

ASTP (USA) MC721/4  
Time: 16:21 CDT, 225:01 GET  
7/24/75

USA (Garble)  
USA (Garble)  
NEW Apollo, this is New Orleans, over.  
PAO An open mike in the command module apparently interfering with the conversation between the recovery helo and the command module.  
PHOTO Apollo, Photo. (Garble) a raft - they're pulling the chutes onboard the raft. A recovery swimmer is up to the command module. And they're now (garble) the flotation collar attachments.  
NEW New Orleans, Roger, out.  
ELS Apollo, Apollo, this is Recovery, over.  
ELS Apollo, Apollo, this is Recovery, over.  
PHOTO (Garble) got the flotation collar deployed around the command module. They're trying to attach it (garble).  
NEW New Orleans, Roger, out.  
PHOTO Got all three uprighting bags (garble) flashing a light.  
USA (Garble) all three of them. (Garble)  
PHOTO Apollo, (garble) Photo. We are (garble) the flotation collar at this time (garble).

END OF TAPE

ASTP (USA MC722/1 (Revised 7/25/75)  
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SPKR - - (Garble) - flashing the light and (garble)  
SPKR All three of them!  
HELO-1 (Garble)  
REC Apollo, (garble) at this time. Over. Thank you.  
SPKR Apollo (garble) They are starting the flotation  
collars at this time. We have a good inflation.  
SPKR Roger. Out.  
ACDR Roger. Come take a look at these (garble) if you're  
wondering why (garble)  
HELO-1 (Garble), over.  
SPKR Roger. Out.  
CC-H Come in Apollo. How do you read?  
ACDR Get this fucking hatch open as soon as (garble)!  
(Garble) in the cabin!  
SPKR (Garble) Recovery 1. (Garble) The swimmers are (garble)  
on board the raft. So the crew(?) is okay.  
ACDR (Garble) confused (garble) lot of trouble with (garble).  
NEW Apollo, Apollo, this is New Orleans in the blind. It  
appears as if your speaker box is still ON. Over.  
SPKR The floating raft is in the water. The swimmers  
harnessed, and they're speaking to the command module.  
NEW New Orleans. Roger. Out.  
NEW Apollo, Apollo, this is New Orleans in the blind.  
Your speaker boxes appears to still be ON. Over.  
ACDR Apollo on the retract(?) tape(?). What was (garble)  
PAO Thumbs up from the - -  
SPKR (Garble) Thumbs up from the swimmers. The astronauts  
are okay. They're getting inflation on the recovery raft and the (garble)  
straps are in place.  
CC-H Okay. Roger, out.  
CC-H How do you feel?  
ACDR I feel great. I never had any (garble). (Garble) sort of  
nausea (garble) I'm doing okay, (garble) though.  
HELO-1 (Garble) the Apollo is now decided (garble), over.  
ACDR Holding in.  
REC Apollo, this is recovery, radio check(?) come in (??)  
NEW Apollo, Apollo, this is New Orleans. I say again. In the  
blind. Check you speaker box OFF. Over.  
REC Apollo, Apollo, this is Recovery. Check your speaker box OFF.  
HELO-1 Apollo, Apollo, Apollo. Got to fix(?) her. Recovery complete.  
The ELS swimmers are (garble).  
NEW New Orleans, out.  
SPKR Recovery (garble) command module.  
SWIM New Orleans, this is SWIM (garble).  
REC Apollo, this is Recovery. Over.  
REC Apollo, Apollo, this is Recovery on Astrovoice secondary.  
How do you read? Over.  
SPKR This is Astrovoice primary. Over.  
HELO-1 (Garble) command module running 11.  
ARIA ARRS. Roger. Out.  
PAO Swimmers have recovered the Apex cover.  
REC Apollo, recovery. Over.  
REC Apollo, Apollo, this is Recovery. Over.  
DMP Command module (garble).  
CMP Apollo - -

