

Politics



US envoy reviews with Libya PM results of his meetings in Benghazi and Tripoli

The United States (US) Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, discussed with the Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah the results of his meetings with political parties in a meeting in Tripoli on Wednesday.

The American delegation headed by Norland, which included the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for North African Affairs, Joshua Harris, and the Chargé d'Affaires at the United States Embassy in Libya, Jeremy Brendt, in the presence of the Ministers of State for Foreign Affairs, Cabinet Affairs State Minister, Adel Jumua, and the State Minister for Communication and Political Affairs, Walid Al-Lafi.

The meeting discussed the results of Norland's meetings with a number of political parties regarding advancing the political process with the aim of reaching elections, as Norland praised Dbeibah's acceptance of the dialogue that the United Nations mission is working to hold for the Libyan parties.

Dbeibah reaffirmed his support for local and international efforts aimed at holding elections in accordance with fair laws and ending the transitional stages. He renewed his support for the efforts of the UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily to address the political impasse and lead the country to election, as it is the demand of all Libyans.

The American delegation began a working visit to Libya in the city of Benghazi Tuesday. They met with Khalifa Haftar and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, in order to mobilize support for the political process led by the United Nations. Norland arrived in Tripoli early Wednesday, and met with the Chairman of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, the Chairman of National Oil Corporation, Farhat Bengdara, the Head of the Egyptian Diplomatic Mission in Tripoli, Ambassador Tamer Mustafa, and Bathily.

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Head of Libya's Presidential Council explains to Norland his vision for ending political stalemate

The Head of the Presidential Council Mohammed Menfi met Wednesday in Tripoli with the US Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, and explained his vision for addressing the current political impasse, stressing his keenness to advance the political process in partnership with the United Nations.

Norland and an American delegation, which included Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for North African Affairs Joshua Harris and Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Libya, Jeremy Brendt discussed a number of political, economic and security files, in addition to the human rights file, ways to jointly rebuild the city of Derna in cooperation with international institutions, including the World Bank, and the file of securing borders and combating terrorism.

Norland stressed during the meeting Washington's continued support for the High Financial Committee formed by the Presidential Council, and appreciated Menfi's role and tireless work to build bridges of communication with all actors and those concerned with the Libyan issue.

Menfi, meanwhile, stressed his keenness to advance the political process and address the blockage, indicating that this process is possible through continuing talks with the Libyan parties, in reference to support for the UN efforts to bring the active parties to dialogue. He expressed to Norland his appreciation for the role of the US in supporting the work of the High Financial Committee and their steps in partnership with the UN mission to reach a real political settlement based on appealing to the people directly.

The American delegation, headed by Norland, began a working visit to Libya, starting in the city of Benghazi on Tuesday, where they met with both Khalifa Haftar and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, in order to mobilize support for the political process led by the UN.

Norland arrived in Tripoli early on Wednesday, when he met with the NOC Chairman, the Head of the Egyptian Diplomatic Mission in Tripoli, Ambassador Tamer Mustafa, and the UN envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily at the UN mission's headquarters.

Politics

American delegation discusses with Takala Bathily initiative

An American delegation has discussed with the head of the High Council of State (HCS), Mohamed Takala, the initiative of the UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, regarding his call for the five-party table to create a political consensus that contributes to resolving the Libyan crisis and reviving the democratic path to reach elections, reviewing alternative proposals

in the event that the initiative fails.

This came during a meeting held at the HCS headquarters, in the presence of the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for North Africa, accompanied by the US Special Envoy to Libya, and the US Chargé d'Affaires, according to the HCS media office.

Takala stressed that the Council is committed to the political agreements and their outcomes, pointing out that it agreed from the beginning to sit at the dialogue table, and that it supports the efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive and just national reconciliation, and issuing electoral laws that everyone agrees on legally and politically.

Politics

US delegation reviews with Haftar advancing political process toward elections

An official delegation from the United States, headed by the US Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, discussed with Khalifa Haftar ways to advance the political process toward elections and the efforts of the UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily in this regard.

