

NATO MUNSA'20 STUDY GUIDE

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Letter from SG

I- Introduction

History

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), or Organisation Trait e de l'Atlantique Nord (OTAN) was founded in 1949 by Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It initially started as a military alliance in order to secure the Western Liberal democracies by “detering Soviet expansionism, forbidding the revival of nationalist militarism in Europe through a strong North American presence on the continent, and encouraging European political integration.”¹ Greece and Turkey joined NATO in 1952, Federal Republic of Germany in 1955, and Spain in 1982. In 1999, former socialist countries such as Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic joined NATO. Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia joined NATO in 2002 and Albania and Croatia joined in 2004. Lastly Montenegro joined NATO in 2017. NATO currently recognises four aspiring members: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, and Ukraine.

Especially after neither Soviets nor Allied powers backed off from German Capital Berlin, the tension started to rise, creating what will be known as the Cold War. During the Cold War, NATO military alliance was active in many proxy wars in order to protect the freedom of its member states and prevent expansion of Soviet Union or socialist ideology. In Korean War between 1950-1953 NATO forces backed the liberal South Korea whereas the People's Republic of China and Soviet Union backed communist North Korea. The conflict was the first battle in the Cold War between two conflicting poles of the world, the Liberal Democratic West and the “Iron Curtain” or Communist East. The Korean War resulted in an atmosphere of truce in which two nations within Korean peninsula were established, one being the communist North Korea and other being the liberal South Korea. The conflict allowed both conflicting sides to test out the power of the other side. During the Cold War era, both the Warsaw Pact and NATO was scared of the possibility of the Cold War to turn into a direct conflict because of what is famously known as the “nuclear deterrence”. Thus many of the conflicts remained as proxy wars in the Cold War era, similar to Korean War.

After the Cold War ended, NATO maintained its duty to protect its member countries as well as the security in the neighboring regions. The Yugoslav intervention in 1995 and 1999 exemplifies this instance. NATO, after its biggest enemy Warsaw Pact and Soviet Union broke apart, focused on stabilizing and expanding its power in its neighboring regions. Current status and activities NATO involves focuses on protecting the NATO member countries. NATO aims to protect the

¹ A SHORT HISTORY OF NATO, Nato.int

members by disabling non-state violent groups to raise in the unstable regions. You can research the current NATO military power and current NATO military activities in the recommended links section.

Article 5

Article 5 of NATO suggests the idea of collective defence. It establishes that NATO considers “*an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all*”². This idea creates the basis of the alliance. The alliance further agreed upon “such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force”³ meaning an attack to a member will have consequences as far as war by NATO members. In the past, Article 5 was invoked for the first time after the 9/11 attacks in the United States of America. The response of the NATO “included Operation Eagle Assist, in which NATO aircraft helped patrol the skies over the United States for seven months between 2001 and 2002, and Operation Active Endeavour, in which NATO naval forces were sent to perform counterterrorism activities in the Eastern Mediterranean.”⁴

Agenda Item B : Tackling challenges from the southern neighbourhoods and the instability of South.

II- Key Terminology

Arab Spring: The wave of rebellions in the North Africa and Middle East regions which was started as demand for more freedom by the autocratic governments. The term was inspired by the 1848 revolutions in which the majority of European nations revolted for demanding liberty.

Migration Crisis: The situation that European countries and Turkey face due to the refugees fleeing their countries because of the civil wars. The Migration Crisis has economical and social impacts on Europe. European governments are paying substantial amounts of money in order to build refugee camps and keep the wellbeing of the refugees. The changing demographics of Europe and spendings on that subject increased the strength of far-right parties in many European nations. The migration crisis is an important reason why any country located in Europe and Turkey would not want another war to start in the Southern Neighborhood and

² Collective defence - Article 5, NATO.int

³ A SHORT HISTORY OF NATO, U.S. Department of State

⁴ Pruitt

Proxy War: defined as a “war fought between groups or smaller countries that each represent the interests of other larger powers, and may have help and support from these”⁵

