

JFK ASSASSINATION SYSTEM

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

100-2-34030

#2

SECRET

NRS

Copy to:

Report of:

BENJAMIN P. MC MANUS

Office:

New York, New York

Date:

MAY 11 1966

Field Office File #:

100-117844

Bureau File #: 100-409763

Title:

MARK LANE

Character:

SECURITY MATTER - C

1-14-94
Classified by 9803 TED/GCL
Declassify on: OADR (JFK)

Synopsis:

On his return to the US, 2/24/66, subject gave his residence as 75 Montgomery Street, NYC. In March, 1966, subject acted as the defense attorney for DAVID H. MITCHELL III at Hartford, Connecticut. [Subject's book, "Rush To Judgement", concerning the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, scheduled for publication in London, England, March, 1966, with American edition being prepared by Viking Press, NYC. In December, 1965, a source reported that Current Affairs Documentary Films, Ltd., had been formed in England to make a film based on "Rush To Judgement" with an anticipated budget of \$56,000.] In March, 1966, subject, using the name ROBERT (S) BLAKE, reported to be in Dallas, Texas, interviewing or attempting to interview various witnesses to the assassination of President KENNEDY.

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DETAILS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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NY 100-117844

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence

[On December 31, 1965, NY T-1, a confidential source abroad, furnished information which reflected that at that time the subject's residence and/or mailing address was 27 Argyll Mansions, Kings Road, London, England.] (S)

On February 24, 1966, Inspector WALTER AUSMAN, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), John F. Kennedy International Airport, Queens, New York, advised that upon subject's arrival in the United States that date, he gave his residence as 75 Montgomery Street, New York City.

B. Employment

The "New York Post" newspaper, issue of March 8, 1966, page 12, reflected that subject had been retained as the defense attorney for DAVID H. MITCHELL III, an objector to the current Selective Service laws, who was to be tried in the United States District Court (USDC), Hartford, Connecticut, on March 15, 1966.

II. INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE
SCHEDULED PUBLICATION OF
SUBJECT'S BOOK, "RUSH TO
JUDGEMENT"

On December 31, 1965, NY T-1, previously mentioned, advised that information had come to his attention indicating that subject's book, "Rush To Judgement", dealing with the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, at Dallas, Texas on November 23, 1963, had been advertised in England and was expected to be published there in March, 1966. According to NY T-1, "Rush To Judgement" would run to 125,000 words. (S)

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On January 12, 1966, NY T-2, a confidential source abroad, furnished a copy of the Danish newspaper, "Lolland-Falsters Folketidende", issue of January 4, 1966, which in part stated as follows: (C)

"Mark Lane has now finished reading the proofs of his book dealing with the assassination of President Kennedy and entitled, 'Rush to Judgement.' (C)

"After having spent Christmas and New Year with his parents-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dabelsteen, Nykbing F., Mark Lane and his wife flew to London where the book is to be published by Bodley Head, publishers, London, in April 1966. Six months after its appearance, the book is to be reprinted in a paper-back edition in twelve countries. Professor Trevor Roper, Oxford University, has written a preface to the book, stating that in its evaluation of what happened in Dallas, history must take into account both the Warren Report and Mark Lane's book." (C)

NY T-2 further advised that subject's book would possibly appear as a series of articles in the "Daily Telegraph", a newspaper published in London, England. (C)

On February 24, 1966, NY T-3 advised that the American printing of "Rush To Judgement" was being prepared by Viking Press, located in New York City. NY T-3 stated that in checking the manuscript, Viking Press had discovered inaccuracies and exaggerations which they demanded the subject clarify. NY T-3 advised that subsequently the subject informed Viking Press that he could change the manuscript to their satisfaction.

III. INFORMATION RELATING TO SUBJECT'S
SCHEDULED PRODUCTION OF A DOCUMENTARY
FILM ENTITLED, "RUSH TO JUDGEMENT"

On December 31, 1965, NY T-1, previously mentioned, advised that the subject and one RICHARD LORD STARK planned to produce a film to be entitled, "Rush To Judgement," which would be based on the subject's book on the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. NY T-1 stated that a company (S)

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named Current Affairs Documentary Films, Ltd., had been formed in England for the purpose of producing this movie. NY T-1 furnished a copy of a prospectus which noted that the Current Affairs Documentary Films, Ltd., was located at 42 Longridge Road, London, England. (S)

In part, this prospectus read:

"A Company formed for the purpose of making a motion picture tentatively entitled Rush to Judgement. The motion picture will be derived from the book by Mark Lane which is a critique of the Warren Commission's findings regarding the murders of President J.F. Kennedy, Officer J.D. Tippit, and Lee Harvey Oswald. (S)

Managing Richard Stark, 42 Longridge Road, London S.W.5.
Directors: Mark Penloe, 28 Chapel Street, London S.W.1. (S)

