



AGBU ARMENIA NEWS BULLETIN

Friday, January 29, 2010

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POLITICS

1. **Parents of those killed during March 1 events trust only representative of Heritage faction [Noyan Tapan, 01/26/10]**

The relatives of those killed during the March 1-2, 2008 events in Yerevan, as well as representatives of Heritage Party staged a protest in support of "Heritage" parliamentary faction's member Zaruhi Postanjian. The protest took place outside the PACE Office in Armenia on January 25. To recap, by instructions of the speaker of the RA National Assembly, a change was made in the membership of the Armenian delegation in the PACE: representative of "Heritage" opposition faction Zaruhi Postanjian was replaced with secretary of "Orinats Yerkir" faction (part of the political coalition) Artsruni Aghajanian.

In the words of the parents of the March 1 events' victims, "deputy Z. Postanjian is the person defending their interests in the PACE, and only she can be consistent" so that the "killers" of their sons will be revealed and punished.

2. **Armenian delegation's mandates in PACE approved [Noyan Tapan, 01/26/10]**

The PACE Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs at a January 26 meeting unanimously approved the mandates of the Armenian delegation in PACE. David Haroutiunian, the Chairman of the RA National Assembly Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs, took part in the meeting as an invitee. According to him, the committee concluded that Armenian



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delegation's staff was established according to Article 25 of Council of Europe Regulations and Article 6 of PACE Regulations.

It should be mentioned that at the PACE winter session that started the day before in Strasbourg Armenian delegation's mandates were challenged by the biggest party in PACE, European People's Party (EPP). The reason for suspending the mandates was NA management's decision to move Zaruhi Postanjian, a representative of the Zharangutiun (Heritage) opposition parliamentary party, also a member of EPP Bureau, from Armenian delegation's permanent staff to the reserve staff.

3. WAC to organize events on 95th and 100th anniversaries of Armenian Genocide [Noyan Tapan, 01/26/10]

A conference of representatives of the World Armenian Congress youth organizations will be held on January 27 in Yerevan within the framework of the events dedicated to the 10th anniversary of foundation of the Union of Armenians in Russia. Vladimir Aghayan, the Vice-Chairman of the World Armenian Congress and the Union of Armenians in Russia, reported at a January 26 press conference that the conference participants will discuss the problems of the youth organizations regarding the 95th and 100th anniversaries of the Armenian Genocide.

The 2010 pupils' and students' competition of creative works on the title "We have been, we are and we will be" held for the 6th time will be also dedicated to the 95th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. In 2010, for the 4th time competitions will be also held jointly with creative unions, Armenian National Academy of Sciences. A new Jivan Gasparian competition of duduk players will be also held. V. Aghayan said that the World Armenian Congress plans before the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide to plant 1.5 million trees in the territory of Armenia, one tree in the memory of each genocide victim.

4. Ph. Crowley, "Barack Obama administration comes forward in favor of timely ratification of Armenian-Turkish relations" [Armenpress, 01/27/10]

The position of Washington is unchangeable; Yerevan and Ankara must take steps toward implementing the commitments assumed by them, Press Spokesperson of U.S. State Secretary Phillip Crowley told journalists on Monday.

He noted that Barack Obama administration comes forward in favor of the timely ratification of the protocols on the normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations. "Our position is the same; it is of great importance that the two sides make steps directed toward the implementation of their commitments," Crowley said.

He simultaneously noted that Washington continues to conduct consultations with the two countries to induce them to ratify the reached agreements. "We understand that it will require the work of the executive body of each country with the Legislative power," Crowley added.

5. Serzh Sargsyan receives Foreign Minister of Iran Manuchehr Mottaki [Armenpress, 01/27/10]

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan received today Foreign Minister of Iran Manuchehr Mottaki who is in Armenia to participate in the 9th session of Armenian-Iranian inter-governmental commission.

