

# DRUM

Inupiaq: QILAUN Siberian Yupik: SAGUYA

Central Yupik: CAUYAQ

UPCOMING EVENTS

#### April 30-May 2

Arctic Observing Summit • Vancouver, British Columbia • http://www.arcticobservingsummit. org/

#### May 6-8

International Conference on Arctic Ocean Acidification • Bergan, Norway • http://www. amap.no/conferences/aoa2013/

#### May 14-15

Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting, • Kiruna, Sweden • www.arctic-council.org

#### June 3-4

Arctic Council Emergency Prevention Preparedness and Response Working Group Meeting • Oulu, Finland • http://www.arcticcouncil.org/eppr/

#### June 10-14

Arctic Council Protection of Arctic Marine Environment Working Group Meetings • Reykjavik, Iceland • http://www.pame.is/

#### July 21-25

International Congress for Conservation Biology, • Baltimore, Maryland • http://www.conbio.org/ mini-sites/iccb-2013

August 13-14

ICC Executive Council Meeting, • Kotzebue, Alaska • www.iccalaska.org





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Delegates at the Arctic Shipping Workshop. Photo courtesy of ICC Canada.

## **Circumpolar Inuit Discuss Arctic Shipping**

By Chester Reimer, ICC Strategic and Policy Advisor

Last month in Ottawa, Canada, over the course of two days, delegates representing Inuit from Greenland, Canada, Chukotka, and Alaska tackled the challenging issue of Arctic shipping. The workshop, hosted by ICC Canada, was part of a larger Arctic Council project led by the Inuit Circumpolar Council.

ICC Alaska was represented by three delegates appointed by regional member organizations. Alaskan John Goodwin, Sr., Ice Seal Committee chairman and traditional knowledge specialist from Northwest Arctic Borough was asked to open the workshop with a prayer. Other Alaskans participating were John Hopson Jr. of the North Slope Borough and Michael Hoffman from the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) in Bethel.

The workshop provided an opportunity for ICC delegates to hear from many Arctic shipping experts, including senior marine legal specialists, government bureaucrats negotiating the final text of the polar code at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Arctic mapping experts, shipping industry officials, academics, as well as hunters and traditional knowledge experts.

After hearing from many sources, the delegates debated among themselves and, guided by ICC Canada President, Duane Smith who chaired the workshop agreed that many of the difficult shipping challenges facing Inuit across the circumpolar region needed a strong political and collective response from the leadership representing Inuit across the Arctic.

In addition to delegates and presenters, numerous observers were keen to attend this timely workshop and some space was made for them as well. In total, there were 45 persons in attendance.

The starting point for the workshop was the Arctic Council's Arctic Marine Shipping Assessment (AMSA) that was completed in 2009 but its recommendations are still being addressed by the 8-state Council. Delegates were provided with information about the AMSA and how it is useful for addressing the opening of various polar sea routes. Delegates were then asked to provide information from each of their regions and sub-regions that may be of importance for guiding ICC in responding to the AMSA recommendations. Finally, delegates were asked to give guidance to ICC on

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# President's Message

## Jim Stotts

#### "Arctic Resource Development – Lessons Learned"

Voters in Greenland recently elected a new Parliament and economic development played a big part in the campaign politics. The politics of resource development are being played out all over the Arctic and there are lessons to be learned from the recent election in

Greenland. One lesson learned is: Inuit want resource development that can be managed at the local level. Environment, culture and tradition are still important issues for the people. Inuit refuse to be pressured into accepting development on someone else's terms.

People in indigenous communities across the Arctic are asking the same question. This development, what's in it for us? It's not surprising, it's only natural for people to want and expect benefit from development in their territory. If Inuit are to take the brunt of environmental, social and cultural risk, they must benefit from resource development. Benefit does not mean the chance for jobs. Benefit means tangible improvements for Inuit society. Inuit will be part of the governance of the Arctic, including resource development. A second lesson learned is: Inuit expect benefits from resource development in their territory.