III- Chronology of Important Events

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (1948-)

An important conflict to be aware of should be the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. The conflict has been going on since the middle of the twentieth century. After the Balfour Declaration (1917) was ratified by Britain the issue of where a Jewish nation should be created was decided. The declaration led Israel to be found in 1948, in the aftermath of World War 2. Since then, despite many tries to propose peace with two states solutions, a lasting peace deal was never accepted by two sides. Currently Palestinian authorities control the West Bank and Gaza Strip whereas Israel controls most of the mainland, including historically and religiously important city of Jerusalem. Israel is mainly supported by the United States of America.

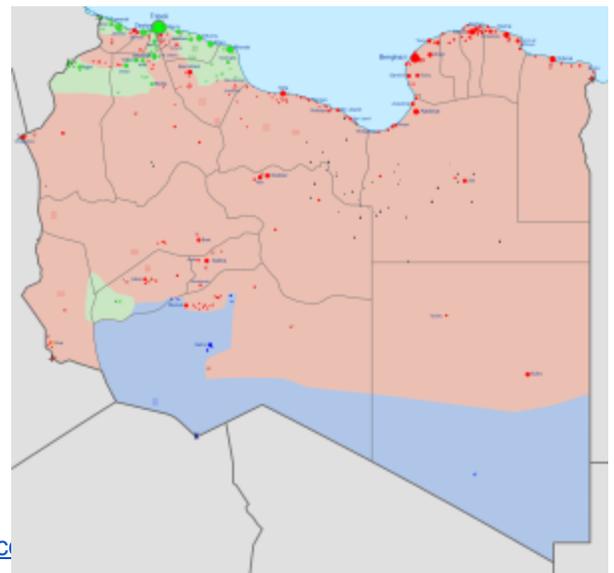


Photo source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict

The Arab Spring (2010-)

Starting in 2010 and still continuing today, the Arab Spring turned the Southern Neighbourhood of NATO into a center of persistent instability. Due to the threat of terrorism and migration crisis being the most important headlines of European politics, the situation proves that the instability in the South of Mediterranean impact the NATO member countries directly.

The so called “Arab Spring” started as a cry for democracy from the people of the North African and Middle Eastern nations, resulting in them to revolt against the dictators in their countries. In Libya, the former leader



⁵ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/tr/s%C3%B6zl%C3%BCk/ingilizce>

of the country al-Gaddafi was killed and since the start of the revolts in 2011 the situation of instability has not been resolved in the region. Right now, Libya is going through a civil war in which some NATO member countries are supporting belligerent parties either officially or unofficially. The House of Representatives, which is shown in red in the map, is supported by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates officially, as well as supported by France, the United States, and Russia unofficially. The National Accord government, shown in green in the map, is supported by Turkey and Qatar. The National Accord government is also recognised by the United Nations and European Union. The blue part in the map shows the area controlled by the local forces.

The situation is somewhat different in Syria, which is also going through a civil war since 2011. In Syria, the government of al-Assad has not fallen out of power due to the support of Russian Federation. In Syria, while Turkey is supporting the revolting group "Free Syrian Army", they do not support the Kurdish militia who are backed by the United States. Turkey claims the Kurdish forces called the "Democratic Union Party" known more with its Kurdish shortening "YPG" is linked with the Kurdish separatist group that have been active in Turkey called the "Kurdistan Workers Party" known as "PKK". While the United States considers PKK as a terror organisation officially, they do not accept YPG to be one unlike Turkey. Due to this situation and Turkey's demand for creating a secure zone in Northern Syria, the two NATO allied countries have come to oppose each other. This might be another crisis the NATO committee should consider before planning an organisation or operation to stabilise the region. Currently, due to the immense fighting from Turkish Backed the Free Syrian Army (shown in blue in the map), Russian backed Syrian Government Forces (shown in red in the map) and mainly American backed Kurdish Forces (shown in green in the map); the ISIS terrorist organisation (shown in black in the map) lost most of its territory in Syria. They used to threaten all the countries in the world with their civilian attacks in major cities, especially Europe and Turkey.



