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ICFFP

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INTERNATIONAL  
COMMISSION ON  
FOOD FOR PEACE

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*Towards a Better Common Present*

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The ICFFP is an independent, self-constituted, non-political organization of concerned individuals from different nations and walks of life dedicated to developing strategies to bring about a better common present as a prelude to a happy common future. The Commission will strive to promote world peace by linking global disarmament with practical programmes to enhance food and nutrition security, and ecological security in a mutually supportive manner.

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## THE CONCEPT

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On October 5, 1988 a group of concerned persons met in Washington D.C. to evaluate a new strategy to create a linkage between international cooperation on food production, ecological security and global disarmament by constituting an independent International Commission on Food for Peace. The Commission was formally established on April 24, 1989.

It is widely recognized that hunger and poverty generate economic, ecological, social and political instability and that the elimination of poverty, famine and malnutrition will make the world a safer and better place for all nations. Similarly, the protection of the environment and achievement of worldwide ecological security are recognized as essential requisites for sustaining and improving life on this planet for the entire human race. There is in the world today a general consensus that food and nutrition security and ecological security for all nations are in everyone's best interests.

When it comes to the issue of Peace, a similar consensus is difficult to find. The continuous production and stockpiling of weapons is an even more destabilizing and menacing force; yet there is no agreement among nations on a viable strategy to achieve global disarmament. Despite encouraging steps that have recently been taken, the goal of disarmament appears far off and unattainable in the near future.

Yet the climate today is more conducive for progress on this issue than perhaps at any other moment in this century. This Commission has been constituted to take advantage of this rare opportunity and strive to convert it into practical accomplishments. While the goal itself is distant, several significant steps can be taken immediately to bring us closer to achieving it.

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## THE STRATEGY

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When a natural or social resource is linked with a social purpose or goal, it acquires a value and power far beyond its original purpose. For example, historically education — a social resource — developed as an adjunct to religion and culture and had little practical impact on economic life. But late in the last century, education became linked with the social goal of economic development through the practical utilization of scientific knowledge for greater production. The emergence of technical education revolutionized production and productivity. Education acquired an enormous social power arising from the social purpose with which it was linked.

The strategy of linking food and ecology with peace is based on the same principle. Food and the environment are natural resources which are inherently valuable in themselves. By linking food and ecological security with the goal of global peace, they will acquire an effective social power to reduce the dangers of war and raise international cooperation for food and ecological security to a higher level. This linkage can be utilized to divert financial resources from military expenditure to investment in programmes that will enhance food production, increase the food purchasing power of low income families, and foster more sound ecological practices in all nations.

*The purpose of the Commission is to identify and promote strategies for a progressive global disarmament by channeling technical and financial resources from the armaments race into efforts to achieve global food and ecological security*

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## FROM STRATEGY TO PROGRAMMES

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The Commission will draw on the expertise of its members, other organizations and individuals to develop practical programmes that can be implemented in both developing and developed nations to effectively utilize technical and financial resources diverted from the arms race to achieve significant gains in the thrust areas of food, work, ecology, health and education.

In order to achieve this purpose, the Commission proposes to carry out activities:

- \* To enlist the support of governments and other national and international organizations for acceptance of a direct linkage between food and environment issues and global peace and disarmament.
- \* To generate greater public awareness and support for the creation of this vital linkage.
- \* To work for the creation of an official or unofficial club of nations and organizations that endorse the idea of redirecting resources from military to food and ecological security.
- \* To identify, develop and promote specific strategies and programmes that can be carried out by governments and other organizations to enhance the production and distribution of food, to increase the purchasing power of low income families in developing and developed countries, to promote sustainable and equitable development, to provide ecological security for all nations, and to improve the health of the entire world population.

The Commission proposes to achieve these objectives within a time-frame of three years and to issue its final report in October 1992, a significant year in contemporary human history marking the emergence of a united Western Europe and the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

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In 1972 there was optimism at the U.N. Conference on the Global Environment held in Stockholm that halting environmental degradation was an idea whose time had come. In 1974 at the World Food Conference in Rome, there was similar optimism that by 1984 no child, woman or man will go to bed hungry. Yet today, changes in the atmosphere and other forms of environmental damage with potentially adverse consequences to the quality of life on earth are occurring at a more rapid rate than ever before. Nearly 600 million human beings in developing and developed countries around the world are still going to bed hungry due to lack of adequate purchasing power. The poorest billion of the world lead a sub-human life, with opportunities for the expression of the innate genetic potential for physical and mental development denied to their children even at birth.

