

# BURMA ALERT

No 7, Volume 3, July 1992

Published by: *The Associates to Develop Democratic Burma*

ISSN: 1182-0454

## **Burma News:**

### **NORWEGIAN RADIO TO BROADCAST NCGUB PROGRAMS**

The Royal Norwegian Government agreed to allow the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) to use the facilities of Radio Norway International to broadcast to Burma in the major national languages. This was announced following Prime Minister Dr Sein Win's second visit to Norway from 15-18 June. He was in Oslo at the invitation of the Norwegian Burma council which is handling the US\$350,000 aid granted by Norway to the NCGUB in 1991. The NCGUB delegation included U Bo Hla Tint, Minister for Construction, Mining and Energy Resources, Dr Thaug Htun, All Burma Students Democratic Front Representative and Dr Kyaw Than, NCGUB Representative in Europe. They met with officials of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Overseas Development and the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs as well as non-government organizations, the labour movement and business corporations [GUB920727].

### **DENMARK TO HELP IN HEALTH & EDUCATION**

From Norway the NCGUB delegation went to Denmark and met with Foreign Ministry officials. Health, educational and humanitarian aid to the NCGUB was discussed [GUB920727].

### **GERMANS SEEK WAYS TO PROMOTE BURMESE DEMOCRACY**

The NCGUB delegation continued on to Germany from Denmark and met with officials of the Foreign Ministry, members of the Bundestag, members of the State Hesse Parliament, various foundations and institutes, and non-government organizations to explore practical ways to promote democracy in Burma. Technical, financial, educational, and political issues were discussed. While in Germany, a delegation of visiting Members of Parliament from India held a reception for the NCGUB delegation [GUB920727].

### **FRANCE INVITES NCGUB PRIME MINISTER TO PARIS**

Dr Sein Win, Prime Minister of the NCGUB was officially invited by Dr Bernard Kouchner, French Minister for Health and Humanitarian Action, to Paris from 8-9 July to discuss a strategy for dealing with SLORC at the United Nations. Dr Sein Win also met with officials of the Foreign Ministry and members of the French Socialist Party and the Association France-Birmanie [GUB920727].

### **JAPAN RESUMING AID TO SLORC?**

Japan is said to be considering a full resumption of its aid program to Burma. Several unofficial Japanese emissaries including veterans who fought in Burma during World War II have visited Rangoon. The recent political moves by SLORC including the convening of a national convention are thought to be an attempt to enable Japan, which in the past supplied 80% of the foreign aid to Burma, to resume aid. Japanese businesses are said to be impatient to resume operations in Burma. They are feeling left out while Korean, Thai and Singaporean companies are doing brisk business with SLORC [F920514,0625].

### **NLD RE-ORGANIZED IN LIBERATED AREAS**

The National League for Democracy-Liberated Area (NLD-LA) on 18 May appointed U Win Khet as its Vice Chairman, U Tin Aung as its Secretary and U Win Ko, NCGUB Finance Minister to the NLD-LA Central Organizing Committee (COC). U Win Khet is an NLD Central Committee (CC) member and former Secretary of the NLD-LA COL which was formed in Feb.91 in Manerplaw. U Tin Aung is also an NLD CC member and Chairman of the NLD Kachin State Organizing Committee. He and 7 others including 4 MPs escaped to the Kachin liberated areas on 8 Jan.92. They fled because SLORC started arresting civil servants and politicians in Kachin State for refusing to fill in SLORC questionnaires about their political beliefs. Among those arrested was U Byit-Tu, chairman of the Kachin National Democratic Congress. He is the elected MP for Myitkyina and was Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's host on her visit to Kachin State in Apr.89. On 5 Feb.92, the NLD-LA Kachin State (NLD-LAKS) was formed with the following members: U Tin Aung, Chairman; U Kya Mya, MP for Monyin 2, Secretary; U Kyaw Maung, MP for Monyin 1; U Yau Hsi, MP for Putao; U N'Nang Gam, MP for Machang Baw; U Maphang Hsin, MP for Khobude; U Van Naung Myint, NLD organizer for Kachin State; U Tha Nyunt, NLD organizer for Mogaung; and U Min Aung, NLD Youth Leader from Mogaung [DAWN9205, KI0920113].

