

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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This report contains information on Soviet troops and supply installations in the Trans-Caucasus Military District.

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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Soviet Troops and Installations in the Trans-Caucasus MD

<u>Town</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Installation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Tbilisi (N41-42, E44-45)	1949 to January 1950.	1. Military building, a five-story brick structure, about 120 meters long.	Southwestern sector of the city, on the west edge of Red Square.	High-ranking officers were frequently observed arriving at, and departing from, this building by car. Maj. Gen. Robidashvili (fnu) was identified among them. [] the top-level headquarters of the MD was accommodated there.	A military prison was located about 500 meters west of the installation.
		2. Barracks installation of one main building, about 100 meters long, and several multi-story buildings, enclosing a rectangular drill ground.	Southeastern exit of the city, west of the Kura River, on the eastern side of the old Georgian Military Highway.	Occupied by an infantry unit of 500 to 800 troops. Twenty to 30 trucks were parked in the barracks yard.	
		3. Barracks installation of two multi-story brick buildings, each about 120 meters long.	Almost opposite the aforementioned barracks installation.	Officer candidate school of about 500 trainees who wore vizor-type caps and epaulets bordered with gold braid.	
		4. Barracks installation of several brick buildings.	In the northwestern suburb of Saburtalo, about 300 meters west of the old Georgian Military Highway.	Occupied by a motorized unit. About 100 motorcycles and 40 three-axle personnel carriers were observed at the installation. A unit equipped with about 50 motorcycles also was observed moving out of the installation.	

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5. Barracks installation of several multi-story brick buildings and some smaller buildings.

Near the officer candidate school.

it was occupied by mounted police.

1946 to
October
1949.

1. Barracks installation, about 400 by 200 meters, of two four-story old red brick buildings, several wooden stables, and a barracks yard; enclosed by a brick wall.

In the northern suburb of Didube, on the east bank of the Kura River, about one km west of the freight station.

Occupied by a horse-drawn artillery unit of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia; estimated at one battalion. Some horse-drawn guns and small mounted details were observed moving out of the installation. There also was a unit of signal troops wearing black-bordered (sic) black epaulets with artillery insignia and a gold lightning-flash cluster. Small groups of soldiers were observed practicing and drilling near the installation. They had telephone and radio equipment. Some radio sections were observed riding in jeeps.

2. Barracks installation of one old multi-story brick building, more than 100 meters long, with two large gateways and a barracks yard at the rear.

About one km southwest of the main railroad station, on the east bank of the Kura River, south of the weather station.

Artillery officer candidate school of trainees wearing gold braid-bordered ruby-colored epaulets with artillery insignia. Units of 100 to 120 unarmed trainees were frequently observed marching out of the installation. The trainees were not older than 17 or 18 years.

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1947 to
October
1949.

Barracks installation of several brick buildings, one three-story angular headquarters building, one kitchen building with a heating plant, one motor-vehicle repair shop, one open gun shed, and one ammunition shed.

Northwestern sector of the city, on the west bank of the Kura River, north of the circus.

Occupied by an artillery unit whose troops were accommodated in the installation only during the winter months. One general and several field-grade officers entered the headquarters building daily. Numerous light artillery pieces were observed in the gun shed. In the presence of the troops, about 150 trucks were blocked up in front of the motor vehicle repair shop, in which about 50 civilians were working. Trucks which came from outside were repaired there also in summer. Troops wearing red-bordered epaulets with artillery insignia were observed at close-order drill in front of the billets.

[redacted] an officer candidate school located on the east bank of the Kura River, east of the circus. The trainees were observed receiving driving instructions.

1946 to
March
1949.

Barracks installation of one five-story brick building, about 50 meters long, with one long garage in a barracks yard located at the rear of the building.

About 900 meters southeast of the main railroad station, on the west side of Sovetskaya Ulitsa, about 300 meters south of the street underpass at the southeastern end of the railroad track system.