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It is increasingly clear that ecological security is the only foundation on which enduring edifices of food and economic security can be built and that ecological security itself cannot be achieved without a halt to the physical violence caused by war. For achieving ecological security, we must live in harmony with nature. Mahatma Gandhi asked over 50 years ago, "How can we be non-violent to nature unless the principle of non-violence becomes central to the ethos of human culture?" It is clear that for living in harmony with nature, we must learn to live in harmony with each other. The growing violence in the human heart needs to be curbed. This can be achieved only through progressive global disarmament and the elimination of fear of each other among nations and individuals.

Hopeful signs are emerging at the political, professional and public levels. The World Commission on Environment and Development chaired by Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland has shown how we can achieve a *better common future* by making development sustainable ecologically. The ICFFP will strive to reinforce this approach by stressing the need for a *better common present* for all the five billion human beings now living on our planet. Without intra-generational equity, it will be difficult to achieve inter-generational equity.

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## PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

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The dangers of war, nuclear radiation, global warming, acid rain, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, poverty and disease are problems common to all nations, rich and poor. They are also problems which can only be fully overcome by common solutions. A buildup of armaments by one nation can affect not only the political security but also the economic and social welfare of countless other countries, which are forced to divert scarce resources from investment in social programmes in order to meet the perceived threat to their security. Therefore, the only truly effective solutions will be those based on common action.

The ICFFP will develop its specific priorities at its first meeting, which is scheduled to be held at Bogota in Colombia in October 1989. Programmes to promote a better quality of life for the poorest billion of the world and a better human environment for all are today in urgent need of additional resources. The savings that can be effected by a reduction in the arms race and defence establishments can be immediately utilized for strengthening on-going efforts in such areas as the following.

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1. Ecology: Promoting planned parenthood, greening the earth – particularly through tropical afforestation – conserving biological diversity, eliminating the causes of global warming and protecting the ozone layer are goals where substantial progress can be made by the end of the century.

2. Food: The global food problem is partly due to inadequate production and partly due to inadequate distribution. Production of sufficient food and provision of complete and balanced diets and safe drinking water for all human beings can be achieved today by blending known traditional and frontier technologies both in agriculture and aquaculture. The real productive potentials of these technologies have to be demonstrated in farmers' fields, so that successful examples can be replicated widely.

3. Work: Today the world suffers both from food surpluses and growing hunger. Inadequate food distribution is to a very large extent the result of inadequate purchasing power due to lack of employable skills and employment opportunities. Work for all and equity in entitlements are pre-conditions to food for all. Modern technologies are capable of decentralized adoption. New opportunities exist for developing productive skills and disseminating technologies which can generate adequate employment for all.

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4. Health: The "Health for All" programme of W.H.O., reduction in infant mortality, and the time-bound eradication of diseases such as leprosy, preventable blindness and dysentery, and reversing the alarming growth in narcotic drug addiction through appropriate educational and rehabilitation programmes are all feasible goals provided additional technical and financial resources can be mobilized.

5. Education: The mass media, particularly television and radio, can play a critically important role in generating widespread awareness of the unprecedented opportunities to foster sustainable and equitable development. Greater efforts are needed for generating software for use by the mass media and educational systems.

6. Mobilization and Development of Resources: The financial, technical and commodity resources available globally should be deployed in a manner that will promote and not erode self-reliance among individuals and nations. Bread with freedom and human dignity has to be the pathway to a better common present.

7. Converting Political Will into Political Action: In the ultimate analysis, appropriate political action alone will lead to both disarmament and food and ecological security. The necessary political will is now emerging, as reflected in statements and speeches by political leaders of both developed and developing countries. The time is ripe for suggesting methods of converting the emerging political will into right political action.

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## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

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The members of the Commission are serving in their individual capacity and not as official representatives of other organizations which they serve.

Chairman

**Dr M.S. Swaminathan** – Honorary Director, Centre for Research on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development, Madras, India and President, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. First recipient of the General Foods World Food Prize.

