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## Portugal Said To Have Exiled Two Key Armed Forces Leaders

Two of the country's top military leaders may have been exiled over the weekend in connection with the growing dispute over Portugal's overseas policy.

[REDACTED] that Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Cosia Gomes and his deputy, General Spinoia, were flown out of the country on Portuguese civil flights on March 9. According to this account, they had attempted a peaceful takeover of the government on the previous evening.

Heavy security measures were noted at Lisbon airport on March 9, and some military personnel were placed on alert. One of the deported officers reportedly was flown to Madeira, an island off the coast of

Morocco, and the other to the Azores. Lishon has been tense since the publication last month of a book by General Spinoia which advocated greater autonomy for Portugal's overseas territories as well as the liberalization of the Portuguese Government itself. The fact that the book was allowed to be published was thought to reflect Prime Minister Caetano's tacit approval of Spinoia's thesis.

In a speech before the National Assembly on March 5, Caetano's remarks were ambiguous enough to allow different interpretations according to the preconceptions of the audience. His speech was followed by two days of debate on a vote of confidence for Caetano's overseas policy. All speakers pledged their support for the Prime Minister, although some deputies called for a speeding up of the autonomy process.

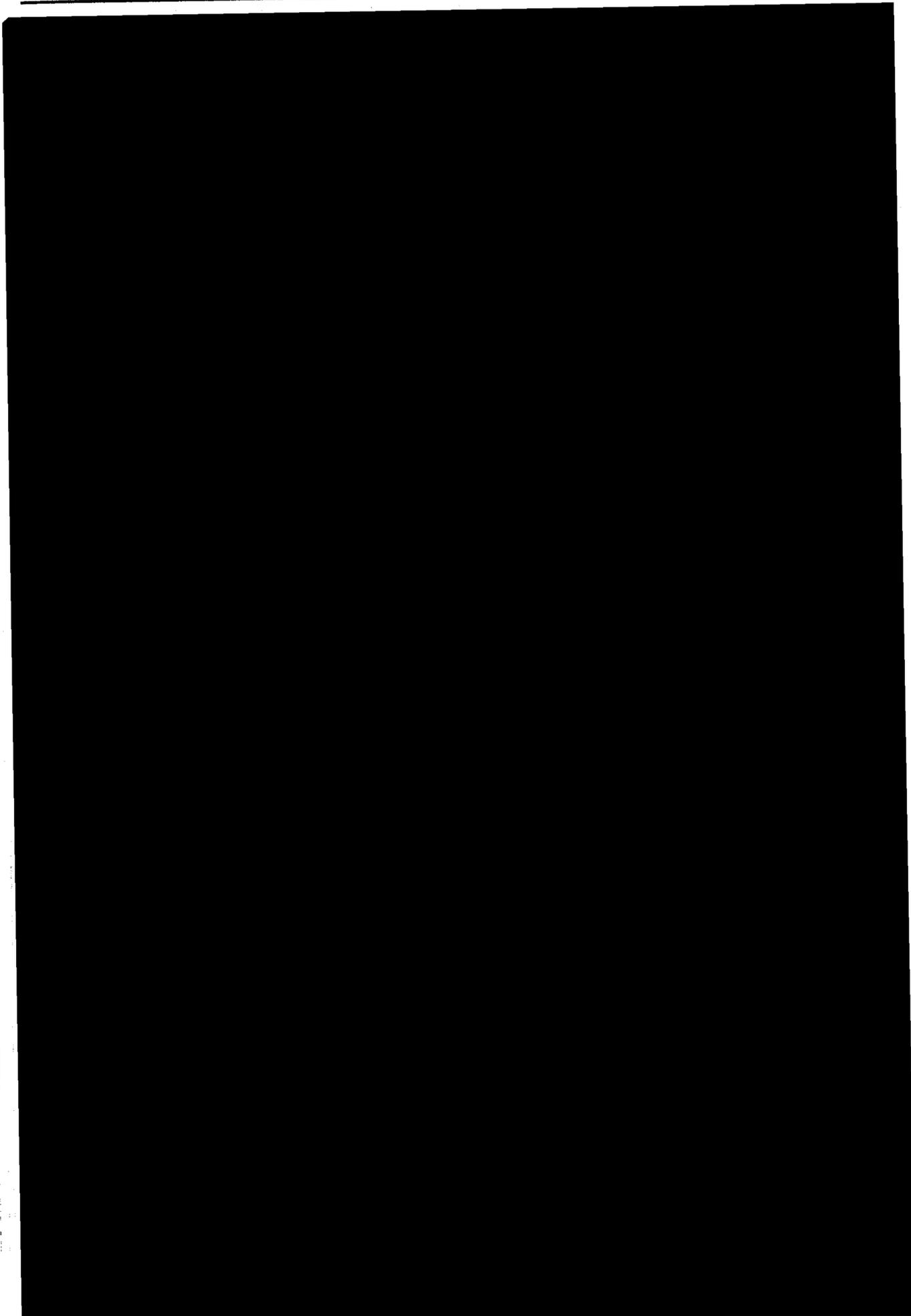
Spinola is Portugal's most famous war hero and is said to be extremely popular in military circles, particularly with junior officers. His widespread support in the military may explain the use of civil rather than military aircraft in the deportation flights.