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SPKR - - (Garble) - flashing the light and (garble) all  
three of the!  
HELO-1 (Garble)  
REC Apollo, (garble) at this time. Over. Thank you.  
SPKR Apollo (Garble) They are starting the flotation  
collars.  
SPKR Roger. Out.  
ACDR Roger. Come take a look at these (garble) if you're  
wondering why (garble)  
HELO-1 (Garble), over.  
CC-H Come in Apollo. How do you read?  
ACDR (Garble - get the hatch open.  
SPKR (Garble) The swimmers are (garble). So the crew(?)  
is okay.  
ACDR 2, what (garble)  
NEW Apollo, Apollo, this is New Orleans in the blind.  
It appears as if your speaker boxes is still ON. Over.  
SPKR The floating raft is in the water. The swimmers  
harnessed, and they're speaking to the command module.  
NEW New Orleans. Roger. Out.  
NEW Apollo, Apollo, this is New Orleans in the blind.  
You speaker boxes appears to still be ON. Over.  
ACDR Apollo on the retract(?) tape(?). What was (garble)  
PAO Thumbs up from the - -  
SPKR (Garble) Thumbs up from the swimmers. The astronauts  
are okay.  
CC-H Okay. Roger, out.  
CC-H How do you feel?  
ACDR Yea. I feel great. I never had (garble).  
HELO-1 (Garble) the Apollo is now decided (garble), over.  
ACDR Holding in.  
REC Apollo, this is recovery, radio check(?) come in(?)?  
NEW Apollo, Apollo, this is New Orleans. I say again.  
in the blind. Check you speaker box OFF. Over.  
REC Apollo, Apollo, this is Recovery. Check your speaker  
box OFF.  
HELO-1 Apollo, Apollo, Apollo. Got to fix(?) her. Recovery  
complete. The ELS swimmers are (garble).  
DMP (Garble) Roger, out.  
SPKR Recovery (garble) command module.  
HELO-1 Apollo (garble), out. (Garble) to fix it (garble).  
REC Apollo, this is Recovery. Over.  
REC Apollo, Apollo, this is Recovery on Astrovoice(?)  
secondary. How do you read? Over  
SPKR This is Astrovoice primary. Over.  
HELO-1 (Garble) command module running ll.  
ARIA ARRS. Roger. Out.  
PAO Swimmers have recovered the Apex cover.  
REC Apollo, recovery. Over.  
REC Apollo, Apollo, this is Recovery. Over.  
DMP Command module (garble).  
CMP Apollo

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CMP Apollo, out.  
PAO It is planned that the three crew members will remain in the command module until brought aboard the New Orleans.  
HELO-1 Apollo, Apollo, was brought aboard okay. Good weather(?) all members(?) good. Command module is well.

CC-H (Garble) Roger. A report for 2500 miles -  
2500 yards away.  
PAO New Orleans 2500 yard from the command module at this time.  
REC Apollo, this is Recovery, Over.  
ACDR Go ahead.  
PAO Splash very close to the target point. New Orleans maneuvering at 5 knots per hour to move around, pick up the command module.

NEW (Garble)  
PAO Recovery forces able to monitor the conversation of the crew. However, unable to talk to them directly due to an open mike aboard the command module.  
NEW (Garble)

