, and the problems they may face, we hope to strengthen the capacity of civil society in its efforts for peace. We believe that the initiatives being made around the world need to be reported on and the people who are working on them deserve our attention. We are also in need of organisations that are willing to write articles about their work around the world.

Pax Christi message on 50th Anniversary of Pacem in Terris -

Papal encyclical

By Pax Christi International

3 October 2013 – Pax Christi International Co-Presidents Marie Dennis and Bishop Kevin Dowling delivered Pax Christi's goodwill message at the *Pacem in Terris* 50th anniversary conference which took place in Rome, on 2-4 October. The aim of this celebration, as explained by Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, during a recent press conference, is to "verify the translation [of the encyclical] in practice of its fundamental teachings in the field of human rights, the overall common good, in politics, and the fields in which the peaceful coexistence among peoples and nations is played out".

Former IPB Secretary-General Gerd Geune - memorial video

Over one year after his sudden death, EBCO honours the memory of Gerd Greune, co-founder of EBCO, and a prominent figure in the fields of pacifism, conscientious objection to military service, and human rights.

EBCO video tribute here: <http://ebcobeoc.org/node/260>

Korea Peace Days 2013-2014

To raise greater awareness and understanding about the need for peace on the Korean peninsula, the [Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea \(ASCK\)](#) and the [National Campaign to End the Korean War \(NCEKW\)](#) call for individuals and organizations to organize public events during Fall 2013, Spring 2014, and Summer 2014 to commemorate Korea Peace Day.

Call to Action: During this sixtieth anniversary year of the July 27, 1953 Korean War armistice, recurring tensions on the Korean peninsula serve as a sobering reminder that renewed war is a persistent danger. With inaugural events scheduled for November 7-8 at UC Santa Cruz and Berkeley, Korea Peace Days 2013-2014 will continue at different locations throughout North America for several months until July 27, 2014.

Nonviolent Peaceforce announces Doris Mariani as Executive Director

1 October 2013 — Nonviolent Peaceforce is pleased to announce the appointment of Doris Mariani as the organization's new Executive Director, who will lead the organization into its second decade of providing unarmed civilian peacekeeping in conflict affected areas around the globe. Her unique background is extremely valuable to Nonviolent Peaceforce, given the interdependency between peace, security, and development.



Resources

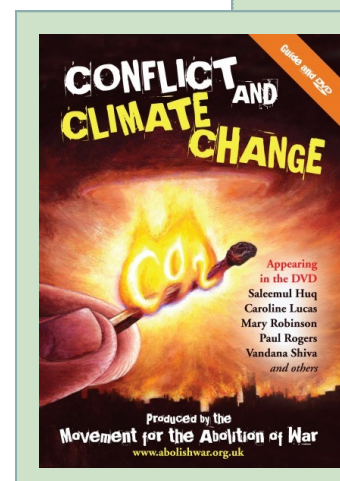
New SIPRI publication.

China's Exports of Small Arms and Light Weapons

SIPRI is pleased to announce the publication of *China's Exports of Small Arms and Light Weapons*, the first to comprehensively map Chinese policies and practices for controlling SALW transfers. China is a leading exporter of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and is a popular supplier among states looking for inexpensive or alternative sources of SALW. While China has stated its commitment to preventing the illicit trade in SALW and formally recognizes the destabilizing effect that SALW transfers can have, it is one of the least transparent arms exporters.

Conflict and Climate Change: DVD and study gui-

A wonderful new resource from the [Movement for the Abolition of War](#) (IPB member, UK). Several prominent political leaders, scientists and academics voice their concerns on the need to tackle climate change and reduce the risk of conflict and war in the 18-minute DVD. Young environmental and peace activists show what they are doing to build a more sustainable and peaceful world. Ideal to promote discussion amongst people of all backgrounds and to encourage the response: 'What can I do?'



IPB Projects News

IPB reaches out to faith-based communities

We have a new project! IPB has launched an outreach programme to engage different sectors of civil society in the efforts to challenge military spending and to promote Disarmament for Development. Over the next 12 months, thanks to support from the Japanese Buddhist organisation Rissho-Kosei Kai, we are able to devote some time to making contact with faith-based communities. In particular, we wish to encourage work on military spending and the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda, and to offer support on parallel initiatives such as the [Global Day of Action on Military Spending](#). Please refer to the brochure for more details. If interested, please contact the IPB Secretariat.