In Greenland, the government was replaced. Many think this was the result of voter backlash on resource development policy. "The central issue here is who will run the country?" said newly elected Premier Aleqa Hammond. "People feel it is foreign companies who have too much say here." Travel anywhere in the north and you will hear similar comments from the people. It's all about control. Inuit want a level of control over development to addresses their concerns. Other Arctic indigenous peoples have the same point of view.

In Greenland, it's a concern over the speed and scope of the proposed development. More than 100 exploration licenses have been awarded. There are world class rare earth deposits and hopes for gold and zinc. Offshore oil reserves may equal half of the entire North Sea. This is development on a grand scale and concerns over environmental and social impacts worry many. The newly elected coalition government has stated there will be no new offshore oil and gas leases. "There are already issued many licenses. The oil hunt must have a scope on a level where society can follow," said Premier Hammond.

There's concern over a huge influx of foreign workers to construct facilities needed for development. This reminded me of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline construction and how workers overran Alaskan communities creating social problems that overwhelmed local authority and capacity. The new government has said they will address this issue and protect employment rights of Greenlanders. A third lesson learned is: Inuit want development to proceed at a speed and scale that won't overwhelm them.

Many of the people that voted for the new government depend on a traditional economy of hunting and fishing. Fishing accounts for 90 percent of Greenland's exports and is a renewable resource. Inuit want to see this economy and way of life survive. It's a matter of balance. Most people think of sustainable development as a balance between resource development and maintaining a healthy environment. Inuit believe there should be a third element in this balancing act, that element is culture. A fourth lesson learned is: Inuit support development that sustains the economy, environment, and Inuit culture.

For a clear understanding of the Inuit perspective on resource development please visit our website at www.iccalaska.org and study the ICC Declaration on Resource Development Principles. There you will find more lessons learned.

## **Global Mercury Treaty Adopted**

*Vulnerability of Arctic ecosystems and indigenous communities mentioned* By ICC Canada Staff

After a week with long negotiations that lasted throughout several nights, ICC participants were pleased to see the adoption of a global mercury treaty (the 'Minamata Convention on Mercury') at the 5th Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Saturday, January 19th 2013, at 7 am in Geneva, Switzerland. This treaty consists of a mixture of legally binding and voluntary measures and will attempt to regulate mercury sources (including mercury emissions to air and releases to water and land, artisanal small-scale gold mining, mercury-containing products and processes involving mercury use), trade with mercury, storage, health aspects, and various other issues.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) was represented both as an independent observer and as part of the Canadian delegation, to ensure that Inuit concerns on mercury contamination are being raised.

ICC also worked with other indigenous groups present at the meeting, which together built the "Global Indigenous Peoples Caucus", and fought for the inclusion and recognition of Indigenous peoples in the treaty text. Indigenous peoples are particularly vulnerable to health effects from mercury because their traditional diets often consist of fish and/or top marine predators that can contain high levels of mercury.

Canada, Nepal and the European Union (EU) submitted text for inclusion in the preambular text of the treaty that highlighted indigenous concerns and the Canadian and EU proposal further referenced the vulnerability of the Arctic. However, while Canada's text outlined the vulnerability of "indigenous peoples" (a term in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,



Parnuna Egede, ICC Greenland staff asks countries to reduce mercury emissions in her intervention to the plenary of the 5th Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee. Photo by: Eva Kruemmel

which was adopted in 2007), the EU was not able to support the language. Particularly EU delegations from France and the United Kingdom (UK) pointed to their domestic laws which would prevent them to sign on to a legally-binding treaty that included text recognizing "indigenous peoples", and only supported language highlighting "indigenous communities". This is despite the fact that both France and UK have endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

When the preamble was passed during the negotiations, Bolivia noted for the record that the concept and terminology of "peoples" was internationally accepted, and that it would be rather worrying if the use of "communities" instead of "peoples" would set a precedent in future international agreements.

"After fighting more than twenty years for the international recognition of our human rights, this is certainly a major setback.", said Duane Smith, ICC Canada's President. "But we are encouraged by the acknowledgment of 'indigenous peoples' during the negotiations from Canada, the United States and many other countries, including several countries from the EU. Hopefully France and UK will take this as an inducement to take measures that will enable them to recognize Indigenous peoples in future legally-binding global treaties."