END OF TAPE

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SPKR (Garble)  
NEW ELS, this is New Orleans. Over.  
ELS New Orleans, this is ELS. ELS swimmers are 75 yards downwind in their rout. The command module is still riding level. The SWIM is monitoring his swimmers approximately 400 yards north and northeast.  
NEW New Orleans, Roger. Out.  
ELS New Orleans, this is ELS. The ELS swimmers are clearing crosswind for the (garble). The command module is still riding level and stable. The SWIM is still monitoring his swimmers.  
NEW New Orleans, Roger. Out.  
PAO And as the photo helicopter takes off again to go back to the scene - -  
PAO Twenty-seven minutes now since splashdown of Apollo.  
NEW ELS this is New Orleans. Over.  
ELS New orleans, ELS.  
NEW Roger. Request you move to the other side of the command module.  
ELS ELS, Roger.  
NEW ELS, this is New Orleans. Over.  
NEW SWIM, this is New Orleans. Over.  
NEW SWIM, this is New Orleans. Over.  
NEW Roger. Request you slide out (garble) approach.  
Over.  
NEW Thank you.  
NEW SWIM, this is New Orleans. Your're relieved on the post data contact tower.  
ELS (Garble)  
NEW ELS, this is New Orleans. You're relieved on the post data contact tower.  
ELS (Garble) on the station. He got all swimmers in the raft. (Garble).  
NEW Roger.  
ELS ELS, hook them.  
PAO Relaxed mood here in the Mission Control Center. Flight Director Frank Littleton commending all the team on the Mission Control Center, the MOCR, the FOMR, Flight Operations Management Room, Mission Evaluation Room, computer folks and Recovery.  
ELS (Garble) Okay. They're in the raft. (Garble) Okay.  
NEW New Orleans, roger. Out.  
PAO Nearing 30 minutes since splashdown. Officially splashdown at 4:18:24 central daylight time.  
NEW Apollo, this is New Orleans. Do you read me? Over.  
ACDR (garble)  
PHOTO New Orleans, Photo. The apex swimmers are - they are to the southeast of the command module. They're okay.  
NEW New Orleans. Roger. Out.

END OF TAPE

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SWIM (Garble) the water. All swimmers are okay.  
CC-H Roger. And we still have a good picture from the  
aircraft.  
CC-H (Garble)  
REC Apollo, this is New Orleans, Over.  
PAO A line sent out to the command module from the  
New Orleans.  
SPKR (Garble)  
SPKR (Garble) trying to think of a reason why.  
ACDR (Garble)  
SPKR (Garble)  
CMP (Garble) didn't work.  
DMP What's wrong.  
ACDR (Garble)  
PAO - - into place on the aft elevator of the ship.

Astronauts Stafford, Brand, Slayton, 9 days 1 hour 28 minutes and  
some seconds at speeds over 2300 miles an hour will take their last  
ride in this command module at something under 1 mile an hour.

SPKR The crew of this ship has awaited this moment with  
quite a bit of excitement. The ship's store bought 15,000 dollars worth of  
souvenir items for the crew. And at last report that 15,000 dollars worth of  
coffee mugs ash trays, sweat shirts and whatnot were virtually sold out.

SPKR And as the crew now (garble) postflight check,  
checking for any fuel leaks, checking to make sure that the spacecraft  
is itself safe to - for the astronauts to leave. When the astronauts step  
out of the spacecraft, the first thing they will do is hand two packages  
to Dr. Donald (garble), Commander in Chief of the Recovery Forces, Chief of  
the NASA Recovery Team. One of the packages will contain film shot aboard  
the command module during the astronauts' historic meeting in space with  
the Russian cosmonauts, Leonov and Kubasov. The other package contains  
germanium and iodine crystals, which were carried into space to collect  
radiation, and hopefully provide a team of scientists from the Goddard  
Space Flight Center in Maryland with some clues about the origin of the  
universe itself. The scientists believe that some of the radiation  
collected by the crystals could be as old as 20 billion years. May date back  
to the big boom of the massive explosion which some believe created  
the planets of the universe. So even as (garble) assumed, -

