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# **THE ŠNIPIŠKES RESTORATION PROPOSAL**

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**SNIPISKES JEWISH CEMETERY**



***“Jewish tradition has determined  
that cemeteries are a holy place  
and fall under the jurisdiction of an  
authorized Rabbinic authority.”***

**- Fundamental dictum in Jewish law**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- *The plan for a conference center on a 500-year old cemetery, with over 50,000 graves has been scrapped.*
- *The future of the Jewish cemetery is at stake.*
- *Lithuanian authorities are considering various options.*
- *The Save Vilna restoration proposal provides for collaboration between different Jewish Communities, within the parameters of Jewish law and culture.*





# GATE AND ENTRANCE





# SCOPE OF RESTORATION:

- Sports Palace Facelift
- Restoration of tombstones, identifying existing graves according to the Klausner map
- THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROPOSALS IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF AN AUTHORIZED AND RECOGNIZED RABBINICAL AUTHORITY.
- REMOVAL OF THE EXISTING BUILDING, REQUIRES THAT THE MINISTER OF CULTURE CANCEL THE PROTECTED LANDMARK STATUS OF THE ROOF AND BUILDING.





# SPORTS PALACE FACELIFT



## FEATURES:

- Preservation and restoration of graves, respect for deceased are primary goals.
- Facelift to external facade of defunct Sports Palace.
- All weather, educational exhibit boards (external to Sports Palace).
- Educational experience on history of Vilnius Jewish community and Holocaust.
- Daily tours detailing the history of Snipiskes.
- Majestic Gate at entrance.
- New restroom facilities (off original cemetery site)



# NIGHT PROFILE



## FEATURES:

- LED flickering flame effect, mounted on restored tombstones.
- External lighting for educational exhibits and walkways.



# VISUALS

The facelift proposal provides for restoration of the cemetery and a facelift to the the existing Sports Palace building.

The unique design of the roof, exhibiting brutal Russian architecture is retained.





## PROPOSED MEMORIAL

- Sports Palace building, to serve as Monument for 230,000 Jewish lives that were martyred in Lithuanian Holocaust.
- Listing of Jewish lives, lost during World War II.
- Sports Palace building not be used for any other purpose, in compliance with Jewish law and recognition of memorial status.





# REAR VIEW OF CEMETERY





**“According to Jewish law, a cemetery can only be used as a resting place for the deceased. Using the area for any other purpose is prohibited.”**

- Fundamental Principal in Jewish Law



# EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

- Righteous Gentiles.
- History of Jewish Community in Vilnius.
- Accolades of the legendary Torah Sages buried in the Cemetery.
- Names of over 50,000 deceased buried in cemetery.
- Lithuanian Map of Mass Jewish Graves, Listing Names of Deceased.
- January 13, 1991 and 14 Lithuanian Martyrs

The educational exhibits are positioned off the cemetery, on the fence line.





# Alternative Proposal



THE VILNA GAON PROPOSAL



## Featuring: Vilna Gaon Proposal

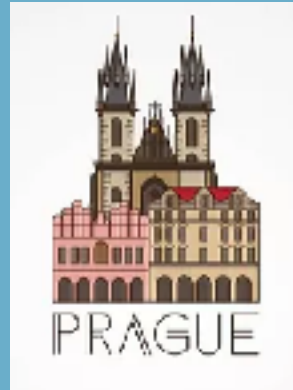
- Replace Sports Palace with minimalistic designed unit to protect visitors from extreme weather .





# HERITAGE TOURISM

The restoration of the  
Snipiskes Jewish cemetery,  
creates development  
opportunity in Jewish  
Heritage tourism for Lithuania,  
as experienced by other  
European countries.