Overall, the mercury treaty is expected to result in the reduction of mercury levels in the environment globally, however many years will pass before the first measures have to be implemented. "The treaty will only require reductions in atmospheric mercury emissions 5 to 10 years after the mercury treaty comes into force – possibly only by 2020 for new coal-fired power plants, or by 2025 for existing power plants, as one example.", explains Parnuna Egede from ICC Greenland. "This means that several hundreds of plants can be built without the inclusion of mercury-reducing technologies for many years to come. It will probably be decades before we can measure declines of mercury levels in the environment based on actions resulting from the mercury treaty."

Nevertheless, the fact that over 140 countries were able to agree on measures to reduce mercury in the environment has to be viewed as a success. "It is our hope that countries will take domestic measures to reduce mercury emissions long before the mercury treaty comes into force." Duane Smith said. "Several Inuit regions currently have consumption advisories in effect due to high mercury levels in some traditional food items, and the mercury in our foods is largely due to global mercury emissions, for example from coal-fired power plants in Asia. Consumption advisories are not an acceptable way for us to avoid health effects from mercury. Our environment needs to be healthy in order for us to be healthy."

The Minamata Convention on Mercury will be open for signature at a Ministerial meeting in Japan in October this year.

# **Executive Council Meets in Greenland**

#### By ICC Alaska Staff

The Executive Council met January 15-16 in Nuuk with all members in attendance. After adopting the agenda and minutes the council proceeded to reports.

Chair's Report: Aqqaluk Lynge reported on activities since meeting in Chukotka last July. He said he had been in touch with RAIPON's President on their suspension and was assured that RAIPON would be reinstated. He described ICC Greenland's role as a "hearing partner" on issues related to development in Greenland; ICC comments on Greenland government resource development initiatives. The Chair presented a letter from the Greenland Premier, stating his

requirements. Greenland is still waiting for EU response on their application to issue certifications. In the meantime revenues have dropped 100 million DDK to 26 million DKK in the past two years. Amalie stated the World Trade Organization (WTO) decision would be out soon concerning the legality of the ban. ICC and the Canadian government allege that the ban violates WTO agreements.

There was a discussion on NAMMCO about how it was a great forum to be involved in since it abides by sustainable principles, unlike the IWC. Duane Smith remarked that Canadian Inuit have urged their government to seek membership in

intention to host another Inuit Leaders Summit in 2013.

The chair requested information from Canada on the "Idle no more" and the "Feeding my family" movements within Canada. Duane Smith replied that Inuit Tapariit Kanatami (ITK) had sent a support letter to "Idle no more." The food security campaign grass roots is а focusing movement on the price of food. Duane added that food security is focused on at various international bodies including the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the Arctic



ICC Executive Council. Standing L to R: Carl Christian "Puju" Olsen (Greenland), Hjalmer Dahl (Greenland), Jim Stotts (Alaska), Elvira Tyunikova (Chukotka), Duane Smith (Canada). Seated L to R: Kirt Ejesiak (Canada), Tatiana Achirgina (Chukotka), Aqqaluk Lynge, ICC Chair (Greenland), Vera Metcalf (Alaska). Photo by Rena Skifte.

Council. A report on meetings held in Brussels on the ban on seal products was presented.

Special Presentation: Amalie Jessen, Head of Wildlife Management for the Greenland government, gave A report on activities related to the International Whaling Commission (IWC), sealing issues, and the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO).

Greenland recently decided to establish its own quotas outside of the IWC because the IWC has failed to function properly. The quotas will be in effect for 2013-14 and will be discussed again at the 2014 IWC meeting. Amalie cautioned there was an effort to create a whale reserve in the North Atlantic which might be brought up at the next IWC meeting.

Amalie reported on the effects of the European Union's ban on seal products. There is an Inuit exemption with certification published, with others, a book on Rights of the Children. Greenland and Nunavut have signed an agreement so youth from both countries can work in each other's country for short periods of time. Greenland and Nunavut arranged an education conference last summer as reported on in the last issue of DRUM.