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SPKR - it may date back to the big bang or the massive explosion which some believed created the planets of the universe. The (garble) has handed off the sim because speed is of the essence in analyzing it. It must be analyzed before radiations on the Earth enter the (garble) (garble.) Frank James and his team now serving the designed to prevent any fuel from escaping from the command module - a procedure which normally takes a few minutes. (garble) of dry land, of Earth that the astronauts will have seen in 9 days, has been switched into position. The astronauts inside having completed a post flight check (garble) Now probably in flight suits waiting to step out and be welcomed here aboard the USS New Orleans. One of the first sounds I hear here is the music of the twenty-two piece Navy Band led by a Chief Petty Officer named Lee Stall who is prepared for any contingency. At one point he even had the band rehearsing the Russian National Anthem, in case an inflight emergency forced the Russian cosmonauts to ride to Earth with astronauts Stafford, Brand, and Slayton. "If that happened," said the Chief, "we didn't want to be inhospitable." Captain Ralph Neiger, Skipper of the USS New Orleans, now awaiting, standing by to greet the astronauts with Rear Admiral Ralph Wentworth commander of the task force responsible for the recovery. The NASA spaceflight team having completed now the job of concluding the (garble) report. Ready now for Dr. Fulson, the head of the NASA recovery team. The package containing the film or the experiments handed out by (garble). There's the other one. We don't know which astronaut is which. The astronauts (garble) and Brigadier General Tom Stafford now rolling out of the command module. Dr. Folson handed him. (garble). General Tom Stafford (garble). All three astronauts looking around, waving at the crowd, a (garble) here on the hanger deck of the USS New Orleans. Dr. Folson giving them a few more words of briefing about the ceremony which will take place in just a few moments. Now they walk down a red carpet toward the (garble) and being greeted by Captain Neiger, Admiral Wentworth. General Hartung, Air Force General, greeting them also. He's the (garble) money to manned spaceflight support operations. (Garble). A few more moments of briefing from Dr. Folson (garble) all of the spacecraft recover (garble) since the space program began. A happy and nostalgic time for Dr. Folson. The astronauts are moving (garble).

SPKR Chaplain Trent will lead us in prayer.

SPKR (Garble) Trent

TRENT My dear friends let us pray. We turn to God our heavenly father, we raise unto you grateful hearts that this Apollo/Soyuz mission has been completed with the safe recovery of our astronauts. We thank you for your guiding hand and the skillful planning and training, courage, and faith exhibited by the multitude of people in our Country and the Soviet Union, who were involved in supporting this program. On this momentous occasion, we are reminded once again that of how man has utilized the wisdom and skill which you have given him

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to explore the universe. May the knowledge gained by this venture into space, ever be used for the betterment of mankind. Amen.

NEIGER On the behalf of the officers and men on the New Orleans, I welcome General Stafford and his crew back to Earth and to New Orleans. It has been a privelege and an hour to have been able to participate in this historic mission. And to do our part in assuring your safe return. At this time I would like to introduce the commander of the Pacific Recovery Forces, Rear Admiral Ralph Wentworth commander Task Force 130. Admiral -

WENTWORTH Thank you very much Captain Neiger. General Stafford, as the recovery force commander in the Pacific my entire force joins me in congratulating you and your superb team for the flawless execution of your history making mission. We have followed your great performance from blastoff to splashdown, with unequalled admiration and respect. And I might add that watching that capsule come down under those three main chutes was the most beautiful sight that I have seen in my entire career. Naturally your safe return has been our highest priority. But along with millions of other people in our country, we also share a feeling of tremendous pride, as Americans in is most significant contribution which you and your team have just made to mankind. We as a group thank you. Now it is my pleasure to introduce Brigadier General Don Hartung the Department of Defense Manager for Spaceflight Report Operations. General Hartung.

HARTUNG Thank you Admiral Wentworth. July 24th is a great day for a splashdown. For this day has historical significance. 25 years ago today on the 24th of July 1950 a bumper rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. This was the first of the United States major tests in the rocket program. The mission was of short duration only 2 minutes an altitude of 59 thousand feet was achieved, splashdown occurred some 200 nautical miles from Cape Canaveral. We've come a long way, in 25 years in the Space and Missell Program. And I am speaking on behalf of all members of the Department of De'finse Recovery Forces, which have been deplyed world wide since the beginning of this mission, and were prepared for any contingency when I say that it is a great pride that we have participated in and given support to such a great pride that we have participated in and given support to such a highly successful and nationally significant project. And it is my privilege to introduce the Commander of the United States Flight crew of the Apoll/Soyuz Test Project. The United States Air Force Brigadier General Thomas E. Stafford. General Stafford.

STAFFORD Thank you General Hartung, Admiral Wentworth, Commander you ship was right on the spot. Apollo/Soyuz in a way (garble) is a great ending to the Apollo project. It is also an example that if you work long and hard, and do your planning, do your homework, in this case it was a lot of diplomatic homework, and a lot of effort by a lot of people all together. It came off beautiful, there are so many people



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around the world that I want to thank for this. The main thing - Everything went great. I know that all the people in America are glad to see this event, that was the effort of a lot of people. And the main thing is that this is the end of one era of Apollo, and the beginning of another. So with that thought, I would like to introduce the couple of great guys that I've had the privilege of sharing 9 days with, besides training with, for 2 years. Deke Slayton.