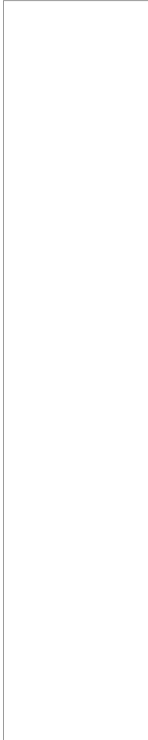

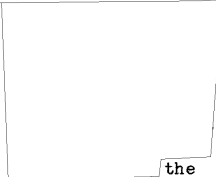
Occupied by an MVD unit, possibly an officer candidate school. The troops wore blue caps with red bands, well-fitting khaki uniforms with red-bordered cuffs and gold braided-bordered epaulets. Many officers were observed. Squads armed with rifles left the installation in the evenings.

[redacted] observed a barracks installation of several brick buildings, occupied by a tank unit estimated at one battalion, about 300 meters south of the Navtlug Railroad Station, which is located southeast of the area of the city. Riding past the installation, he saw six or seven T-34 tanks.

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<p>July to December 1948.</p>		<p>Barracks installation of several brick buildings and one large yard, about 100 meters square; enclosed by a barbed-wire fence.</p>	<p>Northwestern suburb of Saburtalo.</p>	<p>Occupied by a tank unit of about 500 troops. Seventy to 80 tanks, some of which were sometimes used for practice driving, were stored in the yard at all times. Troops were frequently observed being trained with the tanks.</p>		<p>25X1</p>		
<p>Rustavi (N12-17, E43-51)</p>		<p>1949 to January 1950.</p>	<p>Troop training grounds.</p>	<p>Northwest of the city, near an airfield.</p>		<p>Tank and artillery units were observed practicing continuously until January 1950. The tanks arrived by rail from the direction of Tbilisi. Field exercises of the individual units lasted up to four weeks. More than 100 tanks, mostly new T-34 models with very flat turrets and long-barreled guns, were observed in November 1949. The troops were accommodated in white tents, while the vehicles were parked in the open.</p>		<p>25X1</p>
<p>1946 to December 1949.</p>		<p>1. Training grounds.</p>	<p>Northwest of the city.</p>	<p>Field exercises, in which aircraft also took part, were held in the training grounds by units of various branches of service at all times. The units were accommodated in gray tents.</p>		<p>the units were stationed in Tbilisi. The MVD troops seen in Rustavi were observed with numbers on their epauletts until 1949. The numbers were not seen from this time until April 1950.</p>		<p>25X1</p>

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2. Billeting area
of an extensive
cantonment.

Northwestern sector
of the city, between
the railroad sta-
tion and the Kura
River.

The capacity of the instal-
lation was estimated at
several thousand troops.

three-month courses
were held. Units of
platoon or company size
underwent infantry training
at the training grounds.
The troops were not con-
nected with the units
accommodated there. No
heavy weapons, tanks, or
motor vehicles were ob-
served.

observed a
barracks installa-
tion under construc-
tion about one km
north of the rail-
road station in Sep-
tember 1949.

1945 to
the summer
of 1949.

Training grounds.

Northwest of the
city.

Tank maneuvers, in which
infantry, artillery,
and air force units partici-
pated, were continuously
observed during the summer
months of each year.

estimated the number
of armored vehicles in-
volved in the individual
maneuvers as being over
100. Also, a great
number of armored person-
nel carriers were ob-
served. During attacks,
the tanks advanced in
three waves. The third
wave included vehicles
loaded with engineer
equipment and flatbed
trailers with pontoons which
were towed by tanks.