(photo source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/ind epth/interactive/2015/05/ syria-country-divided -150529144229467.html>)

Yemeni Civil War (2015-)

Continuing in the Southwest of the Arabian peninsula, Yemeni Civil war is an important proxy war between the Saudi Arabia which is supported by the Western powers and Iran. After the

authoritarian president of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh, was overthrown during the Arab Spring revolutions in 2011 the country was dragged to an atmosphere of constant instability. After the deputy of Saleh, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, took the office he needed to face challenges such as major economic instability, jihadist and separatist attacks, and corruption inside the government. Taking advantage of the weakness of the president, the Houthi movement took control of important cities in the Northwest of the country. Their captures included the capital of the country, San'a as well. The Houthi movement is linked to the Shia Islam and therefore it has connections with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is a Shia theocracy. Along with the Yemen government, which is supported directly by Saudi Arabia and several other members of the Arabic Union, as well as Houthi movement, supported by Iran, several Islamist groups such as Al-Qaida plays a role in the civil war. You can see the territories each faction controls in the map. Green represents the area controlled by the Houthi movement, red represents the area controlled by Hadi's government, and white represents the area controlled by the Al-Qaeda.⁶

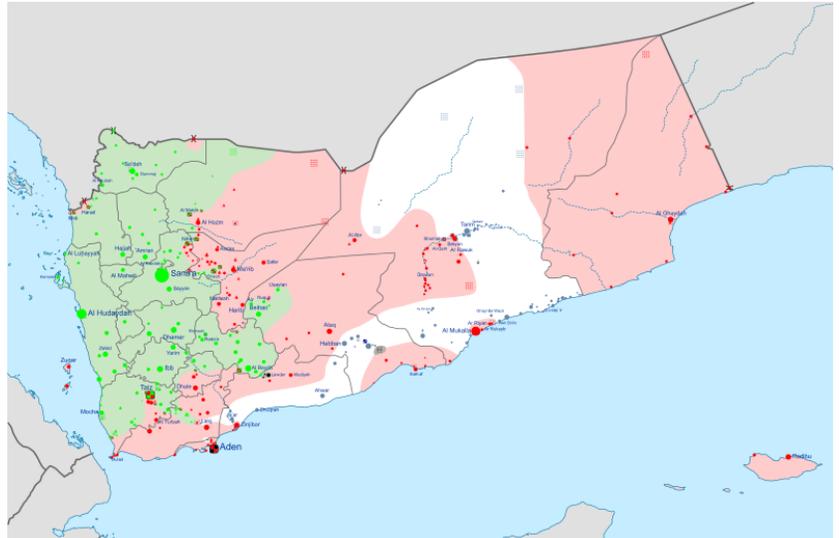


Photo source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemeni_Civil_War_\(2015%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemeni_Civil_War_(2015%E2%80%93present))

Idlib Conflict (27 February 2020-)

In the very recent days Syrian government led by Bashar Al-Assad hit Turkish targets, resulting in 33 Turkish casualties according to Turkish government. As the Russian backed Al-Assad regime countered Turkish backed Free Syrian Army with such an incident, it raised important questions regarding the instability in the region. The potential of new war created a fear that Turkey will face another wave of refugees, which led them to open their gates to Europe for the refugees to flee. This direct effect to Europe and Turkey makes Idlib Conflict significant for NATO to look upon. The delegates are strongly advised to check the news related to this issue daily until the conference.⁷

IV- Past Treaties and Solution Attempts

⁶ Yemen Crisis: Why Is there a war, BBC for further information

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423>

⁷ Syria war: Alarm after 33 Turkish soldiers killed in attack in Idlib, BBC for further information