Presidential press service told Armenpress that S. Sargsyan greeted the visit of the Iranian foreign minister and said that he highly underscores the work of the Armenian-Iranian inter-governmental commission.

"You know quite well what importance we give to the relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and we perceive you as a reliable partner and a core country in the region, thus the development of bilateral relations stems from our interests," S. Sargsyan said.

Armenian president pointed out the importance of high-level dialogue and consultations held between the two countries

The Iranian minister said he is pleased with the discussed issues and decisions adopted at the session of the commission, saying that they are directed toward the implementation of earlier reached agreements between the presidents of the two countries.

During the meeting the interlocutors pointed out the existence of the political will to boost the multi-content relations between the two countries.

Serzh Sargsyan noted that a great volume of work has been carried out in energy, infrastructural and other spheres.



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The parties also referred to the process of normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations, regional security issues, current round of Nagorno Karabakh conflict regulation process.

6. A. Davutoglu “The Turkish side is resolute in regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations” [Armenpress, 01/27/10]

The Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmed Davutoglu called Armenia to follow the spirit of protocols on regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations signed in October, last year in Switzerland. In his speech on the Turkish NTV channel he particularly mentioned, “We want the process of regulation of the relations between the two states to develop in accordance with the spirit of the protocols.”

He also added that the Turkish side is resolute in the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations. A. Davutoglu emphasized the importance of the continuous development of the process. He says the Turkish side started the process with a vision to continue it. “By implementing the process we follow three aims; to regulate the relations with Armenia, to establish good-neighborly relations, to set free these two nations from prejudices, to establish stability and peace in the Caucasian region,” the Turkish Foreign Minister said.

7. Armenian leadership pays tribute to the memory of freedom fighters in Yerablur [Armenpress, 01/28/10]

On the occasion of the 18th anniversary of formation of the Armenian Armed Forces, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan, high officer staff of the Armenian Army, representatives of legislative and executive bodies visited today Yerablur pantheon.

The high-ranked officials put flowers on the tomb of the Commander Vazgen Sargsyan, Andranik Ozanyan, and a wreath on the monument to the memory of the freedom fighters killed during the Artsakh war.

Congratulating the Armenian people on the Day of the Army, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan told the reporters that this holiday is of pan-national nature: each comes to Yerablur with a feeling of pride as we have an army which brought victory.

“Today’s symbol is that we must do everything to have a strong army which is a reliable guarantor of the security of our state, existence of the Armenian people. Our security is agreed with the reliable army. All the threats and dangers which exist in the contemporary world will be possible to overcome only jointly,” Tigran Sargsyan said.

8. H. Hovhannisyan says it is necessary to make Turkish leaders understand that the decision of RA Constitutional Court will not be subjected to any change [Armenpress, 01/28/10]

Armenian analysts try to confront the demands voiced by Turkey around the decision of RA Constitutional Court by bringing forward different arguments. But it is ignored that RA Constitutional Court is not a political body, and moves forward by legal norms, Chairman of the Armenian Political Annalists’ Union Hmayak Hovhannisyan said today at a meeting with journalists.

According to him, it is necessary to make Turkish leaders understand that the decision of RA Constitutional Court is not subject to any change; otherwise the demands voiced by Turkey take the existence of a constitutional regime in Armenia under suspicion. “We are to draw the attention of Turkey to the fact that RA! Constitutional Court moves forward by legal norms and not by taking into consideration the political expediency,” H. Hovhannisyan stressed.

Referring to Karabakh conflict issue, he noted that the regulation process of the issue is entering into a new stage, which is of great importance. In his opinion, one must not consider the issue of territorial integrity and the principle of the self-determination right of nations on one platform; the latter is the “holy of holies” of the international law.

9. The 18th anniversary of the Armenian Armed Forces marked [Armenpress, 01/28/10]

A concert dedicated to the 18th anniversary of formation of the Armenian Armed Forces took place today in the Al. Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet Theatre. At the event present were Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan, President of Karabakh Bako Sahakyan, National Assembly Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan, Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Second President of Armenia Robert Kocharyan and other officials.