**Burma News:****STUDENTS EXECUTE 15 'SPIES' IN KACHIN STATE**

The ABSDF in northern Burma on 12 Feb.92 executed 15 alleged SLORC 'spies' including student leader Tun Aung Kyaw who fled to the north in 1988 and helped found the ABSDF there. The ABSDF in the north numbered about 800 students. News of the executions has badly tarnished the image of the ABSDF, especially after it was learnt that the confessions were extracted by torture. Chairman Naing Aung said the executions were carried out by the ABSDF's northern arm without the knowledge of the central committee. While some may have been military intelligence agents, analysts believe the alleged spies were innocent victims of an internal power struggle. One of those arrested was Kyaw Naing Oo, a well-known former National League for Democracy organizer in Tharrawady in southern Burma. A total of 80 were arrested on suspicion of being involved in a SLORC-inspired plot to assassinate the top leadership of the ABSDF Northern Command. Nine of 19 central committee members were among the arrested. Fifty-five of the remaining 65 prisoners escaped to China and returned to Burma. They told their story on 3 June at a SLORC-sponsored news conference [A920619, F920716].

**KHUN SA GIVES UP CONTROL OF MERNG TAI ARMY**

On 13 Jun, Maj-Gen Dev'mg and a six-man Revolutionary Council took over the Merng Tai Army in Ho Mong. Sources said that the takeover was not resisted by Khun Sa loyalists. He is wanted in the U.S. for drug trafficking and some observers believe the take-over might have been engineered by Khun Sa himself to enable him to assume a lower profile [B920630]. On 15 Mar, Lin Chien Pang, a Bangkok nightclub operator who is said to be one of Khun Sa's major brokers in Thailand, was arrested in a US Drug Enforcement Agency 'sting' operation in Kuala Lumpur. The DEA is trying to have him extradited to the United States [B920611]. In Jun.92, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that suspects kidnapped from abroad could be tried in American courts [A920717]. SLORC criticized the U.S. court ruling saying that it would not permit other countries to interfere in Burma's internal affairs [N920626].

**KACHINS CAPTURE 2 SLORC OUTPOSTS**

Ignoring a SLORC-declared ceasefire, the Kachin Independence Army on 5 June attacked and captured two SLORC army outposts at Namyung and Pangsau near the Indian border. Sixty soldiers were captured at Namyung and fourteen from the Pangsau garrison fled across the border and surrendered to Indian officials. Maj-Gen Kyaw Ba, SLORC's Northern commander moved his forward headquarters to Danai in Kachin State to direct a counter-offensive [F920709].

**MON TROOPS RE-CAPTURE SITE OF FORMER HEADQUARTERS**

Between 4-9 June, troops of the Mon National Liberation Army launched an offensive against SLORC in the Three Pagodas Pass between Burma and Thailand. They re-captured Nam-kok, the former site of the headquarters of the New Mon State Party but the Pass itself remained in SLORC hands. The whole area was captured by SLORC troops in 1990 [NMSP920708]. *Note: "Ramanya" published by the Foreign Relations Department of the NMSP is available from GPO Box 1983, Bangkok 10501, and the "Buddhist Way to Democracy" published by the Overseas Mon Young Monks Union is available from GPO Box 765, Bangkok 10501 or from the Buddhist Relief Mission, c/o Ken Kawasaki, 266-27 Ozuku-cho, Kashihara-shi, Nara-ken 634, Japan.*

**HONOURARY DEGREE FOR DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI**

On 26 June, Thailand's prestigious Thammasat University conferred an honorary doctorate in Political Science on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for her courageous role in Burmese democracy [N920629].

**AUSTRALIAN SENATE PAYS TRIBUTE TO DAW SUU**

On 19 Jun, the Australian Senate paid a birthday tribute to imprisoned Nobel Peace Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The motion by all parties and independents affirmed their admiration for her "courage and determination in continuing resistance to the Burmese governing regime's repression". The Senate called for the immediate release of Daw Suu to prove SLORC's sincerity in making reforms [B920620].