## PRAGUE

Current tourists to Jewish Sites  
721,000



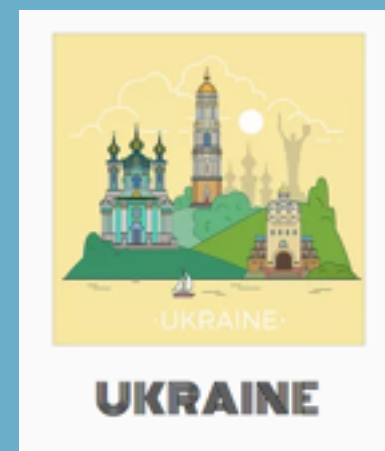
## POLAND

Current tourists to Jewish Sites  
553,000



## HUNGARY

Current tourists to Jewish Sites  
656,500



## UKRAINE

Current tourists to Jewish Sites  
247,000



# PROJECTED TOURIST GROWTH RATE \*

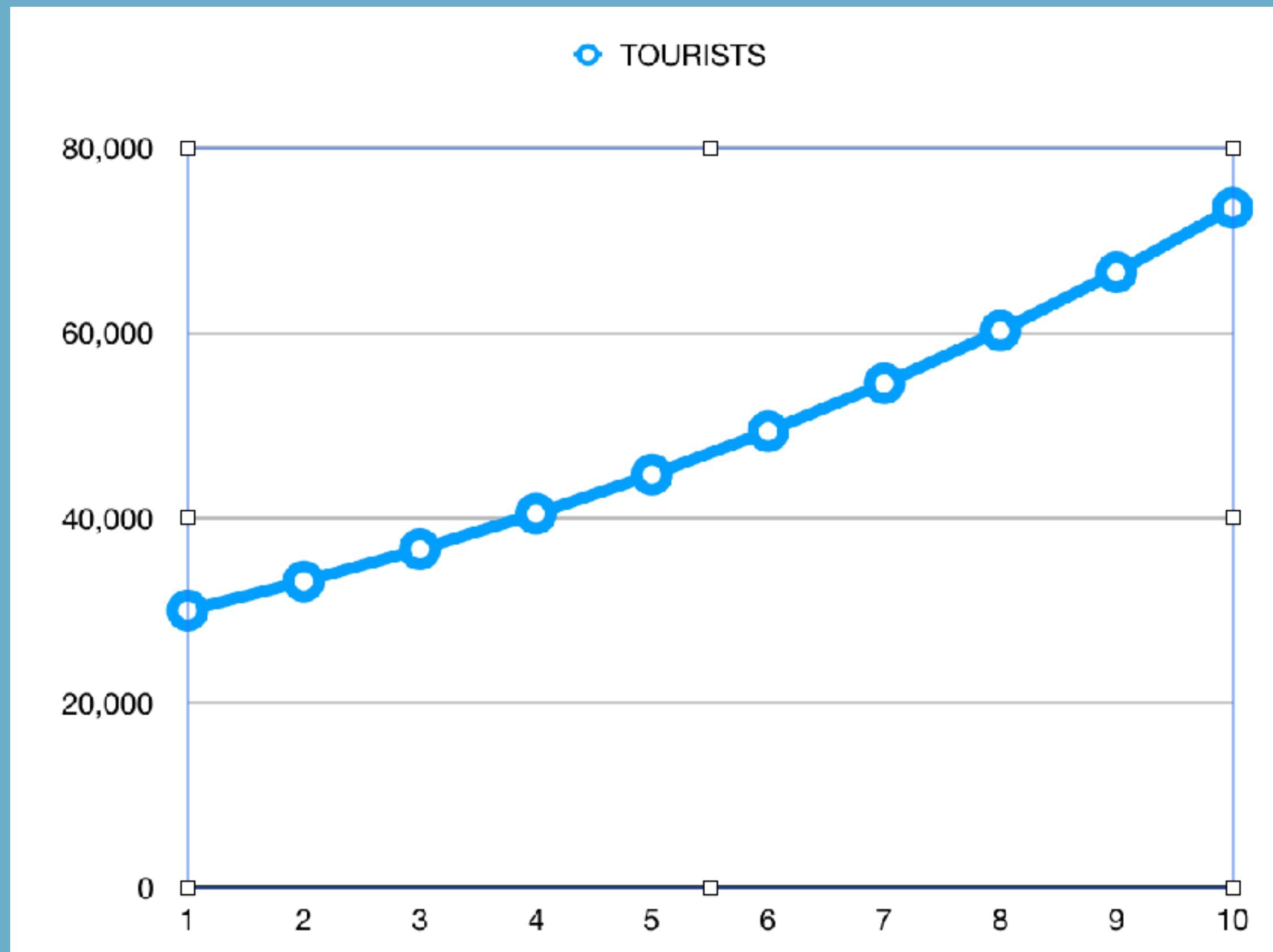
PER ANNUM	
YEAR	TOURISTS
1	30,000
2	33,141
3	36,612
4	40,445
5	44,681
6	49,359
7	54,528
8	60,238
9	66,545
10	73,513

\* 10% tourist growth rate per annum.