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<p>Leninakan (N40-48, E43-50)</p>	<p>Prior to March 1947.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	<p>Barracks installation of three, four-story brick buildings, each about 60 meters long.</p>	<p>Northwestern perimeter of the city, about one km east of the small citadel.</p>	<p>Occupied by a unit of 500 to 1,000 troops who were armed with submachine guns and pistols. About 200 tanks, covered with tarpaulins, were parked in about ten rows in a yard south of the installation. Some of the tanks were frequently observed moving out of the barracks. These included T-34 tanks and tanks of another type.</p>		
<p>Yerevan (N40-11, E44-30)</p>	<p>1947 to August 1948.</p>		<p>Barracks installation of three four-story brick buildings.</p>	<p>Western perimeter of the city between the theater and the Zanga River.</p>	<p>Occupied by a unit of troops wearing blue-bordered red epaulets. Jeeps and trucks were observed with the unit.</p>		
	<p>Prior to late 1947.</p>		<p>Barracks installation of three two-story brick buildings, three garages, one fuel storehouse, and one watchtower, about 20 meters high; enclosed by a brick wall, three meters high, on three sides and a high hedge on the fourth.</p>	<p>Southeastern sector of the city, about 400 meters north-east of the railroad station.</p>	<p>Occupied by a tank unit of 200 to 300 troops. One major was observed to be the ranking officer. About 20 T-34 tanks and 20 trucks, towing 76.2 mm guns, were frequently seen in the barracks yard. Each tank mounted a whip antenna, about one and one-half meters long. The barracks area included a fenced-in fuel dump.</p>	<p>Another barracks installation was located in the northern sector of the city near a theater. The unit there was estimated at 500 to 600 troops who wore tank insignia. More than 30 trucks coupled to AT guns were stored in the installation.</p>	25X1
	<p>Prior to September 1947.</p>		<p>Barracks installation, about 500 meters square, of two very long and two smaller four-story brick buildings,</p>	<p>Northern perimeter of the city, on the eastern side of the road to Sevan (N40-32, E44-56).</p>	<p>Apparently occupied to capacity by troops. Mounted units of 50 to 100 troopers, equipped with five or six light guns, were frequently observed leaving the installation.</p>	<p>The installation was referred to as cavalry school by local residents.</p>	

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enclosing a rectangular yard, and two stables, about 200 meters long, enclosed by a wire fence.

Alagez
(N40-19,
E43-40)

Summer
1947.

1. Barracks installation of two, four-story brick buildings, one stable, one bathhouse, and one small brick building.

About one km southwest of the Alagez railroad station.

Occupied by a border guard unit of about 200 troops who wore green caps with black bands and black-bordered green epaulets. A colonel wearing light-blue-bordered khaki epaulets was observed to be the ranking officer. About 80 horses and 25 dogs were in the stable.

2. Pillboxes under construction.

Between the railroad station and the Turkish border, in a terrain difficult to survey which rises toward the border about two km from the building site.

In the summer of 1947, two round pillboxes were constructed in the Alagez border section, under the supervision of the border guard unit stationed in the town. The overall height of each pillbox was eight meters and included a foundation, four meters high. The inner diameter was eight meters. The floor consisted of a turntable, six meters in diameter. The pillboxes projected about one meter above the ground and were camouflaged with earth and sod. Four loopholes were located three and one-half meters above the bottoms of the pillboxes. They were about 60 cm wide at the outer side. The pillbox walls were 1.7 meters thick.

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Baku
(Nh0-25,
E49-50) 1946 to
August
1949.

MVD building compound of one nine-story brick building, about 40 by 15 meters, and one building under construction, about 20 meters square, with brick walls reaching up to the fourth floor.

Central sector of the city, about one km north of the main railroad station and about 400 meters east of the broadcasting station, near a naval barracks installation.

Openings for an entrance, four meters wide, and the accesses for four ammunition compartments were broken through the rear wall of each pillbox. A three-ton ZIS truck, covered with a tarpaulin, was frequently observed entering one of the pillboxes under construction.

Referred to as a building site of the Ministry for Internal Affairs. In January 1948, part of the installation was occupied by MVD offices. The first families of MVD officers moved in in the summer of 1948. In the fall of 1948, archives were established on the ninth floor. Apartments for officers' families were located on the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth floors; MVD offices were on the second, third, and fourth floors; and detention rooms were in the basement. Apartments for technical officers of the MVD were to be installed in the second building.