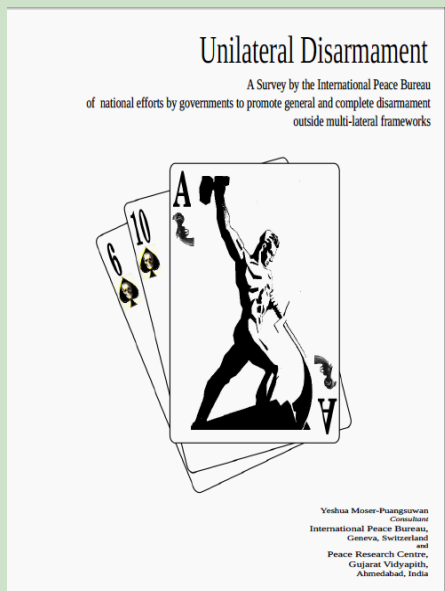


Download the brochure in English or French

New IPB publication:

Unilateral Disarmament: a survey of national efforts by governments to promote general and complete disarmament outside multi-lateral frameworks

Unilateral Disarmament is the result of a questionnaire which was sent by the IPB in mid-2012 to 172 UN member states at their Geneva missions, seeking to determine what actions they are taking on their own initiative. It sought in particular to determine what actions were being taken regarding a national program of Disarmament Education; in what ways national authorities were working to reduce their military expenditures, and how those expenditures could be transferred to human development needs; and to determine where the decisions regarding disarmament were made in the responding state. Only a small number of states responded and the survey details and analyses their responses. Multi-lateral negotiations on disarmament at the United Nations remain in deadlock. The Geneva based Conference on Disarmament has not been able to agree on an agenda for the past 17 years while the New York based Disarmament Commission of the General Assembly has similarly been unable to agree on an agenda for the past 14 years. Nonetheless, there are measures states can, and do, take on their own. These are national measures for disarmament, and are unilateral. National measures can be in concert with those taken by other states, but are in essence unilateral.



Making Peace Photo Exhibition



Latest news

Making Peace recently closed in Utrecht where it was visited by over 40,000 people over a 4 month period (June – September). All the panels will be recycled and Utrecht have very kindly offered to give the frames to the City of Sarajevo where we hope to present Making Peace in June 2014 as part of official 1WW commemorations. Thanks to the Council of Europe, the new Mayor of Sarajevo has now given his approval for the exhibition to be presented along the Miljacka River very close to to where Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, were shot dead on 28 June 1914.

Meanwhile a record number of visitors and schools have visited Making Peace at the Nobel Museum where it will remain on show until the 17 November 2014.
www.nobelmuseum.se

Apart from Sarajevo, Manchester, Strasbourg and London where Making Peace is due to take place in 2014, there is now keen interest from other cities in Europe wishing to present Making Peace including: Basel, Berlin, Copenhagen, Dublin, Helsinki, Locarno, San Sebastian and Warsaw.

NGO partners include: Artists for Peace, Caritas, Cartooning for Peace, International Alert, Mayor For Peace, Mines Advisory Group, Musicians for Peace, Pax Christi, Peace and Sport, Reporters Without Borders and War Child. If you / or your organisation wish to get involved in Making Peace, please do let us know.

For inquires, please write to

help@makingpeace.org



ABOUT IPB

The International Peace Bureau is a non-profit association founded in 1891, the oldest international peace organization, dedicated to the vision of a World Without War. Our network includes 300 member organisations in 70 countries. Our current main programme centres on Disarmament for Sustainable Development and we campaign mainly on the reduction of military expenditure.

We depend on your support to continue working on this and a range of other topics, including nuclear and conventional disarmament, arms trade, peace education, culture of peace and peace history.



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Please consider:

Leaving us a legacy or making an endowment or a simple donation.

In this way you can enable IPB to plan its work more effectively and thus help to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

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