Founder Member

**Mrs Margarita Penon de Arias** First Lady, Republic of Costa Rica

**Dr A.T. Ariyaratne** President, Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Sangmaya, Moratuwa Sri Lanka.

**Dr Dragoslav Avramovic** Economic Adviser, Bank of Credit & Commerce International, Washington D.C.; former Director of the Secretariat of Brandt Commission (ICIDI).

**Dr Norman E. Borlaug**, Nobel laureate in Peace; International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), Mexico.

**Prof. Carlos Chagas**, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; former President of Pontifical Academy.

**Prof. Umberto Colombo**, President, National Agency for Research & Development of Nuclear and Alternative Energy Sources, Rome.

**Mr James Ingram**, Executive Director, World Food Programme, Rome.

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**Prof. Mohammed Kassas**, Distinguished Professor, University of Cairo, Egypt

**Ms Mary E. King**, author of Freedom Song; former head of Action, Washington D.C.

**Mr Robert J. Macfarlane**, Treasurer, The Mother's Service Society, Pondicherry, India.

**Prof. John W. Mellor**, Director, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington D.C.

**Dr Thomas R. Odhiambo**, Director, International Centre for Research of Insect Physiology & Ecology; President, African Academy of Sciences, First recipient of Africa Prize. Nairobi.

**Prof. Muhammad Abdus Salam**

, Nobel laureate in Physics; President, Third World Academy of Sciences; Director, International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy.

**Mr Ryoichi Sasakawa** Hon. Chairman of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and Chairman The Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation, Tokyo.

**Prof. Amartya Sen**, Lamont University Professor, Harvard University, U.S.A.

**Mr. Brian W. Walker**, President, International Institute for Environment & Development, London.

**Hon. Eugene F. Whelan**, President, Agricultural International Development Associates of Canada; former President, World Food Council.

**Mr Edward L. Williams**, Administrator, General Foods World Food Prize, U.S.A.

Member Secretary

**Mr Garry Jacobs**, Assistant Secretary, The Mother's Service Society, Pondicherry, India

Commission members  
from China, Scandinavia  
and U.S.S.R. are expected to join  
shortly.

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*INTERNATIONAL  
COMMISSION ON  
FOOD FOR PEACE*

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*TOWARD A BETTER  
COMMON PRESENT*



The International Commission on Food for Peace is an independent, self-constituted, non-political organization of concerned individuals from different nations and walks of life dedicated to developing strategies to bring about a better common present as a prelude to a happy common future. The Commission will strive to promote world peace by linking global disarmament with practical programs to enhance food and nutrition security, and ecological security in a mutually supportive manner.

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October 5, 1988 a group of concerned persons met in Washington D.C. to evaluate a new strategy to create a linkage between international cooperation on food production, ecological security and global disarmament by constituting an independent, International Commission on Food for Peace. The Commission was formally established on April 24, 1989.

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When it comes to the issue of Peace, a similar consensus is difficult to find. The continuous production and stockpiling of weapons is an even more destabilizing and menacing force, but there is no agreement among nations on a viable approach to achieve global disarmament. Despite encouraging steps that have recently been taken, the goal of disarmament appears far off and unattainable in the near future.

Yet the climate today is more conducive for progress on this issue than perhaps at any other moment in this century. This Commission has been constituted to take advantage of this rare opportunity and convert it into practical accomplishments.

## THE CONCEPT

While the goal itself is distant, several significant steps can be taken immediately to bring us closer to achieving it.

When a natural or social resource is linked with a social purpose or goal, it acquires a value and power far beyond its original purpose. For example, historically education--a social resource--developed as an adjunct to religion and culture and had little practical impact on economic life. But late in the last century, education became linked with the social goal of economic development through the practical utilization of scientific knowledge for greater production. The emergence of technical education revolutionized production and productivity. Education acquired an enormous social power arising from the social purpose with which it was linked.

The strategy of linking food and ecology with peace is based on the same principle. Food and the environment are biological resources which are inherently valuable in themselves. By linking food and ecological security with the goal of global peace, they will acquire an effective social power to reduce the dangers of war and raise international cooperation for food and ecological security to a higher level. This linkage can be utilized to divert financial resources from military expenditure to investment in programs that will enhance food production, increase the food purchasing power of low income families, and foster more sound ecological practices in all nations.