**KHIN NYUNT: DAW SUU IS 'STILL TOO DANGEROUS'**

In a rare interview with the BBC on 11 June, Major-General Khin Nyunt, SLORC's Secretary 1 and its intelligence chief, ruled out a political role for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. He said, "She is still too dangerous to be left unrestricted" [F920709].

**Foreign Trade & Investments:****JAPAN:**

WAR VETERANS led by Kotoro Honda and Masao Ishiyaki visited Burma in Jan.92 [P920115].

SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARLIAMENTARIAN Issei Inpue visited Burma in Jan.92 to propose ideas to improve 'Myanmar-Japan'<sup>1</sup> bilateral ties. He was received by U Ohn Gyaw, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lieutenant-General Chit Swe, Minister for Livestock Breeding & Fisheries, and for Agriculture & Forests, and Brigadier-General David Abel, Minister for Planning & Finance, and for Trade [P920117].

SETSUBI KOGYO CO LTD Chairman Daijiro Okuyama and President Hiroshi Okuyama visited Burma in Mar.92 to provide aid to hospitals and help develop agricultural services. Daijiro is a war veteran who served in Burma. Onion seeds and two cars were donated to SLORC [P920322].

SHONAN SETSUI KOGYO CO LTD Chairman Daijiro Okuyama called on Colonel Pe Thein, Minister for Health and Education in May 92 [P920530].

**KOREA:**

FOREIGN MINISTRY Director of West Asian Regional Affairs Nam Soo Lee called on Brigadier-General David Abel in Jan.92. to discuss economic and trade ties [P920102].

DAEWOO CORPORATION President Jae Phil Suh called on Lt-Gen Tin Tun, Minister for Transport & Communications, and for Labour and Social Welfare in Jan.92, to discuss Daewoo-built buses [P920131]. Forty more Daewoo buses out of 200 ordered arrived on 16 Mar.92 on the MV Moulmein [P920317].

**SINGAPORE:**

TRADEWINDS AIRLINE opened its Rangoon office on 6 Aug.91 at 537/539 Merchant St, Kyauktada, Rangoon [SLORC].

JOB CENTRE PTE LTD in Jan.92, invited a SLORC delegation headed by Colonel Maung Maung Ohn, Director General of the Central Inland Freight Handling Committee, to Singapore, to study possibilities for the employment of 'Myanmar' workers in the republic [P920104].

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS Chairman Bernard Chen met with SLORC Ministers Brigadier-General David Abel and Lieutenant-General Tin Tun on 14 Jan, and with Lieutenant-General Chit Swe on 16 Jan.92 [P920115,17].

BANGNA COMPANY products showroom was opened in Jan.92, at Showroom No.2 of the Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment Trading Corporation in Pansodan, Rangoon. Video cassette players and recorder, refrigerators and air conditioners were on sale for foreign currency [P920117].

CASTROL SINGAPORE PTE LTD signed an agreement on 5 Mar.92 with Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise to sell fuel oil and lubricants on a consignment basis [P920306].

J K PRIVATE LTD (SINGAPORE) and the Central Co-operative Society jointly opened a GESTETNER SALES AND SERVICE CENTRE at 134 Sule Pagoda Rd, Rangoon, in Apr.92. Tel: 78858 [P920402].

DEFMAT AEROSPACE PTE LTD Chairman Lewis Tan and AVIONS DE TRANSPORT REGIONAL Vice President Alain Perez visited Rangoon in May.92 to give a demonstration flight of the ATR-72 passenger aircraft. They flew from Rangoon to Mandalay and back [P920526].