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Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan delivered a speech presenting the path the Armenian army passed and reforms for the future. After the speech dancing, singing groups performed at the concert.

10. Edward Nalbandyan not expected to visit Munich and meet with A. Davutoghlu [Armenpress, 01/29/10]

Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandyan had a short conversation with his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoghlu in London.

"A short conversation took place on foot. Such conversations the minister had at least with ten ministers," spokesman for the Armenian foreign minister Tigran Balayan told Armenpress.

As to the publication of the Turkish Hurriyet Daily News "The ministers agreed to meet in Munich and discuss the situation created after the decision of the Armenian Constitutional Court," Balayan said that Edward Nalbandyan is not expected to visit Munich and meet with A. Davutoghlu.

BUSINESS

11. Delegation headed by the Italian deputy economic development minister arrives in Armenia [Armenpress, 01/27/10]

At the invitation of the Armenian Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan the delegation headed by the deputy economic development minister of Italy Paolo Romani arrived in Armenia, and will stay January 26-27.

Armenian Economy Ministry's press department told Armenpress that the delegation includes representatives of TV companies, TV-Radio digitalization service, experts from postal services.

Within the framework of the visit opportunities of further cooperation in TV-Radio digitalization, IT, postal services will be discussed.

Meetings are intended with the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Economy Minister Nerses Yeritsyan, Transport and Communication Minister Gurgen Sargsyan, chairman of the Public Service Regulatory Commission Robert Nazaryan, deputy head of the Armenian president's staff Michael Minasyan.

On the second day of the visit the delegation will depart for Gyumri, where they will get acquainted with the IT sphere, and be presented the program of Gyumri techno-park.

12. "Asian Development Bank" to invest 1 billion 938 million AMD for road construction in Gegharkunik [Armenpress, 01/27/10]

"Asian Development Bank" will invest 1 billion 938 million AMD in the sphere of road construction of the province of Gegharkunik.

Head of the working staff of Transport and Road Construction Department Gevorg Khachatryan told Armenpress that the road construction works will be continued at the expense of the invested money in the directions of Khachaghbyur-Geghakar, Shatjrek-Gheghamabak, Shatvan-Jaghatzadzor, Vardenis-Shatvani crossings. A road of 13.4 km length will be repaired within the frameworks of the above mentioned money.

Road construction works will be implemented in the province by other programs as well. The works on lifting the section of Lchashen of Sevan-Gavar highway will be continued by the means of the state budget. The inner-community road leading to the municipality of Chambarak will be repaired, funded by the program of "Economic Development of Rural Areas", and by the funding of the World Bank a number of rural roads will be repaired.

13. Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to cooperate with Turkish "Tuyab" company [Armenpress, 01/27/10]

Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry will cooperate with Turkish "Tuyab" company for the organization of exhibition. The executive director of the chamber Arayik Vardanyan said today at a press conference that with that aim the chairman of the Chamber Martin Sargsyan will visit Istanbul in February.

"Tuyab" is considered a big company in Turkey which is majoring in organizing exhibitions of products. A. Vardanyan noted that many businessmen reached big success in the local market and need



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to enter the foreign ones. In that issue they are supported by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry which cooperates with a number of such establishments and has 20 representatives in many countries the 90% of which are local Armenian businessmen. They provide necessary information to the chamber about the local market, businessmen.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has 3 000 members the 70% of which are representatives of small and medium-sized business. "We mainly focus our activities on supporting representatives of small and medium-sized business. With that aim we intend to organize a number of product exhibitions in provinces," A. Vardanyan said. He noted that many businessmen in the provinces are lack of information and they do not know what is being produced in the neighbor province. During the running year product exhibitions are expected to be organized in Lori, Armavir, Shirak, Syunik and Vayots Dzor.