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-51667717>

It is established by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation that the security of NATO member countries are highly linked with the security of neighbouring countries. This is why NATO is more willing to take broad action in crises that are concern to their neighbours. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg clearly expresses this willingness to expand their operational zone, saying that “NATO is entering a third phase of its history: after the first phase of collective defence (1949–1991), and the second phase of ‘projecting stability’ through crisis management and partnerships (1991–2014), NATO is in a third phase in which it: ‘must do both collective defence and manage crisis and promote stability beyond our borders’ and does not ‘have the luxury of choosing one or the other.’”⁸. With regards to that statement, it is clear that the Secretary General is referring to a collectively organised action by all the NATO member countries, which is different than the idea of protecting NATO member countries without intervening in the non member countries. The actions that Stoltenberg is referring to could be exemplified by the crisis management interventions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan⁹.

The idea of “Southern Neighborhoods” is included in this general idea delivered by Stoltenberg about ensuring stability in the neighbouring regions. Southern Neighborhoods refer to the countries that are located in the South of the Meditternenian Sea. In this action plan so far, NATO is trying to maintain stability in the North Africa and Middle East regions by creating new alliances for non NATO member countries who are willing to cooperate with the NATO. These alliances include the Mediterranean Dialogue, consisting of Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) consisting of the countries of Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. In their Press Release which dates to July 11 2018, the NATO said “We are committed to building a stronger and more dynamic relationship with our Mediterranean Dialogue and Istanbul Cooperation Initiative partners, including to help them modernise their defence and security institutions.”¹⁰

NATO is trying to take some measures in order to increase the stability in the region or at least keep the symptoms of problems to create more problems. NATO is trying to stabilize Levant and North Africa by deploying Navy in the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea, consisting of naval forces from Germany, Canada, Greece, and Turkey ¹¹. This is considered a more viable option to keep the refugee flow minimize to Europe compared to an EU supervised navy since Turkey, not being a part of the EU, would not welcome it.¹²

Mediterranean Dialogue (MD)

⁸ Diaz-Plaja

⁹ Diaz-Plaja

¹⁰ (PR/CP(2018)074), Nato.int

¹¹ Lesser

¹² Lesser

Having started in 1994, the Mediterranean Dialogue includes seven non-NATO countries of the Mediterranean region: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The Mediterranean Dialogue is based upon the twin pillars of political dialogue and practical cooperation. According to NATO's official website, they define the aim of the Mediterranean Dialogue as followings:

- contribute to regional security and stability
- achieve better mutual understanding
- dispel any misconceptions about NATO among Dialogue countries ¹³



The map shows the countries who are members of NATO (shown in yellow), and members of Mediterranean Dialogue (shown in red and orange).

Source: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_22070.htm?

They describe their key principle on that matter as the followings:

- **Non discrimination:** all Mediterranean partners are offered the same basis for their cooperation with NATO.
- **Self-differentiation**, allowing a tailored approach to the specific needs of each of our MD partner countries. Particularly Individual Cooperation Programmes (ICP) allow interested MD countries and NATO to frame their practical cooperation in a more prospective and focused way, enabling interested countries to outline the main short and long-term objectives of their cooperation with the Alliance, in accordance with NATO's objectives and policies for the Mediterranean Dialogue.
- **Inclusiveness:** all MD countries should see themselves as share holders of the same cooperative effort.
- **Two-way engagement:** the MD is a "two-way partnership", in which NATO seeks partners' contribution for its success, through a regular consultation process; special emphasis is placed on practical cooperation.
- **Non imposition:** MD partners are free to choose the pace and extent of their cooperation with the Alliance; NATO has no wish to impose anything upon them.