Canada Report: Duane Smith provided an update on regional elections and ITK's pursuit of a gathering to talk directly to the Prime Minister on a set of specific issues. There has been much discussion with Leona Aglukkaq on Canada's upcoming AC chairmanship and participation in Council meetings. He also commented on health and food security work and the formation of an ICC Health Steering Committee to focus on regional and international health issues. ICC Canada continues to move ahead with the Arctic Indigenous Languages Project and Arctic Marine Shipping

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NAMMCO.

Greenland **Report:** Carl Chr. Olsen (Puju) presented the report on their participation in Arctic Council (AC) Meetings, UN preparatory meetings, and an information tour to communities. He also gave an update on activities of the Peoples Indigenous Secretariat located in Denmark. Hjalmar added Dahl more on the information "Industrial tour Development and Human Rights" and plans to visit more communities in south and east Greenland. ICC Greenland has



## Chair's Message Aqqaluk Lynge "Measures to Protect the Arctic Environment"

#### Arctic States Environment Ministers Meet

Environment Ministers from Canada, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Russia participated while the United States was represented by an Associate Administrator from

the Environmental Protection Agency. Åsa Blind Larsson represented the Saami Council. We were joined by Mikhail Pogodaev, Svein Mathiesen and Anders Oskal from the Association of World Reindeer Herders.

The meeting was held in Jukkasjarvi, Sweden on February 6, the Saami National Day, before opening the meeting we were welcomed by Per Mikael Utsi, President of the Sametinget (Sami Parliament). The theme for the meeting was Measures to Protect the Arctic Environment.

#### **Ecosystem Based Management**

I took the floor to comment on the slide photos from the day before, and explained the sealing issue to inform the Ministers about misconceptions on seals even among scientists that work in the Arctic. I talked about seal hunting as an important food resource and the abundance of seals in the Davis Strait (8 million). I mentioned the negative effects of the European Union Seal Products Ban, even with the Inuit exemption, on the economy of the small villages along both coasts of the Davis Strait. I mentioned our cooperation with NAMMCO and the ecosystem based management that is practiced by this organization. I also had a chance to include the issue of listing marine mammals as endangered without adequate scientific investigation.

#### **Short Lived Climate Forcers**

Following the presentation of the last topic I was given the floor, where I had a chance to present the Black Carbon letter and asked the Ministers to consider the contents of the important letter addressed to the Arctic states and the permanent participants:

Commitment to be first movers on submitting emissions inventories to identify mitigation opportunities as per the inventory guidelines agreed in May 2012 under the Convention on Long-range Trans-boundary Air Pollution;



Arctic Environment Ministers and Permanent Participants meet in Jukkasjärvi, Northern Sweden. Photo courtesy of the Arctic Council Secretariat.

Establishing a mechanism under the auspices of the Arctic Council for reporting and joint consultations on national initiatives to enhance black carbon emissions reductions; and

Establishing a negotiating body on a circumpolar black carbon instrument with a mandate to develop a proposed instrument for adoption by the next ministerial meeting. That body should be directed to consider for inclusion in the instrument a common, circumpolar vision for black carbon emissions reductions, the development of national mitigation action plans for black carbon, and procedures for reporting and consultation on national mitigation action through the Arctic Council.

The chair thanked me for the suggestion and it was later cited in the Chairs conclusion from the meeting.

#### **Global Mercury Treaty**

Finally I mentioned the recently adopted Minimata Convention on Mercury that the Fifth Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) completed on January 19, 2013. ICC participated in that session as an observer. The treaty will require reductions in atmospheric emissions 5 to 10 years after the treaty comes into force. As you can see, committing to reduce Long Range Trans-boundary Air Pollution is very challenging.



## **Smith Receives Prestigious Award**

By ICC Alaska Staff

Duane Smith, ICC Canada President, was among 14 outstanding indigenous Canadians to receive the 2013 Indspire Award. Formerly known as the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, the Indspire Awards celebrate the significant contributions of indigenous people in Canada.