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Kutaisi
(Nh2-15,
E42-40) February
to October 1949.

Barracks installation, about 200 meters square.

Western sector of the city.

Occupied by an infantry unit of about 800 troops, some of whom were accommodated in a barracks opposite an air force installation. Troops marching out of the installation were armed with rifles and machine guns. The residence of a general, who wore three silver stars on

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February
to Octo-
ber 1949.

Barracks instal-
lation of one
two-wing brick
building, about
40 meters long.

Western sector of
the city, at a fork
in the road.

his epaulets and wide red
stripes on his trousers, was
located near the installa-
tion.

T-34
tanks were frequently ob-
served at the installation.
Officers' billets, includ-
ing the apartments of two
generals, were located oppo-
site the barracks.

a divi-
sion headquarters was locat-
ed in the city.

1948 to
October
1949.

1. Military
building com-
pound of new
seven-story
apartment houses
and an extensive
garage behind them.

West of the city,
on the road leading
to Zulukidse
(N42-20, E42-26),
near an airfield.

corps head-
quarters. Several generals
and a great number of army
and air force officers were
observed. General Slobomski
(fnu) was allegedly in
command.

2. Barracks in-
stallation of
one old three-
story building
with a yard, en-
closed by an
iron fence.

Northern sector
of the city, on the
western bank of the
Rion River.

Occupied by an engineer
unit estimated at one battalion.
Assault boats, pneumatic
floats, and the construction
of a footbridge supported
by pneumatic pontoons were
observed.

3. Barracks in-
stallation of
one large three-
story brick
building enclos-
ing an inner
courtyard.

Northern perimeter
of the city, on the
west bank of the
Rion River.

Occupied by a cavalry unit.
More than 500 horses were
observed in a yard by the
road on one day. When the
troops marched out of the
installation, a mounted band,

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4. Large cantonment.

On the southeastern perimeter of the city.

a machine gun unit, and a mortar unit were observed.

Occupied by a rocket launcher. An air force unit equipped with radio and telephone-construction trucks was accommodated in the same cantonment. Sometimes, more than 50 trucks took part in the practice. One colonel, wearing epaulets with two red longitudinal stripes and three stars, was observed to be the ranking officer. The cantonment also quartered an engineer unit. One company, equipped with eight to ten new T-34 tanks mounting long-barreled guns, and two companies, equipped with old T-34 tanks, were observed marching out of the installation. In addition, more than 100 armored vehicles were stored at the cantonment buildings.

5. New barracks installation of three large four-story brick buildings, two other buildings, and one mess building.

On the southeastern perimeter of the city, opposite the cantonment.

Still vacant by September 1949. The building project was referred to as a technical academy, but

it was to serve as a barracks installation. Instruction rooms and large billets were located in each building.

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Prior to
1947.

Military installations of six partially damaged buildings, about 30 meters long, enclosed by a wire fence.

Western perimeter of the city.

Occupied by a supply unit. About 50 trucks were observed in the billeting area. The billets of the troops were not identified. During the day, 30 to 40 troops stayed in the installations at all times. Damaged trucks and disassembled motors were observed in the buildings, some of which had been converted into garages. The repair work was frequently checked by a colonel.

Batumi
(N41-38,
E41-38)

Prior to
February
1948.

1. Billeting area, of two three-story brick buildings and one more building not yet constructed.

Located one or two km north of the Soviet-Turkish border, on a serpentine road leading to the border, about 12 km southwest of Batumi.

border guard area headquarters. The troops there wore green-bordered epaulets.

2. AA gun emplacements.

On the coast, on the northern perimeter of the city.

AA battery of three guns of 80 to 100 mm caliber, mounted on two-axle carriages with four twin tires. The crews were accommodated in wooden buildings. Practice with the guns was frequently observed.