Haftar met Tuesday with the US delegation, including Deputy Assistant Secretary Joshua Harris, and US embassy Chargé d’Affaires Jeremy Berndt, in his office in Benghazi, and they stressed during the meeting the importance of coordination and cooperation between the two parties in combating terrorism and extremism, and praised the role of Haftar’s forces “in preserving security and stability in Libya and its positive impact on the countries of the region in general,” according to what was reported by the Information Office by Haftar’s General Command.

It added that Haftar’s discussions with the US delegation also touched on the importance of advancing the political process in Libya to reach the stage of holding simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections, and the need for the United Nations Mission in Libya to make more balanced and effective efforts to achieve the aspirations and hopes of the Libyan people.

The US Embassy in Libya said they had discussed the importance of advancing the political process to allow the Libyan people to elect their leaders, expressed appreciation for the work of the 6+6 committee and emphasized the need for institutional stakeholders to come together to address the remaining politically contested issues, including the formation of a caretaker government.

“They also discussed the importance for Libyan leaders from all sides to work together to ensure a conducive environment for Libyans to freely choose their representatives as Libya prepares for the upcoming municipal elections.” The US embassy said.

Politics

Arab League welcomes Libya’s position to join South African lawsuit against Israel

The Council of the League of Arab States welcomed the announcement by Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, that Libya would join the legal team of South Africa to sue Israel for its violations against the Palestinian people.

The Council condemned in a statement the continued crimes of Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, targeting tens of thousands of civilians, and subjecting the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip to a deadly siege that cuts off all means of life, which constitute the crime of genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

The statement called on the United States and the countries that support the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people within the Security Council to adopt positions consistent with international law and international humanitarian law, a complete and sustainable ceasefire, and to oblige Israel to stop its aggression and withdraw from the Gaza Strip. It warned of the danger of the occupying state planning and committing the crime of forced displacement of about two million Palestinian citizens, who have become displaced inside the Gaza Strip, and its intentions to complete their displacement by systematically pushing them out of the Palestinian territory toward the far south of the Gaza Strip, close to

the border with Egypt.

The Council also called for the rapid implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 2720 (2023) and to take urgent steps to immediately allow the expanded, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, and to create the necessary conditions for a sustainable cessation of hostilities.

It stressed that the Arab countries would not allow the “Nakba” scenario of 1948 to be repeated and could not tolerate Israeli plans to displace the Palestinian people, stressing that the necessary political, diplomatic, legal and economic steps ought to be taken to prevent such a scenario.

The Council also reaffirmed support for the joint Qatari-Egyptian efforts aimed at reaching a permanent ceasefire and restoring normal living conditions in the Gaza Strip. It decided to form a temporary open-membership committee of permanent delegates and the General Secretariat to go over Arab measures that could be taken at the legal, economic, political and diplomatic levels to activate and implement the contents of the resolution, issue its report and circulate it to countries and members within a week of its date, in addition to following up on the implementation of the resolution by the Secretary General of the League of Arab States.

Politics

Ambassador Al-Gulaib addresses challenges of Libyan community in Turkey

Libya’s Ambassador to Turkey, Mustafa Al-Gulaib, met with the Libyan community in Turkey to discuss the difficulties they face across various areas.

Key issues included obtaining and renewing residency permits, education, medical treatment, legal matters, and deportation.

The meeting saw the attendance of the Consul General at the Libyan Consulate in Istanbul, Salah Al-Kasah, the Director of Immigration and Expatriate Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mohamed Al-Malul, and several embassy and consulate staff members.



According to Libya’s Embassy in Ankara, the community members agreed to hold a meeting next week without the presence of the Libyan mission to discuss mechanisms for electing a new community committee or giving another opportunity to the previously elected committee.

Politics

Libyan delegation leaves Beirut without agreement on Hannibal Gaddafi's case



The Associated Press said that a Libyan delegation visited Beirut this week to reopen talks with Lebanese officials about the release of Muammar Gaddafi's son, Hannibal, who has been detained in Lebanon for years.