A. Vardanyan noted that active work will be carried out toward organizing exhibitions of products of other countries in Armenia. During the running year two exhibitions of Indian products will be organized, exposition of Latvian products is also expected.

The executive director said that there is an arrangement to present the Armenian products in Riga. During the year Armenian products will be presented in Aleppo.

14. Paolo Romani proposes retraining a group of Armenian experts in digitalization in Italy [Noyan Tapan, 01/28/10]

Receiving the delegation headed by Italian Deputy Minister of Economic Development Paolo Romani on January 27, Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan expressed a positive opinion about Armenian-Italian relations, particularly the cooperation in construction sector, saying that it has developed even in conditions of the crisis.

P. Romani said that the Italian delegation is composed of representatives of various television companies, experts in radio and television digitalization, broadband Internet, and postal services. In his words, he was pleasantly surprised at the abilities of Armenian experts in digitalization. He proposed organizing the retraining of a group of experts in Italy.

According to the RA Government's Information and PR Department, the interlocutors also spoke about the European Design Institute's branch and the technopark in Gyumri.

DIASPORA

15. Festive event on occasion of 18th anniversary of Armenian Armed Forces takes place in U.S. [Noyan Tapan, 01/26/10]

A festive event on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of Armenian Armed Forces took place on January 22 with the participation of heads and representatives, national benefactors of Armenian communities of the U.S. Eastern Coast's New York and New Jersey states. According to a report by the RA Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department, the festive event organized by the Tekeyan Cultural Association included a cultural program, a film on the Armenian army and performances.

Ambassador of Armenia to UN Karen Nazarian welcoming the important initiative of marking the day of Armenian Armed Forces emphasized that Armenia, Artsakh and Diaspora remember the Armenians who fought for Armenian people's freedom. He also mentioned that the memory of our compatriots who perished for the idea of freedom and unity in Baku and other towns of Azerbaijan populated with a great number of Armenians is commemorated in Armenia and Artsakh in these days.

ARTS

16. Anna Kasyan is nominated to French Classical Music Awards in category Revelation Lyric artist [Noyan Tapan, 01/26/10]

For the first time in history a native Armenian of Georgia Anna Kasyan takes part in prestigious Classical Music Awards (Victoires de la Musique classique). She is nominated in category Revelation Lyric artist. As Anna Kasyan has informed to www.hayernaysor.am, the show will be broadcast in live on French television France 3 and Radio France Inter on February 8.



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17. Book exhibitions to be organized in Armenian provinces [Armenpress, 01/28/10]

Book exhibitions will be organized this year in the provinces of the republic by the Armenian Culture Ministry, Khnko-Aper Library and National Association of Publishers. Director of Khnko-Aper Library Ruzanna Tonoyan told Armenpress that the goal of the exhibitions is to make the activity of province libraries more efficient. The stress will be put on the junior literature, but other books will be presented as well.

"In the exhibitions we involve the local libraries, to which we donate numerous books. It is not a secret that many province libraries are replenished with books very rarely," R. Tonoyan said. She noted that through similar events the province society is "brought close" to the book and reading.

A similar exhibition was held last year in the province of Kotayk, which, according to R. Tonoyan, passed quite efficiently. A great number of people participated and donated numerous books to the library of Charentsavan, which had not been replenished for many years.

There is already an initial agreement with the province offices of Kotayk and Armavir for organizing a book exhibition over this year.

18. An exhibition of M. Saryan's works to open in Moscow Tretyakov Gallery [Armenpress, 01/28/10]

An exhibition of Martiros Saryan's works will be organized February 26 in Moscow Tretyakov Gallery dedicated to the 130th anniversary of the painter. Director of Martiros Saryan House-Museum Ruzan Saryan told Armenpress that nearly 66 paintings and graphic works will be presented.

Just in 2010 it makes 100 years since Martiros Saryan's works have entered to Tretyakov Gallery. On the initial agreement of M. Saryan House-Museum and Moscow Municipality a memorial board will be placed on the building in one of the apartments of which M. Saryan lived in 1937-1970 years. "Saryan unique days" are expected in the Russian capital.