A national jury reviewed the nominations and selected ten career achievement award winners, three youth award winners and one lifetime achievement award. "The selection is a confidential process that is based on the highest merits of fairness, honesty and respect to the hundreds of deserving nominees," said an Indspire press release. Duane's award was for outstanding achievement in politics.

"The ICC is proud of Duane's accomplishment. His Indspire Award is testimony to the fact that hard political work and respect for those that have different opinions on challenging Arctic matters pays off." Aqqaluk Lynge, ICC Chair, continued, "Duane knows that making mutually beneficial alliances with others without compromising Inuit vales is key to improving and sustaining the Inuit way of life."



*Duane Smith poses for a photo with two of his children, Dawson and Haley, at the Indspire awards. Photo courtesy of Duane Smith.* 

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Assessment (AMSA) related work, both supported by the AC. He said they are providing small funds to ICC Chukotka to continue language initiatives. Responding to questions, Duane stated that budget cuts did not affect ICC Canada because they don't receive core funding from the Canadian federal government. However the cuts do affect ITK.

Alaska Report: Jim Stotts reported on: funding efforts, Arctic Council, and education and food security work projects. He discussed meetings within Alaska with marine mammal organizations. ICC Alaska has had meetings with the US government on the topic of visa-free travel between Alaska and Chukotka. ICC also recommended three names to fill three Beringia Commissioner positions, one each from Nome, Kotzebue and St. Lawrence Island. Vera Metcalf gave an update on the UME sickness suffered by seals and walrus and the cause is still not determined. She also shared the Arctic Indigenous Languages report from Ottawa, the Northwest Arctic School District Inupiat Language Plan, and a statement delivered to the US Coast Guard from five marine mammal organizations on marine shipping.

**Chukotka Report:** Tatiana Achirgina reported on efforts in Chukotka to distribute information to its members after the Anadyr ECM, and they have selected their delegates to the 2014 General Assembly. She attended the Inuit Studies Conference in Washington D.C. in October. She stated that a proposal to write about the community of Naukan was approved by the Chukotka government. Finally, Elvira Tiunikova discussed issues related to alcohol consumption and their efforts to improve the situation. United Nations: Dalee Sambo Dorough was nominated to represent ICC and the Saami Council at the UNPFII. The UN Environmental Program (UNEP) Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) is finalizing a legally binding instrument on mercury. Parnuna Egede and Eva Kruemmel are attending the INC-5 meeting in Geneva, Switzerland for ICC. Hjalmar Dahl presented an update on preparations for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014. ICC has 29 delegates for the upcoming preparatory meeting this summer in Alta, Norway as reported in the last issue of DRUM.

Arctic Council: Jim, Duane and Puju gave a detailed briefing on activities at the different AC working groups, task forces and expert groups. They gave an update on preparations at the AC Senior Arctic Officials meetings leading up to the Ministerial meeting set for May 15 in Kiruna, Sweden. Everyone is working hard to meet deadlines for the Ministerial. Other topics discussed include: having the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS) incorporated in Tromso, Norway; funding for Permanent Participants at the AC; the Arctic Indigenous Languages Project under SDWG; and priorities for Canada's chairmanship of the Council. Chair Aqqaluk Lynge will attend a meeting of the Arctic states Environment Ministers in Jukkasjarvi, Sweden as reported in this issue of DRUM

**Other Business:** Other topics discussed at the ECM included: update on implementation of the Nuuk Declaration; final adoption of the revised ICC Inuit Arctic Policy; update on planning for the 2014 GA; and a request for support in creating a marine protected area in Melville Bay. This request was not approved since more information is needed. The next ECM will be in early August in Kotzebue, Alaska.



Hjalmer Dahl, ICC Greenland Vice President. Photo courtesy of ICC Greenland.