¹³ NATO Mediterranean Dialogue, Nato.int

- **Complementarity and mutual reinforcement:** efforts of the MD and other international institutions for the region are complementary and mutually reinforcing in nature; such as, for example, those of the EU's "Union For the Mediterranean", the OSCE's "Mediterranean Initiative", or the "Five plus Five".
- **Diversity:** the MD respects and takes into account the specific regional, cultural and political contexts of the respective partners.¹⁴

According to the official website of NATO, the practical operations-including the military aid actions- are as followings:

The annual Work Programme includes seminars, workshops and other practical activities in the fields of modernisation of the armed forces, civil emergency planning, crisis management, border security, small arms & light weapons, public diplomacy, scientific and environmental cooperation, as well as consultations on terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

There is also a military dimension to the annual Work Programme which includes invitations to Dialogue countries to observe - and in some cases participate - in NATO/PfP military exercises, attend courses and other academic activities at the NATO School (SHAPE) in Oberammergau (Germany) and the NATO Defense College in Rome (Italy), and visit NATO military bodies.

The military programme also includes port visits by NATO's Standing Naval Forces, on-site train-the-trainers sessions by Mobile Training Teams, and visits by NATO experts to assess the possibilities for further cooperation in the military field.

Furthermore, NATO+7 consultation meetings on the military programme involving military representatives from NATO and the seven Mediterranean Dialogue countries are held twice a year.¹⁵

Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI)

Started in NATO Istanbul Summit of 2004 at the most populous city of Turkey, which is the only NATO member country with a population consisting majority of Muslims, Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) aims "to contribute to long-term global and regional security by offering countries of the broader Middle East region practical bilateral security cooperation with NATO"

¹⁴ NATO Mediterranean Dialogue, Nato.int

¹⁵NATO Mediterranean Dialogue, Nato.int

¹⁶ Based on similar principles with the Mediterranean Dialogue¹⁷, the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative includes the following NON-NATO member states: Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia and Oman also showed interest in the initiative. In 2010 Lisbon summit, ICI was referred by the following sentence: *“We attach great importance to peace and stability in the Gulf region, and we intend to strengthen our cooperation in the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative. We will aim to develop a deeper security partnership with our Gulf partners and remain ready to welcome new partners in the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative.”*¹⁸. This explains that NATO views the initiative as a means of securing peace in the Gulf region which is critical for world trade especially considering its oil trade volume. It could also be seen that ICI focuses on military cooperation as the NATO defined the practices of the initiative as followings:

1. tailored advice on defence transformation, defence budgeting, defence planning and civil-military relations;
2. military-to-military cooperation to contribute to interoperability through participation in selected military exercises and related education and training activities that could improve the ability of participating countries' forces to operate with those of the Alliance; and through participation in selected NATO and PfP exercises and in NATO-led operation on a case-by-case basis;
3. cooperation in the fight against terrorism, including through intelligence-sharing;
4. cooperation in the Alliance's work on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery;
5. cooperation regarding border security in connection with terrorism, small arms and light weapons and the fight against illegal trafficking;
6. civil emergency planning, including participating in training courses and exercises on disaster assistance.¹⁹

Regarding the proliferation and military cooperation were defined as a goal of the initiative, it is possible to conclude that NATO wants to keep its military strength as high as possible in the Middle East, especially the Persian Gulf region. On that matter the NATO committee should consider the conflict of Iran with several NATO or ICI members.

V- Possible Solutions

¹⁶Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), NATO.int

¹⁷See https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_58787.htm?