The agency cited a legal official familiar with the case as saying that the Libyan delegation left Beirut after spending several days in Lebanon, where they met with the Minister of Justice and a judge heading the investigation committee into Al-Sadr's disappearance.

The official described the talks as "positive" but did not say whether they had achieved any results, adding that the delegation is expected to return next week, and that the Lebanese and Libyan authorities are dealing with the two cases separately.

The official indicated that "there is no agreement" yet to release Gaddafi, while the agency also reported, citing judicial and security officials, that the talks aim to reactivate the suspended agreement between Lebanon and Libya, signed in 2014, to cooperate in the investigation into the disappearance of the Shiite cleric Musa al-Sadr in 1978.

The fate of the cleric has long been a controversial point in Lebanon, as his family believes he may still be alive in a Libyan prison, although most Lebanese authorities assume that Al-Sadr, who is now 94 years old, is dead, according to the agency.

Hannibal Gaddafi has been detained in Lebanon since 2015 after being kidnapped from Syria, where he was living as a political refugee. Lebanese militants kidnapped him to demand information about Al-Sadr's fate. The Lebanese authorities released him and then arrested him, accusing him of concealing information about Al-Sadr's disappearance.

Politics

El Sonni: Palestine, like Libya, lost trust in international community over double standards



Libya's ambassador to the United Nations, Taher El Sonni, said history records that "we meet here and we have passed 100 days since the brutal and barbaric attacks on innocent civilians of the Palestinian people have started, in light of the complete inability and clear failure of the Security Council to carry out its role: maintaining international peace and security."

El Sonni added in his speech last Tuesday during the UN Security Council session entitled "The situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian issue": "History records double standards, so there is no need for me to remind you of the position of many countries in the recent past, because of the situation in Ukraine, and the call of these countries and the pressure they have exerted and continue to exert, to demand respect for the Charter of the United Nations, the application of the principles of international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians, so what happened today? Are the people of Gaza not human? Are peoples classified by degrees? Where is justice? Enough hypocrisy, enough falsifying facts, because history is recorded."

"From here, I address our people in Palestine, especially our people in Gaza, that what we are doing today is the least possible in response to your sacrifices, and it is an attempt on our part to awaken those who are in their

slumber, because like you, we have lost confidence in the international community due to double standards, but we must know that we in Libya and the free peoples of the world are with you in your struggle, and we will not abandon you, and we stand firm on our principles in supporting your right to resistance and self-determination, and the countries of the world must now prove to their people that the human conscience is still alive, and that they will stand in the face of this aggression and blatant injustice, which claimed the lives of children, women and innocent people." El Sonni said.

The Libyan ambassador called on the international community to work together by all means to stop this brutal aggression and cease fire immediately, and to block the way to acts of genocide, destruction, displacement and displacement, stressing Libya's position that no peace will be achieved without reviving hope, especially for the current generation, saying that the first steps begin with granting full membership for the State of Palestine in the United Nations, with the Palestinian people obtaining all their legitimate rights, the return of all displaced persons to their homeland, and the establishment of an independent State of Palestine with "Holy Jerusalem" as its capital.

Economy



Africa Intelligence: NOC assigns huge sahara pipeline project to Oil Invest

Africa Intelligence has reported that Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) has awarded the project of linking Sirte basin oilfields to Ras Lanuf and Al-Sidr ports to Oil Invest, a subsidiary of the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA). The investment value of the huge pipeline project in the Sirte desert is estimated at about two billion dollars, according to the Africa Intelligence report, and no official statement was issued by the NOC regarding this assignment. Oil Invest is a national company owned by the Libyan Investment Authority. The intelligence platform noted its offer surpassed competing Egyptian and Emirati bids.



Economy

Al-Hweij, British Ambassador discuss activation of Libyan-British follow-up committee

Minister of Economy and Trade Mohamed Al-Hweij met with the British Ambassador to Libya, Martin Longden, to discuss developing trade and investment ties between the two countries.

A statement by the Ministry of Economy said the meeting addressed the status of British companies operating in Libya and their legal and financial situations.