# Dahl to Chair Human Rights Council



By ICC Alaska Staff

Hjalmar Dahl, ICC Greenland Vice-President, was recently appointed to chair a new council devoted to human rights. The Greenland Council on Human Rights, created by the Greenland Parliament last December, is comprised of appointees from various public organizations, institutions and authorities. The council is an independent entity and its role is advisory in nature. Aaja Chemnitz Larsen, spokesperson for the Children's' Rights Institution was elected Vice-Chair.

"I am honored that the council unanimously elected me chairman, and I am looking forward to include the general public in the process," Dahl said. "Establishing the Greenland Human Rights Council is historic and is based upon broad support in Inatsisartut (Greenland Parliament). From a global perspective the human rights situation in Greenland is good, but there are some challenges which we need to address, resolve, and make visible."

At the council's first meeting it was decided to launch a public information campaign. The next meeting will start with a one-day workshop on human rights, seen from a Greenlandic context, with the Institute for Human Rights in Denmark.

an AMSA-related project, which is how to best document sea ice use by Inuit today.

In sum, the workshop was meant to further bring the human dimension of Arctic shipping to the Arctic Council.

While relatively small, the workshop tackled big issues. It became apparent early on that delegates, irrespective of which region they lived, felt that the Arctic was not ready to deal with a significant influx of development, and a rapid increase in Arctic shipping.

While development is welcomed, the common stance from Inuit was it must happen at their pace, with the integration of their knowledge and that development must occur to the benefit – not the detriment - of Inuit culture, language and lifestyle.

Prominent concerns shared by all delegates included the lack of search and rescue capacity, lack of northern infrastructure, environmental response and preparedness, environmental and human impacts from development, offshore oil and gas, increasing tourism, increasing access due to melting sea ice and off highest concern –Inuit survival and well-being amidst it all. Many of these issues were inseparable and dependent on each other.

Shipping through the Northwest Passage was a concern. Michael Hoffman talked of protecting the environment. He said, "We talk about our people, but if we don't have our environment then we don't have our people, so it is very important to protect our environment."

He also pointed out that, while he and his colleague John Hopson Jr. both come from Alaska, they come from very different areas with different languages; however, they are bonded by the Bering Strait and regardless of where they live, they both face the same challenges and concerns.

The lack of monitoring and legislation was discussed in depth. Delegates mentioned the need for people to come together collectively and begin to influence new legislation as much as possible. Currently, it felt that "no one is supervising, no one is organizing." The only people on the ground continue to be Inuit. "With everything discussed today, it appears that no one



Michael Hoffman speaking at the Arctic Shipping Workshop. Photo courtesy of ICC Canada.

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is watching except Inuit," said Hoffman,

Search and rescue received some of the most attention over the course of two days. With increasing tourism and shipping, John Hopson Jr. of the North Slope Borough commented that with only four communities and a population of approximately 2000 people, they do not have adequate resources to help if there were a large accident. Search and rescue was a concern for all Inuit regions.

Inuit lifestyle was of utmost consideration. John Hopson Jr. spoke of how the people hunt for subsistence and often will support an entire community. He spoke of shared resources and like Mr. Hoffman felt that as long as the environment is safe they will continue to be able to do all of these activities into the future. Overall, development had to be sustainable, it was concluded by all.

Because of the unknown and potentially significant ramifications of Arctic shipping on Inuit, the delegates took a large amount of time on Day 2 of the workshop to discuss the broader issue of Arctic sovereignty and the related current negotiations by UN member states. Arctic and non-Arctic states are currently using the UN Law of the Sea to determine how the sea bed extension of the continental shelf changes the nature of ownership of the Arctic Ocean and off-shore resources. A heated debate ensued on how Inuit should collectively respond to those States claiming that Inuit have no say in the negotiations or in resource ownership.

At the end of two days, Inuit recognized they had many more issues to discuss. They also recognized the continued need to act collectively and support one another as Inuit, across regions and nationalities. Various recommendations and next steps resulted from the workshop that will be brought forward to ICC executive leadership for further direction and guidance.



Inuit Circumpolar Council

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The Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) representing the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Chukotka. ICC Alaska, along with other members, strives to strengthen, protect, and develop Inuit rights in the circumpolar region.

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