SLAYTON Thank you. And I know it's customary to say that it's great to be back, and we're happy to be here. I'm not really sure that's true in our case, though, because - we've had so much fun the last 9 days, I'm not looking forward to having to go back to work again. But, since we had to come home - why, we were really very happy to see you guys out here to pick us up. It really looked great when we saw those divers of yours peer through that window. We picked up a little smoke on the way, about 24K, and we were coughing and hacking pretty good in there, so it was really a pleasure to see those guys. Thank you very much.

STAFFORD Command Module Pilot Vance Brand.

BRAND Well we're really in extra good company, here. I'll tell you - it's great seeing all of your faces, and I - I've wondered for many years what it was like - be like when this day came along, and it's a great feeling to see this ship out here, when you splash down in the water, and get aboard. I think it signals, like Tom said, the end of an era - era, the - Navy, the Recovery Forces have been with us all through Apollo, before Apollo, Skylab, and of course Apollo-Soyuz. And - I want to say thanks for picking us up, and I think I'm extending that thanks to way back in time, too. Thank you.

SPEAKER And General Stafford now picking up a telephone - apparently a call from President Gerald Ford.

FORD Hello!

STAFFORD Good afternoon, Mr. President.

FORD Well Tom, and Deke, and Vance, welcome home - -

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SLAYTON Thank you. And it's just great to say that we're it's great to be back, and we're happy to be here, and I'm not really sure it's true in our case though - because we've had so much fun the last nine days. I'm not looking forward to having to go back to work again. But, I guess we had to come home - why we were really happy to be (garble) you guys were all out here to pick us up. You really looked great. (Garble) when we saw those (garble) of yours through that window. We picked up a little smoke on the way to the 24K and we were (garble) so it was really a pleasure to see those guys. Thank you very much.

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SPKR And General Stafford now picking up a telephone apparently a call from President Gerald Ford.

FORD Hello[

STAFFORD Good afternoon Mr. President.

FORD Well Tom, and Deke, and Vance, welcome home - -

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FORD Hello.

ACDR Good afternoon, Mr. President.

FORD Well, Tom and Deke and Vance, welcome home on behalf of your fellow Americans, about 214 million of them. Congratulations, and thanks for a very successful and extremely productive flight in space. We're delighted to have you back safely and we're very, very proud of the great job that you did. Your safe return marks a close of the Apollo program. You and all of the rest who have been participants should be extremely proud of its success from the beginning to the present. And as you know, better than all of us, your particular flight also adds a new dimension, that of international cooperation, and that is extremely vital now and in the days ahead. And I understand from the technicians that your new docking system offers a foundation on which to build future cooperative efforts, and in the next decade, could be a very valuable tool for space rescue. I know, of course, that all three of you are darn glad to get home, or almost home, and that your wives, Faye, Marge and Joan are probably listening to this conversation, at least I hope so because I want them to know we're all proud of their husbands who have done a superb job on behalf of our country. Tom, if I might add a lighter note I understand that as soon as you get checked out, you're going to spend a little time in the next few days helping Vance with his Russian.

ACDR Maybe it was the Oklahoma accent, Mr. President, that's all. I think Vance is superb in his Russian.

FORD Well, Tom, since this was your fourth mission, I understand you've spent more than 500 hours in space. Would you tell us how this mission compared with your previous ones?

ACDR Mr. President, it was completely different in one phase as far as the international part of it. The other parts were somewhat similar. But it was just so meaningful to us to have this opportunity to work in both the diplomatic and the management areas, besides flying the spacecraft from all three of us. Deke.

DMP Yes sir, Mr. President. I think it was a great honor to be able to fly this flight. I'm glad that it came off as well as it did, and we're looking forward to doing more similar things like this in the future.