Al-Hweij highlighted that Britain is one of Libya's most important trading partners, expressing his government's desire to create an economic partnership that contributes to achieving economic stability and sustainable development in Libya.

He expressed willingness to facilitate UK companies and investors and collaborate with British government institutions to arrange meetings for business owners, in order to establish partnerships between the private sectors of both countries.

Al-Hweij further instructed the Department of Foreign Trade to coordinate with the Commercial Office at the British Embassy to activate the Libyan-British follow-up committee and arrange official visits involving the General Union of Chambers of Commerce and the Business Owners Council.

For his part, the British Ambassador expressed his country's desire to strengthen trade and investment ties with Libya and the keenness of British companies to resume work on their contracted projects in Libya.



Economy

Murtaza Karanfil named Head of Turkish-Libyan Business Council for a third term

The Turkish Karanfil Group announced the appointment of its Chairman of the Board of Directors, Murtaza Karanfil, as Chairman of the Turkish-Libyan Business Council that is affiliated with the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Authority.

According to the group's statement, Karanfil was selected to head the council for the third time in a row in a voting that took place on Saturday. It also touched on the efforts made by Karanfil in recent years to develop trade relations between Turkey and Libya.

The group's statement cited Karanfil as emphasizing the importance of Libya for Turkey and for joint projects between the two countries.

Among the future work that Karanfil seeks to achieve, according to the statement, is "establishing a partnership institution between the public and private sectors in the contracting sector, activating the barter system in trade, creating new areas of cooperation, making Libya the central country in transit trade and supplying products to African countries, and working to remove entry visas for tourism and health.

"Turkey enjoys a central location in the world from a geopolitical standpoint. Libya is located close to Europe and the heart of Africa. Therefore, Libya is considered a gateway in all areas of trade. I am confident that a positive atmosphere will prevail for the benefit of Libya and Turkey," Karanfil said.



Economy

LIA informs UK embassy's delegation on steps to avoid negative impact of asset freezing

The Chairman of the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA), Ali Mahmoud, briefed the Deputy British Ambassador to Libya, Katherine Wilde, Tuesday in Tripoli on the steps taken by LIA in order to avoid negative effects on frozen assets and funds within the framework of the sanctions regime imposed under UN Security Council resolutions since 2011.

LIA said that during the meeting, the Chairman Ali Mahmoud had discussed with the British Deputy Ambassador, Katherine Wilde, issues related to the freezing of assets' system that is imposed on LIA.



Economy

Al-Hweij meets Greek ambassador to boost Libya-Greece trade ties

Minister of Economy and Trade Mohamed Al-Hweij met with the Greek Ambassador to Libya, Nicholas Garilidis, to discuss developing and activating trade agreements between the two countries.

Al-Hweij expressed his government's aspiration to resume the work of the Libyan-Greek committee and to stimulate trade between the two countries by establishing maritime and air routes.

He called for organizing a joint economic forum in Tripoli to exchange experiences and showcase investment opportunities, particularly in ports and other sectors of mutual interest.



Economy

Libyan Audit Bureau signs contract with British company BDO

The Head of the Audit Bureau, Khalid Shakshak, signed a contract with the British International Auditing Company (BDO) to enhance cooperation in forensic auditing and accounting.

The Audit Bureau explained that the contract signed at the company's headquarters in London came within the Bureau's endeavor to adopt a strategy to contract major audit offices to follow up on and evaluate Libyan investments and assets abroad, push toward improving their performance, and take the necessary measures to protect them from losses.

According to the statement, BDO is one of the five largest accounting companies in the world, specializing in the field of auditing and consulting, present in 164 countries, and has more than 1,800 offices across the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The statement indicated that the Audit Bureau created within its structure an office concerned with reviewing financial statements through communication with local and international audit offices, which is the first experience of its kind in the history of the Bureau.

"The office aims to develop oversight work and improve the quality of reports, in addition to training the Bureau's members on auditing and developing the accounting profession by motivating local accounting and auditing offices." It added. The Audit Bureau said that, as part of its follow-up on Libyan investments abroad, it concluded the first contract with the international auditing firm RSM in late 2022 in London, to review and evaluate Libyan investments abroad, and to train members of the Bureau in the field of investment portfolios.