*The purpose of the Commission is to identify and promote strategies for channeling technical and financial resources from the armaments race into programs to achieve food security, ecological security and economic security for all nations.*

## OBJECTIVES

In the past decade significant initiatives have been taken to improve international cooperation in the fields of peace and disarmament, environment, food, economic development, education and health. The Independent Commission on International Development Issue chaired by Willy Brandt and the World Commission on Environment and Development chaired by Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland have formulated general recommendations to address these pressing issues at the international level. The implementation of these recommendations by individual nations requires the development of specific programs appropriate to the position and priorities of each country.

The Commission will draw on the expertise of its members, other organizations and individuals:

- To develop practical programs that can be implemented in both developing and developed nations to effectively utilize technical and financial resources diverted from the arms race to achieve significant gains in the thrust areas of food, environment, work, health and education.
- To enlist the support of governments and other national and international organizations for acceptance of a direct linkage between food and environmental issues and global peace and disarmament.
- To generate greater public awareness and support for the creation of this vital linkage.
- To work for the creation of an official or unofficial club of nations that endorse the idea of redirecting resources from military purposes to food and ecological security.

## WHY A NEW INITIATIVE?

The Commission proposes to achieve these objectives within a time-frame of three years and to issue its final report in October 1992, a significant year in contemporary human history marking the emergence of a united Western Europe and the 20th anniversary of the World Conference on the Human Environment.

In 1972 there was optimism at the U.N Conference on the Global Environment held in Stockholm that halting environmental degradation was an idea whose time had come. In 1974 at the World Food Conference in Rome, there was similar optimism that by 1984 no child, woman or man will go to bed hungry. Yet today, changes in the atmosphere and other forms of environmental damage with potentially adverse consequences to the quality of life on earth are occurring at a more rapid rate than ever before. Nearly 600 million human beings in developing and developed countries around the world are still going to bed hungry due to lack of adequate purchasing power. The poorest billion of the world lead a sub-human life, with opportunities for the expression of the innate genetic potential for physical and mental development denied to their children even at birth.

Martin Luther King, Nobel peace laureate, once observed: "All life is interrelated...Before you finish breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world...We aren't going to have peace on earth until we recognize this basic fact of the interrelated structure of all reality."

It is increasingly clear that ecological security is the only foundation on which enduring edifices of food and economic security can be built and that ecological security itself cannot be achieved without a halt to the physical violence caused by

## WHY A NEW INITIATIVE?

war. For achieving ecological security, we must live in harmony with nature. Mahatma Gandhi asked over 50 years ago, "How can we be non-violent to nature unless the principle of non-violence becomes central to the ethos of human culture?" It is clear that for living in harmony with nature, we must learn to live in harmony with each other. This can be achieved only through progressive global disarmament and the elimination of fear of each other among nations and individuals.

Hopeful signs are emerging at the political, professional and public levels. The World Commission on Environment and Development chaired by Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland has shown how we can achieve a *better common future* by making development sustainable ecologically. The Commission will strive to reinforce this approach by stressing the need for a *better common present* for all the five billion human beings now living on our planet and promoting practical strategies to achieve significant progress now. Without intra-generational equity, it will be difficult to achieve inter-generational equity.

The dangers of war, nuclear radiation, global warming, acid rain, hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, poverty and disease are problems common to all nations, rich and poor. They are also problems which can only be overcome by common solutions. A buildup of armaments by one nation can affect not only the political security but also the economic and social welfare of countless other countries, which are forced to divert scarce resources from investment in social programs in order to meet the perceived threat to their security. Therefore, the only truly effective solutions will be those based on common action.

## PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Programs to promote a better quality of life for the poorest billion of the world and a better human environment for all are today in urgent need of additional resources. The savings that can be effected by a reduction in the arms race and defense establishments can be immediately utilized for strengthening on-going efforts in such areas as the following:

**Food:** The global food problem is partly due to inadequate production and partly due to inadequate distribution. Production and provision of complete and balanced diets and safe drinking water for all human beings can be achieved today by blending known traditional and frontier technologies both in agriculture and aquaculture. The real productive potentials of these technologies have to be demonstrated in farmers' fields, so that successful examples can be replicated widely.