A photo exhibition "Saryan in Photos" will open February 28, 2010 in Yerevan, and in June – an exhibition entitled "The symbol of the life tree in Saryan's art", in which works of other artists will be presented as well.

R. Saryan also singled out the inter-state exhibition to be held in the Painting Museum after A. Pushkin, in which Saryan's works from the funds of the Armenian National Gallery and House-Museum will be presented as well.

19. Armenian National Cinema Center to bring to an end a number of film projects in 2010 [Armenpress, 01/29/10]

This year the Armenian National Cinema Center will bring to an end a number of film projects. Director of the Cinema Center Gevorg Gevorgyan told Armenpress that with the support of Hubert Bals Fund of the International Film Festival of Rotterdam "Chnchik" full-length film by Aram Shahbazyan is being screened, the project of which has been drafted and awarded within the frameworks of "AVANTI" international film program.

"Zhanna and Voices" film is in the phase of production as well, the director of which is Michael Vatinian. The film project with 80 minutes duration has been presented at "Golden Apricot" and Goteborg's international film festivals. It tells about the social state of Armenia in 1996-1997. Film project of "Endless Return" by Michael Stamboltsyan and Harutyun Khachatryan is in process with the support of "Golden Apricot" film development fund. Here an attempt is made to present the personal lives of the former Armenians settled in different republics of USSR and Canada, as well as the causes of repatriation 20 years ago, the achievements and losses registered over the years.

Among the full-length films, the film of "Artist", which is based on the work of AI. Shirvanzade of the same name, is also one of the projects implemented by the Cinema Center and Public Television. From the short-length films "30 Years and 3 Days", "Jumping March", from the debuts "Ararat Ark" allegorical drama, and from student films "1362" and "Meghrzadzor" are still in the process of production.

The Cinema Center continues to produce "Gzhuk" children comedy magazine. The next issues will be entitled "The Stunt Man", "Football", "A Fatherly Advice", "With Similar Nails", "Tigran the Great", "The Physician", "Two Stars", "A Drop of Blood in Favor of Love" and "Knights".

The animated films of "Vishapagorg" by Gayane Martirosyan, "Lost World" by Robert Sahakyants and "Hayrenner" by Davit Sahakyants are in process. Among young directors, Maria Sahakyan will screen "Alaverdi" film, Nika Sheik – "My Dear Poor Mother" and Edgar Baghdasaryan – "Pardon".



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According to G. Gevorgyan, the National Cinema Center is also undertaking the implementation of a project devoted to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, which will possibly be presented within the framework of projects by state order; different scenarists and directors will be involved.

Nearly 290 million AMD has been extended this year from the state means for the Armenian film.

SOCIAL

20. Historians and scholars in the Social Sciences from Armenia are invited to take part at UC Berkeley's workshop [Noyan Tapan, 01/26/10]

The Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ISEEES) at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), in collaboration with the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC), is holding a two-week workshop at UCB from April 17 to May 1.

According to www.info@cenn.org in the workshop can participate citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, scholars who hold a "Kandidatskaya" degree, scholars who have a level of proficiency in written and spoken English.

The organizers are waiting for the applications from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia's scholars to participate in the workshop.

21. Gyumri Health Center Project is in process [Armenpress, 01/27/10]

Health Care and Social Affairs Department of the Governor's office of Shirak worked out a program on the development of the sphere for 2010-2013.

In some medical establishments conditions were improved in 2009; the problems of heating and roof repair in the hospital after Enrique Matte and some other hospitals of the region were solved.

"Family Medicine Centre" heating problem was partly solved last year and will be completely solved this year. Samvel Ghazaryan, head of the department, told Armenpress that two prominent programs were implemented through 2009; Gyumri children's Austrian hospital became Mother and Child Austrian Center and construction works of Gyumri Health Centre were launched. These two projects will be completely implemented this year. Obstetrics- gynecological department with 30 beds will open in the Mother and Child Austrian Center.