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Soviet Supply Installations in the Trans-Caucasus MD

Tbilisi
(N41-42,
E44-45)

1947 to
August
1949.

Military supply
depot of several
storehouses,
about 100 meters
long, enclosed
by a board fence.

Southwest of the
Navtlug Railroad
Station, near a
barracks instal-
lation occupied
by tank troops.

Truck spare parts of every
type and supplies for the
motor vehicle repair shops
of the military district
were stored in the depot.
One major and several other
officers were employed in
the administration. The
work force consisted of 70
men, both soldiers and
civilians. The instal-
lation was guarded by
troops of the Soviet Army.
Incoming shipments were
made by truck, and out-
going supplies were picked
up by organizational
vehicles.

The following other
installations were

Staliniri, near
Tbilisi.

1946 to
August
1949.

Tank repair shop,
about 500 meters
square, of four
workshops and
several secondary
buildings.

Two or three km
southeast of the
Navtlug Railroad
Station.

Used tanks were frequently
observed being driven in
near the repair shop. A
yard, enclosed by a high
wall, with 15 to 20 garages,
about 30 meters long,
was located west of the
repair shop. Through open
doors, tanks were observed
to be stored in the garages.
Damaged armored vehicles
were stored in a nearby
parking lot. Cars of armored
trains were observed on a
siding.

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1947 to
July 1948.

Fuel depot, about 300 by 200 meters, underground installation, partially enclosed by a board fence, consisting of one guardhouse, one administration building, one workshop, and one fire brigade building equipped with a railroad spur; for details see page 17.

Four to five km east of the Navt-lug Railroad Station, about 1,500 meters north of the Baku railroad line, and about 200 meters south of an artery road leading to Telavi (N41-55, E45-31).

Already in 1947, the depot was under construction. In July 1948, it was almost completed.

[redacted] fuel to be supplied to the army and air force units stationed in the Tbilisi area was to be stored in the depot. Description of the installation: bunker-shaped installation, subdivided into three departments transversally and seven departments lengthwise, was constructed of reinforced concrete in an excavation, 250x70x10 meters. Six fuel tanks, eight meters long, three or four meters in diameter, and supported by concrete bases, were stored in each department. The tanks were interconnected by pipes. Each six-tank department was fed by one pipe. The feeding pipes ended in a hole located near the railroad spur and were closed by a steel cover. In addition, there were several standpipes. The ceiling of the installation was constructed of reinforced concrete, 50 cm thick, and was supported by pillars. Narrow and low passages were broken through the walls which partitioned the individual departments.

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1945 to
September
1948.

Supply depot, about two by one and a half km, of two buildings, each about 80 by 25 meters, housing the guard detail and the MVD headquarters, and one watchtower, about 25 meters high. The installation had a railroad spur and was enclosed by a barbed-wire fence, three meters high.

About three km southeast of the Navtlug Railroad Station, south of the Telavi road.

In July 1948, some additional tanks, resting on bases and to be filled with oil, were set up on the east side of the railroad spur. Several shed roofs, under which a large number of fuel drums were stored, were in the southern sector of the installation. The depot was guarded by troops armed with submachine guns.

a. MVD Lieutenant Colonel Silitse (fnu), wearing green-bordered gold epaulets, was in charge of the installation, which was [redacted] Army Depot No 20. The guard detail consisted of 30 men wearing black-bordered green epaulets bearing the number 20.
b. Rations of every type; clothing and accessories; medical equipment and drugs; signal equipment; small arms; motor vehicle spare parts; engineer, gas-protective, and skiing equipment; and field kitchens were stored in eight large warehouses, each about 90x15x6 meters. More field kitchens and horse-drawn vehicles were stored in a yard. Potatoes and vegetables were stored in basements, 150 meters long. Ammunition was stored in two three-story buildings, 60 and 120 meters long, and in eight to ten underground bunkers. A separate,

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fenced-in fuel depot, consisting of tanks, similar to those of railroad tank cars and embedded more than ten meters deep, was located in the eastern sector of the installation. The depot, built of concrete, was still under construction in September 1948.

c. Incoming shipments arrived once or twice a week and were made exclusively by rail. They originated in Moscow, Leningrad, and Gorkiy. Supplies usually were picked up daily by truck columns.

some of the units being supplied were air force units and were stationed in Tbilisi, Baku, Armavir, Sukhumi, Kutaisi, Yerevan, Kirovabad, and other places.