# PROJECTED JEWISH TOURISM



\* Calculated at 10% annualized tourist growth rate





# PROJECTED ECONOMIC VALUE

YEAR	TOURISTS	VALUE/TOURIST	MULTIPLIER X10	PRESENT VALUE	ACCUMULATIVE VALUE
1	30,000	€12,630,000	€126,300,000	€120,285,714	€120,285,714
2	33,141	€13,952,526	€139,525,260	€126,553,524	€246,839,238
3	36,612	€15,413,538	€154,135,378	€133,147,935	€379,987,174
4	40,445	€17,027,537	€170,275,367	€140,085,966	€520,073,139
5	44,681	€18,810,542	€188,105,423	€147,385,521	€667,458,660
6	49,359	€20,780,252	€207,802,518	€155,065,439	€822,524,099
7	54,528	€22,956,216	€229,562,158	€163,145,540	€985,669,638
8	60,238	€25,360,032	€253,600,315	€171,646,676	€1,157,316,314
9	66,545	€28,015,558	€280,155,582	€180,590,786	€1,337,907,100
10	73,513	€30,949,153	€309,491,533	€190,000,954	€1,527,908,054

## Assumptions:

1. Tourist rate of growth established at 10% compounded.
2. Value per tourist calculated at €421
3. Economic multiplier impact is X10
4. Present value calculated at 5%



# PROJECTED CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

External Improvements to Sports Palace	€3,500,000
Architectural & Professional Work	€100,000
Engineering & Land Surveyers	€100,000
Structural Strengthening	€360,000
Landscaping, Grass & Gravel	€1,500,000
Lighting	€250,000
Tombstone Restoration	€500,000
Exhibit Board Structures	€1,410,000
High Res Outdoor LED screen	€20,000
New Ablution & Refreshment Facility	€1,200,000
Entrance Gate and Fencing	€250,000
Educational Material and Posters	€500,000
Marketing	€100,000
Municipal Licenses	€10,000
Project Management Fee	€200,000
Rabbinical Supervision	€50,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	€10,050,000



## COST BENEFIT SUMMARY

- Projected Capital Costs  
€10,050,000
- One-Year Payback Period
- Accumulated value to Lithuanian economy over 10 years is €1,5 Billion