FORD Yes, well I hope that it wasn't so routine that it was dull.

DMP It wasn't dull at all. It was beautiful and we had a lot of work to do, and I think we enjoyed it a lot.

ACDR Well, Mr. President - -

FORD Well, Deke, one of your colleagues that I talked with told me that you're aging a bit to be an astronaut. How does it feel for an old-timer to be in space?

DMP Well, it feels great, sir. I can't really explain it. I hope we can show you a few pictures when we get an opportunity though. It might help to make you appreciate it as much as we did. But I think the only way you're really going to appreciate it is to get up there. And I hope some day we can take you up there in the old Space Shuttle.

FORD I saw you moving around there a few times. You looked

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as agile as those younger fellows that you were helping out.

DMP Yes sir.

FORD Let me say that the word that I would like to pass on to Deke, is that your brother and his wife, who had an unfortunate accident just a day or two before you took off. I understand have come along well, and certainly wish them all a very rapid recovery following that accident.

DMP Thank you very much Mr. President. I certainly appreciate your concern.

FORD Well, Vance, would you mind making a comment or two. You brought the Apollo in. What was your biggest challenge in the encounter on this particular mission?

CMP Well, I think the - probably the last two days. That's where I had the most to do. The entry itself was probably the biggest challenge, Mr. President. And I thought it was really interesting, though. That that fireball was really beautiful. And it was really pretty neat skimming over the Earth at 25,000 miles an hour, only fairly close to the Earth. It really was beautiful.

FORD To all three of you, how would it feel to have an opportunity to sleep in a regular sack for a change?

ACDR Fantastic, Mr. President, absolutely fantastic! Say, the two cosmonauts said they certainly appreciated the call from you while they were up there and they remember you when they were down there with you at the picnic.

FORD Well, I'm sure you were as glad as we were that their recovery went without any incidents, without any problems, and I'm sure that they feel the same way about the successful landing of all of you. I know you've got a lot of important business to do so, let me just say your achievements, that of all three of you with the two cosmonauts, your achievements are historic. It's a part of our history, of which was written by the recovery forces that have been ready at any time in each case of re-entry. Before I do hang up I would like to extend my congratulations for a very outstanding performance to Capt. Nigier, Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. New Orleans, and to his ship company. They, of course, were standing by and did a first class job, have achieved an outstanding record. The crew, as you know better than I, picked up the Apollo 14 crew in February of 1971, and was responsible for the safe recovery of both the Skylab 3 and Skylab 4 astronauts. We thank them and congratulate them on their performance as a part of this overall team. Your successful completion of this mission, I say with emphasis, has opened a new era of international cooperation. I strongly hope, as and I'm sure the Americans that are listening or watching and all others, we hope that this first international manned flight will provide all of us with an example to remember for many, many years to come. We are proud of you, and we thank you, and good luck, and I'll see you back in Washington soon, I hope.

ACDR Thank you, Mr. President.

CMP Thank you, sir.

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FORD                    It's nice to wave to you on the screen. Okay, good luck fellows.

CMP                     Sir, thank you.

ACDR                   Yes, Sir.

SPKR                   The Vice President of the United States has asked me to read the following message. "Upon the successful completion of your historic mission, I want you to add my personal congratulations to those of President Ford. I join him in expressing the enormous gratitude and admiration of the American people for what you have accomplished. Apollo/Soyuz has been an inspiring demonstration of technological progress, human daring, an unprecedented international cooperation. The dramatic symbol of hands across the heavens between you and the cosmonauts captured the imaginations of us all. Nelson Rockefeller, Vice President of the United States.

SPKR                   So ends this joint space effort by two nations. Astronauts Stafford, Slayton, and Brand now heading for five hours of medical testing. And finally a shipboard dinner tonight of steak and lobster. The (garble) and Presidential call complete the last U.S. recovery at sea. The next manned American space venture, scheduled four years from now when the recovery team will shift from the decks of the ship the U.S.S. New Orleans to a land base within the U.S. We welcome the ship to the space program itself. This is David Dow aboard the U.S.S. New Orleans.

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