¹⁸Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), NATO.int

¹⁹ Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), Nato.int

Some key points that NATO committee shall discuss must include the attitude of NATO on the civil wars in the Southern Neighborhood to prevent conflict on the matter between the NATO member countries. “The expansion of the ISIS presence there, and the growing potential for ISIS attacks on shipping or terrorism across Libya’s borders or in the central Mediterranean, presents a clear risk to NATO territory and interests. Italy has been at the forefront in calling attention to this challenge. But Italy is not alone, and the issue is on the agenda in Washington, too. If NATO is willing and able to act in response to the human security crisis in the Aegean, it should certainly play a role in confronting the direct threats to European security in Libya.”²⁰. For the NATO to act upon the Libyan crisis, they have to consider many of the current conflicts in the Mediterranean region especially including the Cyprus dispute, and other conflicts between NATO member Mediterranean countries. In the past, the NATO made a statement in their Press Release which dates to 11 July 2018, they announced that the NATO “remain(s) committed to providing advice to Libya in the area of defence and security institution building, in response to the request by the Prime Minister of the Government of National Accord to assist the GNA to strengthen its security institutions. NATO’s support will take account of political and security conditions. Any assistance to Libya would be provided in full complementarity and in close coordination with other international efforts, including those of the UN and the EU, as appropriate. (NATO) also stand(s) ready to develop a long-term partnership, possibly leading to Libya’s membership in the Mediterranean Dialogue.”²¹

The refugee crisis should also be discussed in the NATO committee as the stabilisation efforts in the Mediterranean will not be immediate and Europe currently faces a massive influx of refugees especially from Syria and Libya.

As stated, the instability in the Southern Neighborhoods affects the NATO member countries with instability. The civil wars create an atmosphere in which extremist groups such as ISIL grow, and gain members and bases. This increases their terror activities in the European countries. The NATO committee shall address the issue of terrorism in Europe as a result of instability in the South.

In the final Communiqué du Presse/Resolution Paper, NATO committee should mention about these issues:

- Attitude of NATO or NATO member countries on the Libyan and Syrian civil wars, Israel-Palestine conflict, Cyprus conflict that are going on in the Southern Neighborhood and possibly harmonising NATO’s attitude in these conflicts
- Actions in order to protect Mediterranean from terror activities

²⁰ Lesser

²¹ (PR/CP(2018)074), Nato.int

- Actions in order to protect the Gulf region, protecting oil trade and checking Iranian power in the region
- Controlling the refugee influx to NATO member countries as a result of the instability in the Southern Neighborhood
- How can NATO cooperate further with the MD and ICI member countries in order to improve stability in the regions
- Armament or defence planning of the NATO/MD/ICI member countries
- Protecting NATO/MD/ICI member countries from the instability in the Middle East and North Africa, which incites terrorism in the NATO/MD/ICI member countries
- Should Article 5 be invoked due to the Idlib incident

Closing Letter by Committee Directors

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ali Kaan Aydın and I am a senior at Robert College. I am going to serve as a committee director in the NATO committee in MUNSA'20 between 3-5 March 2020. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to Sakıp Sabancı Anatolian High School Model United Nations Conference 2020.

In the NATO committee, we are going to discuss two critical issues that are really significant for world politics especially concerning the NATO member countries. Our first agenda item is about the Eastern Partnership. History shows us how critical it is for NATO to secure their Eastern border ever since the start of the Cold War in 1947. The second agenda item, about ensuring stability in the Southern neighborhood of NATO, however, is a more contemporary issue that the world views to be on a knife's edge since the horrific 9/11 attacks. Even when we look at the news headlines today, we can see the effects of this issue in our daily lives. Both issues are critical to be addressed by the NATO committee due to their importance on securing the liberty and security of not only the NATO member countries, but the whole world. The issues that we are going to debate in the committee will be highly controversial and it will require all the delegates to actively participate. Every country naturally has their own opinions and perspectives on such controversial issues. Therefore it is important for every delegate to know the position of their country in order for the committee to run smoothly. I highly suggest all the delegates to research the position of their country on both issues and study the subjects and follow the news about the subjects.

I hope MUNSA'20 will be a good experience for all of you with intellectually stimulating debates and lots of fun memories!

Before ending my letter I would like to thank all the academic team, especially to our Secretary General Ayberk Görmüş and our Deputy Secretary General İdil Kartal, for enabling me to have this incredible experience and helping me out tremendously by training me for my first chair experience.

I am really excited to see you in the conference!

Best Regards,

Ali Kaan AYDIN
Committee Director of NATO

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Useful Links

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