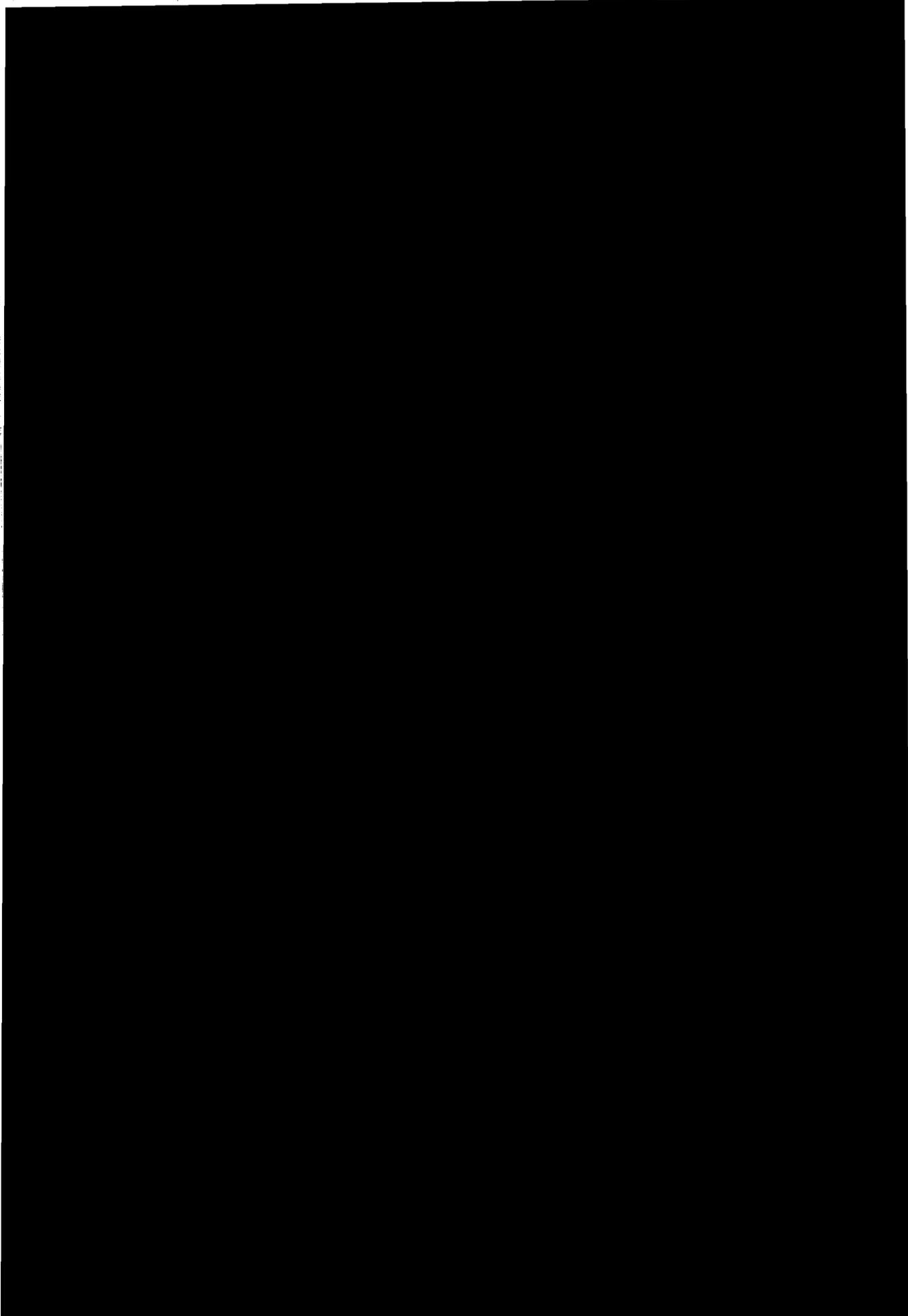
The exile has not been confirmed. The situation may be clarified later today.