Health

Dbeibah reiterates need to localize medical treatment, training Libyan medics

The Libyan Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, stressed on Saturday the necessity of strengthening cooperation in localizing treatment and training Libyan medical competencies, especially since his government has named "2024" as the (Year of Health).

This call came during Dbeibah's participation in the closing ceremony of the activities of the 21st conference of the Libyan Surgeons Association. He was accompanied by the head of the Treatment Services Support and Development Service, the director of the Misrata Medical Center and his assistant, the director of the National

Oncology Institute, and the head of the Libyan Surgeons Association.

The conference lasted for three days and saw the implementation of a number of major surgical operations in various specialties at the Misrata Medical Center in cooperation between visiting doctors and national experts, and the organization of scientific lectures and workshops in the fields of neurosurgery, blood vessels, diabetic foot, intestinal surgeries, tumors and breast cancer.

When attending the international conference to localize treatment inside Libya last June, Dbeibah promised to intensify

efforts and harness the necessary capabilities to develop medical services, localize treatment, and develop health facilities in Libya.

He stressed the government's determination to bridge the gap that has widened over the past decades due to accumulated neglect. He also pledged to make use of the technical and logistical capabilities to advance toward better treatment services. Regarding the support the localization of treatment inside Libya, Dbeibah's government established an apparatus to support and develop therapeutic services within the projects of the "Return to Life Pro-



Health

Radiation Oncology Center: We aim to treat 100 cases daily

Director of the Radiation Oncology Center at Tripoli Central Hospital, Assem Bakra, has stated that the center began receiving patients, noting that the arrangement of cases comes according to medical procedures, according to a statement on our government's Facebook page. Bakra said that the radiation device aims to treat more than 100 cases daily, covering the needs of the city of Tripoli and other cities. The center has qualified doctors and there is coordination regarding the priority of treating cases, noting that the center is for all Libyans and possesses advanced equipment for treating oncology patients.



Health

Tripoli Eye Hospital launches campaign to conduct operations in 5 cities

Director of the Tripoli Eye Hospital, Rania Al-Khoja, has stated that the hospital will launch a campaign at the beginning of 2024 in the cities of Tripoli, Al-Khoms, Tobruk, Ajdabiya, and Al-Bayda. "The campaign aims to perform operations in several eye specialties, including strabismus, cataracts, and glaucoma, in addition to training national cadres on the latest eye surgery techniques in the world", Al-Khoja added, according to a statement to Hakomitna platform. She also indicated that the hospital will organize other medical campaigns during the coming months in a number of cities, and will also continue to send medical convoys to remote areas in Libya to deliver eye services there. "During the current year, we intend to open the eye oncology department as the first department for this specialty in Libya, whether in the public or private sector", the Director said.



Education

Libyan-Turkish Center for Technical Professions inaugurated in Tripoli

The Minister of Technical Education, Yakhlif Al-Sifaw, accompanied by the Turkish Ambassador to Libya, Kenan Yilmaz, inaugurated the Libyan-Turkish Center for Technical Professions at the headquarters of the Ahmed Shawqi Intermediate Technical Institute for Electrical and Mechanical Professions in Tripoli. Al-Sifaw stressed that cooperation is continuing to implement new projects in various regions of Libya, and the target in the future is the eastern and southern regions to transfer the Turkish experience and benefit from expertise and competencies in technical specializations. The Turkish ambassador expressed his happiness at the cooperation and coordination between the countries of Libya and Turkey in order to strengthen relations between the two peoples, stressing his country's keenness to provide all aspects of cooperation and exchange of experiences between the two countries.



Opinions

The Monarchical Gambit: Mohammed El Senussi and Libya's Tangled Path to Stability

By Mohamed Abaid, Independent Libyan Analyst

Introduction

Libya, a nation still reeling from the aftershocks of the 2011 revolution, stands at a crossroads. The proposed return of Mohammed El Senussi, the heir to Libya's former monarchy, marks a potential turning point in the nation's tumultuous journey towards stability.