BORNEO COMPANY LTD and the Ministry of Trade formed a joint venture, MYANMAR-BORNEO COMPANY LIMITED, to market medicine and medical equipment, to trade in stationary, printing and photographic products, and office automation equipment, and to engage in department store management, resource development, travel business, and engineering services [P920620]. Write a protest letter to: Niel Rombaut, Director, Borneo Company Ltd, 450-452 Alexandra Rd, Singapore 0511.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

ORBIS FLYING HOSPITAL (Alert No.9. Vol.2, Sep.91) made its second visit to Burma from 7-27 Mar.92. The staff of 30 led by Dr Chedly Bozouaya and Manager Ms Pius Taormina, trained 50 Burmese eye specialists and 170 nurses in Rangoon and Mandalay. They also repaired equipment at Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat hospitals and donated US\$100,000 worth of eye surgical equipment. Chairman Oliver Foot called on Colonel Pe Thein, Minister for Health and Education, in Jan.92 to prepare for the visit and returned in Mar.92 to meet with General Than Shwe, SLORC Vice-Chairman, Lieutenant-General Tin Tun, Minister for Transport and for Labour, and with Colonel Pe Thein [P910111,0308-28]. Address: Project Orbis, GPO Box 7419, HONG KONG.

## International Activities:

### AUSTRALIA:

In Feb.92, the COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY IN BURMA in New South Wales led by Dr Raymond Tint Way merged with the COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN BURMA (Australia) led by U Kin Oung in Canberra. The restructuring was undertaken to create a stronger and more cohesive national body. The new chairman is Dr Raymond Tint Way with U Kin Oung as patron. Secretaries are Peter Colledge and Saw Lwin Oo. Address: CRDB Australia, 11 Binburra Ave, Avalon, NSW.2107. Tel: 61 (2) 807-3949. *(Note: Burma Alert No.4, Vol.3, Apr.92 - "Dr Sein Win visits Australia" failed to mention CRDB Australia as the organizer of the trip. Apologies - Ed)*

### BRITAIN:

In Jan.92, the ALL BURMA STUDENTS RELIEF FUND was set up by Dr Shwe Tun Kyaw and his colleagues after returning from a trip to Manerplaw. They raised 3,000 pounds in three months. Address: 105 Harrowes Meade, Edgware, Middx, HA8 8RS.

BURMA HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP, an all-party parliamentary group was formed by 22 British MPS including Lord Avebury in Mar.92. The Group Chairman is MP Jim Lester, a member of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee. The group will be working closely with the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union and will work for a UN Security Council action against SLORC.

PROSPECT BURMA on 7 April held a reception at Westminster School in London to raise funds for its educational programs on Burma's borders. Speeches were made by Lord Slim, Miles Kingston and Thant Myint U. Over 300 people attended and 8,000 pounds sterling was collected. Prospect Burma has funded schools and teacher training courses for Burmese refugees in Thailand and has helped to establish a school for Burmese on the Burma-Bangladesh border.

The Islington and Hackney AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL group on 12 May held its first monthly vigil outside the SLORC embassy in Berkeley Square, London, on behalf of 4 prisoners of conscience - Aung Thet U, Mating Maung Nyunt, Myo Zaw Win and Aung Tha Win - who were arrested in Oct.88 at a peaceful demonstration outside the Shwe Dagon pagoda in Rangoon. To date SLORC has ignored all appeals for information about the whereabouts and welfare of the four men. More than 40 people including members of the Burmese community joined the vigil.

[Note: News items from Britain obtained from the "Burma Affairs Monitor"- Ed]

### JAPAN:

The INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA comprising six lawyers from Japan, the Philippines and Thailand, visited the Thai-Burmese border in April. The Commission concluded that a) basic human rights do not exist in Burma under SLORC, b) SLORC's conscription of porters and their cruel treatment, and SLORC's armed attacks against the minorities are truly crimes against humanity and civilization, and c) SLORC has created several million refugees both internally and externally. For further information contact the Commission's Secretariat: Kenshi Nishida, IICHRB Secretariat, Tokyo Tobu Law Office, 6F, Kokuho Bldg, 3-9-7 Kotobashi, Sumida-ku, Tokyo.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Japanese Section and the NATIONAL NETWORK FOR BURMESE CONCERNS (NNBC) held a 'Birthday Party' for Nobel Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Tokyo on 19 June to call for the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Suu and all other prisoners of conscience. The NNBC comprises the BURMESE ASSOCIATION IN JAPAN, the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR THE FREEDOM OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI, the GROUP CONCERNING BURMESE ISSUES, the GROUP CONCERNING BURMESE ISSUES IN KANSAI, the INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF ENGAGED BUDDHISTS IN JAPAN and the BUDDHIST NETWORK FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS. About 130 people participated in the party and cards were sent to Daw Suu, SLORC and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To date, the AI Japanese Section's signature campaign has collected 430,000 signatures urging SLORC to release Daw Suu.