**Environment:** Eliminating the causes of global warming and protecting the ozone layer, greening the earth--particularly through tropical afforestation--conserving biological diversity, and promoting appropriate population policies in harmony with the available natural resources are goals where substantial progress can be made by the end of the century.

**Work:** Today the world suffers both from food surpluses and growing hunger. Inadequate food distribution is to a very large extent the result of inadequate purchasing power due to lack of employable skills and employment opportunities. Work for all is a pre-condition to food for all. Modern technologies are capable of decentralized adoption. New opportunities exist for developing productive skills and disseminating technologies which can generate adequate employment for all.

## PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

**Health:** The "Health for All" program of World Health Organization, reduction in infant mortality, the time-bound eradication of diseases such as leprosy, preventable blindness and dysentery, and reversing the alarming growth in narcotic drug addiction through appropriate educational programs are all feasible goals provided that additional technical and financial resources can be mobilized.

**Education:** The mass media, particularly television and radio, can play a critically important role in generating widespread awareness of the unprecedented opportunities to foster sustainable and equitable development. Greater efforts are needed for generating software for use by the mass media and educational systems.

**Mobilization and Development of Resources:** The financial, technical and commodity resources available globally should be deployed in a manner that will promote and not erode self-reliance among individuals and nations. Bread with freedom and human dignity has to be the pathway to a better common present.

**Converting Political Will into Political Action:** In the ultimate analysis, appropriate political action alone will lead to both disarmament and food and ecological security. The necessary political will is now emerging, as reflected in statements and speeches by political leaders of both developed and developing countries. The time is ripe for suggesting methods of converting the emerging political will into political action.

## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

*The members of the Commission are serving in their individual capacity and not as official representatives of other organizations which they serve. The nationalities of members of listed at the end of each entry in capital letters.*

### CHAIRMAN:

**Dr M.S. Swaminathan**, First recipient of The World Food Prize; President, International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Geneva; Honorary Director, Centre for Research on Sustainable Agriculture & Rural Development, Madras. INDIA.

### FOUNDER MEMBERS:

**Mrs Margarita Penon de Arias**, First Lady, Republic of COSTA RICA.

**Dr A.T. Ariyaratne**, President, Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangmaya. SRI LANKA.

**Dr Dragoslav Avramovic**, Economic Consultant; formerly Director of the Secretariat of Brandt Commission (ICIDI), Director of Economic Development at World Bank, and Advisor to UNCTAD. YUGOSLAVIA.

**Dr Norman E. Borlaug**, Nobel laureate in Peace; Int'l Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, (CIMMYT) Mexico. U.S.A.

**Prof. Carlos Chagas**, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro; former President of Pontifical Academy. BRAZIL.

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**Prof. Umberto Colombo**, President,  
National Agency for Research &  
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**Mr James Ingram**, Executive Director,  
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**Prof. Mohammed Kassas**, Dis-  
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**Ms Mary E. King**, author of *Freedom  
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**Mr Robert J. Macfarlane**, Treasurer,  
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Parenthood Federation, DENMARK.

**Prof. John W. Mellor**, Director,  
International Food Policy Research  
Institute, Washington D.C. U.S.A.

**Dr Thomas R. Odhiambo**, First  
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President, African Academy of Sciences;  
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search on Insect Physiology & Ecology;  
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**Prof. Muhammad Abdus Salam**,  
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PAKISTAN.

## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

**Mr Ryoichi Sasakawa, Hon.**  
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and Chairman, The Japan Shipbuilding  
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INDIA.

**Mr Brian Walker,** President, In-  
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KINGDOM.

**Hon. Eugene F. Whelan,** President,  
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Associates of Canada; former President,  
World Food Council. CANADA.

**Mr Edward L. Williams,** Winrock  
International; Administrator, The World  
Food Prize. U.S.A.

### MEMBER SECRETARY:

**Mr Garry Jacobs,** Assistant Secretary,  
The Mother's Service Society,  
Pondicherry, India. Management  
consultant. U.S.A.

*Commission members representing The  
People's Republic of China  
and The Union of Soviet Socialist  
Republics are expected to join shortly.*



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