Libya's Fragmented Leadership

The Libyan political landscape is a mosaic of divided authority. In the East, Khalifa Haftar, a warlord, and Osama Hammad, the Eastern Government's Prime Minister, hold sway. The West is governed by Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, with Mohamed Menfi leading the Presidential Council and Aguila Saleh as the House of Representatives' Speaker. Mohamed Takala's alignment with Dbeibah adds another layer to this complex political puzzle.

Abdul Hamid Dbeibah's Strategic Move

As the anniversary of the February 17th revolution approaches, Prime Minister Dbeibah envisages a bold move. His plan to invite Mohammed El Senussi to the celebration is more than a symbolic gesture; it signals a potential shift towards reinstating the monarchy as a "new" solution to Libya's longstanding woes. This strategy, however, is fraught with uncertainty and the risk of further complicating Libya's fragile political equilibrium.

The Presence of Mohammed El Senussi

El Senussi's return to Libya for this significant event is emblematic of a possible reconnection with a past era. While some view it as a path to unity and stability, others question the viability and appropriateness

of a monarchical system in the current political context.

The Shadow of Saif al-Islam

Complicating matters is the enigmatic figure of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, rumored to be in Bani Walid under the protection of the 444 Brigade. His presence and potential political ambitions add a volatile element to an already complex situation.

Monarchy as a Solution?

Dbeibah's proposal to reintroduce a constitutional monarchy under El Senussi is a gamble. It could offer a sense of historical continuity and a unifying figurehead, or it could exacerbate divisions and resistance, particularly from power players like Khalifa Haftar.

Public and International Reaction

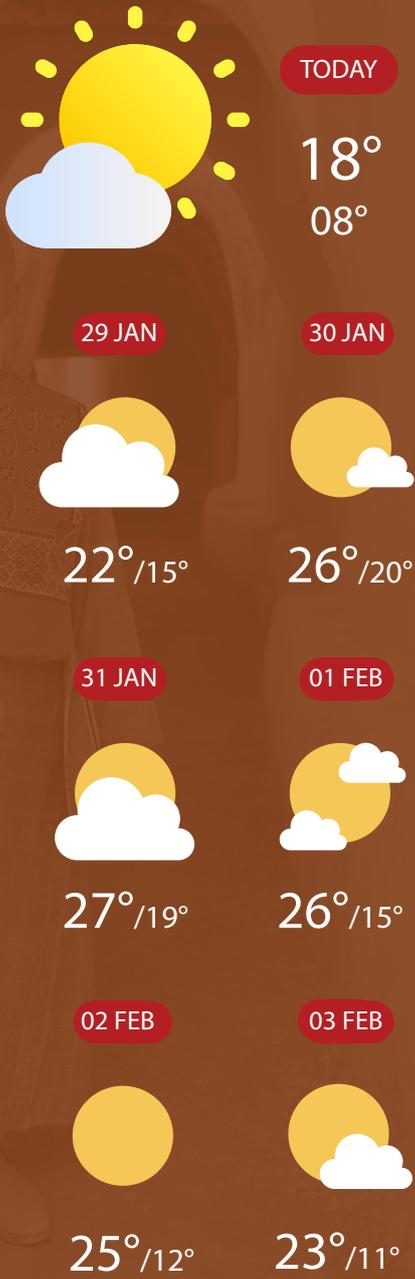
The Libyan public, bearing the scars of a decade of conflict, may view this initiative with a blend of hope and skepticism. Internationally, the prospect of a constitutional monarchy in Libya is likely to attract significant attention, with various global and regional actors recalibrating their strategies in response.

Conclusion

The potential reintroduction of the monarchy, symbolized by Mohammed El Senussi's return during the February 17th revolution celebrations, represents a critical juncture in Libya's ongoing struggle for stability and unity. It's a move that could either pave the way for a new chapter in Libyan history or plunge the nation deeper into the quagmire of political uncertainty.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer

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