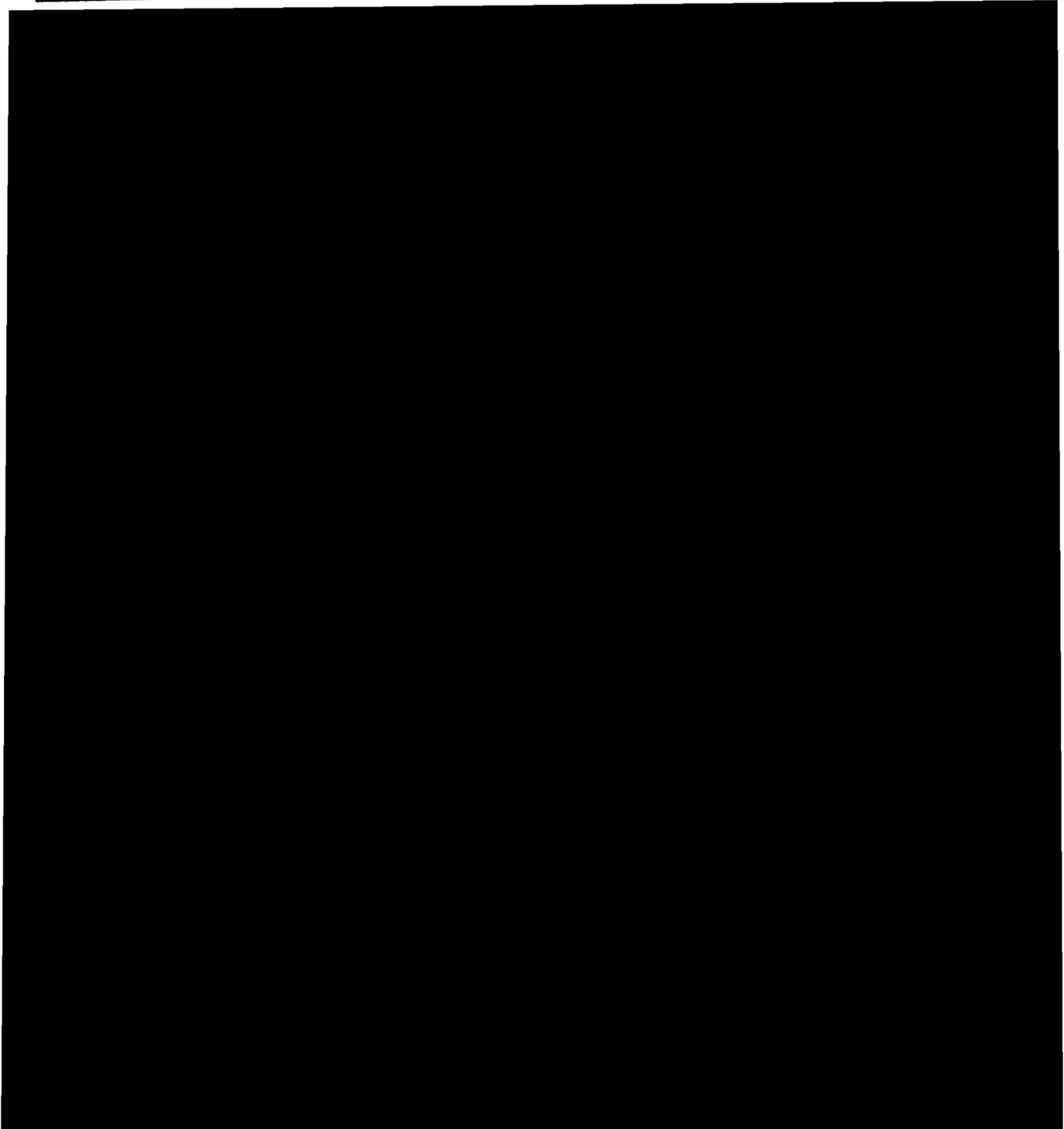
[REDACTED] Regardless of the status of the officers, the debate initiated by Spinoia's book is now before the nation and cannot be withdrawn.

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