## SIDE VIEW WITH RESTORED MEMORIAL STONES

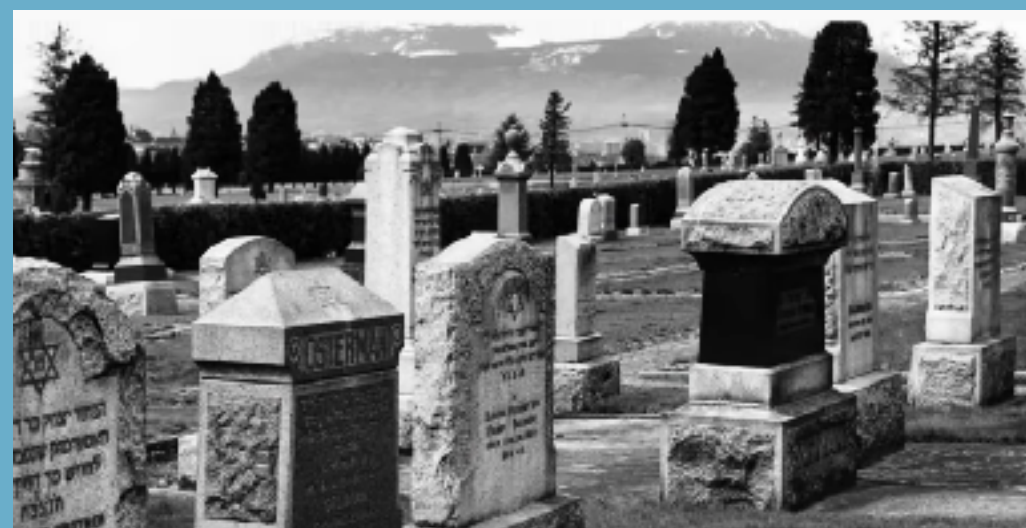
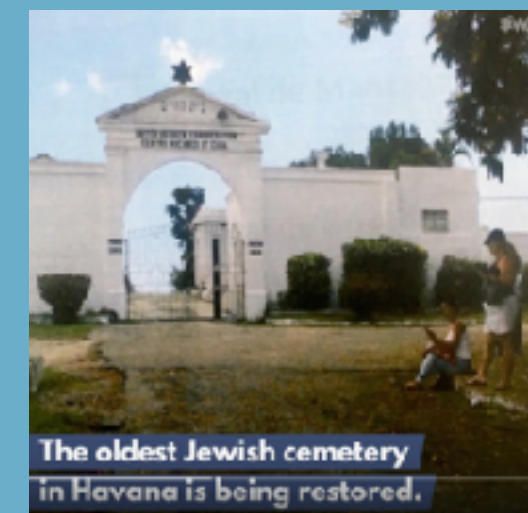
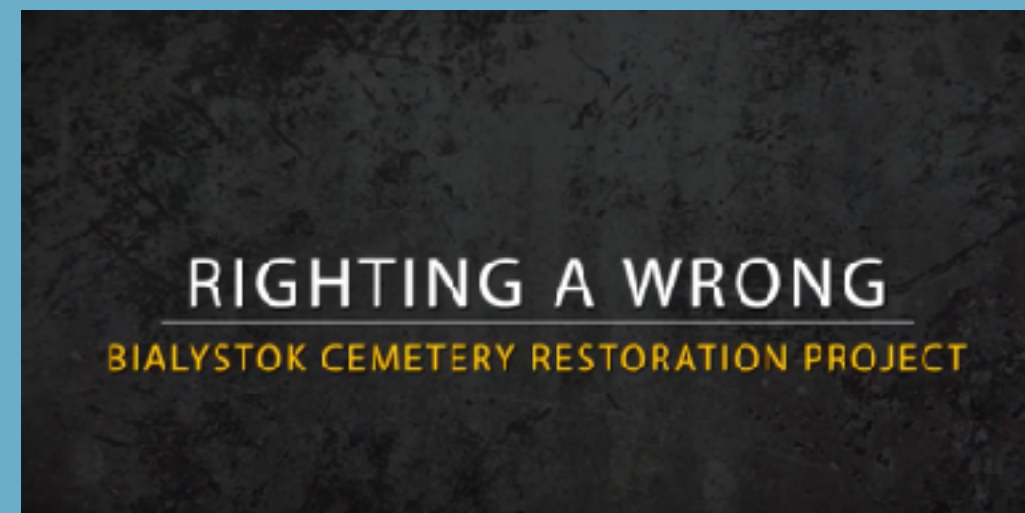




# CASE STUDIES: RESTORATION

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION PROJECTS ([YOUTUBE PLAYLIST](#))

- BIALYSTOCK
- BUDAPEST
- DERAZHNE (UKRAINE)
- HAVANA (CUBA)
- HARBIN (CHINA)
- INDIA







# BEFORE

Refurbished design of Sports  
Palace without altering  
foundation or using the  
Sports Palace for an  
alternative use.



# AFTER



# ENDORSEMENTS



- Chairman Jerold Zoloto, U.S. Litvaks
- Honorable Martin Ritholtz, Retired US State Supreme Court Judge
- Council of City of Beverley Hills
- Agudath Israel
- Jay Schottenstein
- Dr Jonathan Ringo (President Sinai Hospital)
- Professor Irwin Cotler
- Council of Torah Sages
- Orthodox Union
- New York Board of Rabbis
- Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union (together with 45 Human Rights Organizations)
- Coalition of American-Lithuanian Rabbis



# RABBINICAL SUPERVISION

- Appointment of the **Conference of European Rabbis (CER)** as the supervising body for restoration.
- The CER is the supreme rabbinical authority in Europe, under which jurisdiction of all rabbinical matters fall.
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# WHO IS THE SAVE VILNA COALITION?

An action-group of over 60 U.S. Jewish and Human Rights Organizations, spearheading efforts to facilitate the restoration of the Snipiskes Jewish cemetery to its former glory. This is to be conducted within the parameters of Jewish law.

[www.savevilna.org](http://www.savevilna.org)



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

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