The BURMESE RELIEF CENTER-JAPAN on 2 July sent its first package of 74 letters from 13 countries to SLORC and to the UN Secretary General. The letters are in response to the BRC-J's International Letter Campaign which was launched in Mar.92 to show support for Daw Suu and call for her release.

## Politics:

## THE SLORC NATIONAL CONVENTION

When SLORC announced on 24 April that it will be a) re/easing prisoners who do not endanger the security of the state, b) meeting with representatives of political parties elected in 1990, and c) convening a national convention to draft a new constitution, it was publicized as a concession to international pressure and a step in the right direction. Japan began talking about resuming aid and other nations *decided* to wait and see what reforms *SLORC would introduce*. This is wishful thinking. SLORC' Declaration No.11/92 dated 24 April 1992 clearly states that it is implementing SLORC Declaration No.1/90. Excerpts from the official translation:

## SLORC Declaration No.11/92

24 April 1992

1 (b) In accordance with the State Law and Order Restoration Council Declaration No.1/90 dated the 27th July 1990, the SLORC will, in respect of the convening of the National Convention, meet and co-ordinate, within two months, with the leaders of the Hlutdaw Representatives [Members of Parliament] of political parties existing lawfully and individual Hlutdaw Representatives;

SLORC is not making any political concessions to the opposition by talking to MPs and calling a national convention. It is just implementing its program as stated in SLORC Declaration No.1/90. Excerpts from the official translation:

## SLORC Declaration No.1/90

27 July 1990

6. The State Law and Order Restoration Council (Tatmadaw [Army]) is not an organization that observes any constitution; it is an organization that is governing the nation by martial law...the SLORC is governing the nation as a military government and ...is a government that has been accepted as such by the United Nations and the respective nations of the world.

10. ... Since the Tatmadaw [Army] is not a political organization, it did not hold negotiations with the insurgents by political means. However, it welcomes all those who have renounced the programme of armed struggle and returned to the legal fold .... Since the SLORC is not a political government, it has no reason at all to negotiate by political means with any armed insurgent organization.

12. Section 3 of the Pyithu Hlutdaw [Peoples Assembly or Parliament] Election Law provides that - "The Hlutdaw shall be constituted with the representatives elected from the constituencies in accordance with this law". The SLORC will take measures for summoning the Hlutdaw in accordance with this provision...

15. There will be no necessity to clarify the fact that a political party cannot automatically get the three aspects of State power - legislative, executive and judicial - just because a Pyithu Hlutdaw has come into being and that they can only be obtained on the basis of a constitution...

18. It can be seen from the statements issued that the desire of the majority of the political parties which contested in the multi-party democracy general election is to draw up a new constitution...

19. As the SLORC is a military government, it exercises martial law. As such it exercises the following three aspects of State power:

- a) Legislative power: Only the SLORC has the right to exercise it.
- b) Executive power: The SLORC has the right to exercise it...
- c) Judicial power: The SLORC has the right to exercise it...

20. Consequently under present circumstances, the representatives elected by the people are those who have the responsibility to draw up the constitution of the future democratic State.

21. It is hereby declared that the SLORC will in no way accept the drawing up of a temporary constitution for forming a government to take over State power and that it will take effective action if it is done so...