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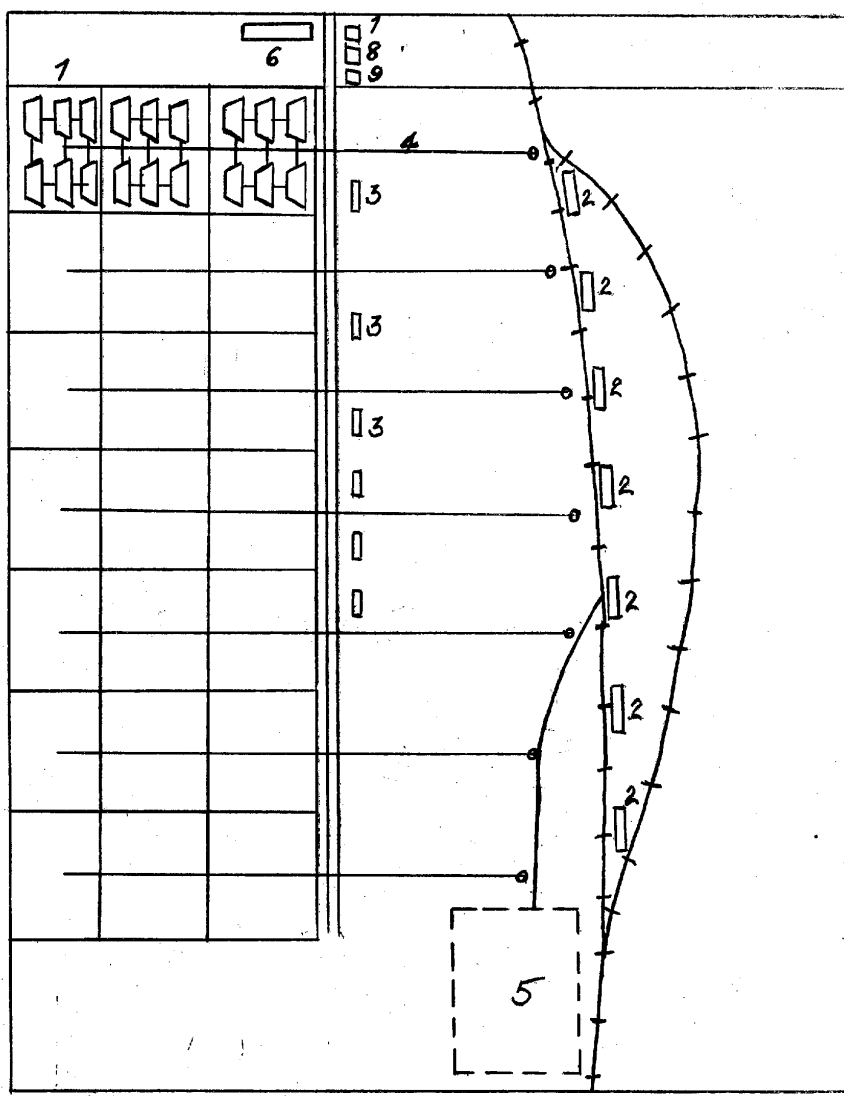
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Fuel Depot near Tbilisi

(see page 14)

Legend:

1. Underground tanks
2. Oil tanks
3. Standpipes
4. Feeding pipes
5. Drum storage
6. Fire brigade
7. Guardhouse
8. Administration
9. Workshop



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