According to the Armenian- Austrian agreement, RA Government must invest 52 million AMD in 2010 to solve the issues of reconstruction of the building and making it more comfortable. The Austrian side will provide up to date medical equipments. Gyumri Health Centre Project is in process. Planning and calculation works have already been carried out. The main construction is planned to start in the first quarter of 2010. The program is funded by the World Bank. The new medical establishment with therapeutic, surgical and cardiology departments will have 200 beds. "The only problem remained to solve is the personnel. The region needs good gynecologists, oncologists and other specialists. The list of demanded specialists has already been shown to RA Health Ministry," S. Ghazaryan added.

22. Money awards by FAR for 27 Armenian Scientists [Armenpress, 01/27/10]

FAR (Fund for Armenian Relief) Science and Education National Foundation of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church granted money awards to the heads of 27 Armenian scientific groups.

Head of the Armenian Office of FAR Bagrat Asatryan explained that a number of scientists applied to the foundation, but the Expert Committee selected only 27 ones. Among the selected ones there were both honored and famous scientists and young ones. B. Asatryan says the aim of Science and Education National Foundation funded in New York, over 10 years earlier has been to hamper the emigration of Armenian intellectuals by supporting both honored and famous scientists and those young ones doing their first serious steps in the sphere of science.

Within these 10 years the number of money awarded scientific groups has increased to 235 and approximately 1 million 170 thousand USD assistance has been provided. The scientists who were granted the money award after "Armen Avanesyants" presented their scientific works that generally referred to the sphere of natural sciences- physics, electronics, biotechnology and microbiology. Only 3 scientific groups presented projects of humanitarian sciences sector. It's not the first, but the second, third or even the fourth time some of the heads of scientific groups are given money awards. The amount of the award for a year of scientific research is 5 000 USD. The Chairman of the Research Committee of the foundation is Yervand Terzyan, American-Armenian prominent astrophysicist, professor at Cornell



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University and the members are influential scientists recognized in all over the world. The uniqueness of the FAR scientific competition is that it has no exceptions- representatives of any sector of sciences may apply. The winners are scientific workers of RA NAS (National Academy of Sciences) institutions and scientific research establishments.

SPORTS

23. Four Armenian mountain-skiers to participate in the Olympic Games [Armenpress, 01/27/10]

Four mountain-skiers will represent Armenia in the 21st Winter Olympic Games, which will kick off in the Canadian town of Vancouver. Those athletes are Sergey Miqayelyan from Ashotsk, Kristine Khachatryan from Gyumri, Ani Serebrakyan from USA and Arsen Nersisyan from Tsakhkadzor. The International Ski Federation – FIS has today officially published the list of the participants of its sport style in Olympic tournaments, and the International Olympic Committee – MOK, has conformed that. According to RA National Olympic Committee, before that Armenia has been presented in figure skating as well.

Deputy President of RA Mountain-Skiing Federation Levon Harutyunyan told Armenpress that it will be difficult for Armenian athletes to fight for high places, but Armenian mountain-skiers do not wish to be rearguards either, and their latest results in international tournaments conform that.

The deputy chairman of the federation noted that Armenian mountain-skiers will participate in the Olympic Games in the best athletic state. This is the latest official tournament and the competition will be quite strained, but Armenian mountain-skiers have some experience.

24. Armenian Sports and Youth Affairs Minister refuses yet to comment on the information about his resignation [Armenpress, 01/28/10]

Armenian Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Armen Grigoryan is yet refusing to comment on the information circulating in the press about his resignation. "Currently I cannot say anything. Wait till tomorrow," the minister told Armenpress.

The "Prosperous Armenia" party to which the ministerial portfolio belongs refused to comment on the information. Press secretary of the party said that they may comment January 29 when the working day starts.

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