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News sources this issue- A = Asiaweek, Hong Kong, B = Bangkok Post, Thailand, D = DAWN, All Burma Students Democratic Front, F = Far Eastern Economic Review, Hong Kong, GUB — National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, KIO = Kachin Independence Organization, N = The Nation, Bangkok, NMSP = New Mon State Party, P = Working Peoples Daily, Rangoon, SLORC = State Law and Order Restoration Council, Rangoon.

Politics:

## THE SLORC NATIONAL CONVENTION *continued:*

*SLORC Declaration No.1/90, was an attempt to nullify the results of the May 1990 elections by turning an elected parliament into a constituent assembly. SLORC Declaration No.11/92 further consolidates that position. SLORC Order No.9/92, issued on 28 May 1992, establishes a Co-ordinating Meeting for Convening a National Convention. It is made up of elected representatives but the numbers stipulated bear no resemblance to the 1990 election results. Excerpts from the official translation:*

### **SLORC Order No.9/92** 28 May 1992

5. The leaders of the elected representatives of political parties existing lawfully are to attend the Co-ordinating Meeting in the numbers stipulated as follows:

POLITICAL PARTY	No.of Reps.
National League for Democracy	15
Shan National League for Democracy	6
National Unity Party	3
Union Paoh National Organization	1
Mro National Solidarity Organization	1
Shan State Kokang Democratic Party	1
Lahu National Development Party	1

8. The Steering Committee shall: a) determine the programmes relating to the holding of the Co-ordination Meeting; b) lay down the topics to be discussed mainly at the Co-ordination Meeting;

*Note: The NLD won 3,92 out of 485 seats (81%) in 1990 but makes up only 54% of the MPs at the Co-ordinating Meeting. The SNLD won 23 seats (5%) but makes up 21% of the Meeting. The military-backed NUP won 10 seats (2%) but makes up 11%. The UPNO won 3 seats (1%) but makes up almost 4%. The MNSO, SSKDP and LNDP each won 1 seat (0.2%) but make up 4% each. Worse still, the Rakhine Democracy League (11 seats), Mon National Democratic Front (5 seats), National Democratic Party for Human Rights (4 seats), Chin National League for Democracy (3 seats), Kachin State Congress for Democracy (3 seats), Party for National Democracy (3 seats), Democratic Organization for Kayan National Unity (2 seats), Kayah State Nationalities League for Democracy (2 seats), Naga Hills Regional Progressive Party (2 seats), Ta-ang (Palaung) National League for Democracy (2 seats), Zomi National Congress (2 seats), Democracy Party (1 seat), Graduates and Old Students Democratic Association (1 seat), Kamans National League for Democracy (1 seat), Karen State National Organization (1 seat), Mara People's Party (1 seat), Patriotic Old Comrades League (1 seat), People's Democratic Party (1 seat), Union Danu League for Democracy Party (1 seat), Union Nationals Democracy Party (1 seat), and United Nationalities League for Democracy (1 seat), are completely ignored. To date, over 120 MPs have been arbitrarily disqualified by SLORC.*

*In addition, the Co-ordinating Meeting is completely under the control of a 15-man SLORC appointed Steering Committee headed by Major-General Myo Nyunt who is a member of SLORC and Commander of the Rangoon Military Region. Eight of the Steering Committee members are serving military officers including the Deputy Director of Defence Services Intelligence, Colonel Than Tun and the Director of SLORC's Public Relations and Psychological Warfare Directorate, Colonel Aung Thein.*

*The resulting Constitution will, therefore, be a SLORC constitution and not one that expresses the will of the people.*

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The "Burma Alert" published monthly by the Associates to Develop Democratic Burma, monitors foreign investments and trade with Burma to provide data for campaigns against the military dictatorship in Rangoon.

Subscription to the "Burma Alert" is US\$27.00 per annum payable to ADDDB, c/o Harn Yawng hwe, RR.4, Shawville, Quebec JOX 2Y0, Canada. Fax: 1 (613) 794-2719. Readers are also invited to become 'Associates' by contributing US\$100.00. In 1992, the ADDDB received grants from the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, Montreal, Canada, and the Evangelische Missionswerk, Hamburg, Germany.

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