Board of Emile de Antonio, Box 1567, New York 17, N.Y., U.S.A.
Directors: Mark Lane, 27 Argyll Mansions, Kings Road, London S.W.3.
Richard Stark, 42 Longridge Road, London S.W.5. (S)

1. Cost of Production
£20,000 (approximately \$56,000). (S)
2. Division of Profits
50% to Investors. 50% to Production/Creative staff including Producer, Director, Writer. (S)

3. Nature of Film
A feature length film which will consist of stock footage, existing stills, reconstructions and re-enactments as well as live footage to be shot in Dallas, Washington and New York. The live footage will consist mainly of interviews with witnesses to the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas, as well as interviews with members and staff of the Warren Commission. Current Events Documentary Films Limited has already in its possession tapes and stills never before published in any media. These are of a highly controversial and sensational nature. An English film crew will be sent to the United States in mid-December to film the interviews. (S)

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Projected completion date for the picture is March 1966. (S)

The nature of the film will be didactic and argumentative in that it will compare the Warren Commission's own evidence contained in its published twenty six volumes of testimony and exhibits with the Warren Commission's conclusions contained in the one volume Warren Commission Report. The film will offer no conclusions and will indulge in no speculation. It will, however, fill the judicial void left by the murder of Oswald and the subsequent secret proceedings of the Warren Commission. The film will constitute the only trial afforded to Lee Harvey Oswald with each viewer serving as a juror. (S)

The Principals (S)

Emile de Antonio is a producer/director of political documentary films. These include the feature film Point of Order, which has won four festival prizes. Point of Order is a documentary based on the Army/McCarthy hearings of 1954, which has had commercial release throughout the world. de Antonio has recently completed a film for the B.B.C. on New York City politics. de Antonio was a University teacher at the College of the City of New York, Columbia University, and College of William and Mary, where he lectured in philosophy and literature; book editor; longshoreman; and a producer of avant garde concerts (John Cage, Merce Cunningham). He was a classmate at Harvard University of John F. Kennedy. (S)

Mark Lane is the author of Rush to Judgement to be published in Great Britain by the Bodley Head Limited and in paper-back in many nations by Penguin Books Limited. Lane has been a practising defence lawyer in New York City for fifteen years. He has served as a member of the New York State Legislature, having been personally endorsed by President Kennedy in his campaign for election. In 1959 Lane was a founder of the Reform Movement in the Democratic Party with Eleanor Roosevelt and Herbert H. Lehman. At the request of the Warren Commission, Lane appeared twice before the Commission as a witness to testify regarding the results of his own investigation into the assassination. As the result of his testimony, the Commission called and questioned eye witnesses otherwise unknown to them. Lane remains the only public official in the U.S. arrested as a freedom rider in Mississippi. (S)

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Richard Stark is a young assistant director who has studied in Paris and Vienna. (S)

BUDGET (S)

1. Acquisition of stock footage and still material (this includes royalty payments, duplicate negatives and striking of positive prints).....\$15,500 (S)
2. Production in Dallas, New York, Washington etc. (this includes transportation, accommodations etc. for film crew), the purchasing and processing of film, rental of equipment for a minimal crew of Director, Cameraman, Sound, plus Assistant.....\$ 9,000 (S)
3. Editing expenses (Editing Room and equipment plus editor and assistant editor).....\$ 4,000 (S)
4. Mix, opticals, animation stand work, sound transfer, and negative work.....\$ 3,000 (S)
5. Administrative expenses.....\$ 2,500 (S)
6. Acquisition of exclusive interview material in Dallas..\$ 6,000 (S)
7. Transport and duty on film.....\$ 2,000 (S)
8. Salaries for Director, Producer, Writer are now being negotiated with the Corporation. It is understood that in no case will any salary exceed an amount of \$300 per week. Salaries will terminate upon delivery of an answer print.....\$14,000
\$56,000" (S)

On July 31, 1941, the records of Troop C, Pennsylvania Motor Police, Blakely, Pennsylvania, reflected that EMILIO DE ANTONIO was born May 14, 1919, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and attended the St. Thomas College, in Scranton from 1938 to 1940. These records reflected that during

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his years at St. Thomas College, DE ANTONIO had attended many Communist Party (CP) meetings and had taken an active part in attempting to obtain new members for the CP.

On June 28, 1965, the records of the Motion Picture Association of America, New York City, reflected that EMILIE DE ANTONIO was the Director and one of the producers of the picture, "Point of Order", which dealt with the hearings conducted by the late Senator JOSEPH MC CARTHY.

On January 12, 1966, NY T-2, previously mentioned, furnished information which appeared in the Danish newspaper, "Lolland-Falsters Folketidende", issue of January 4, 1966, concerning the subject. NY T-2 stated that an article reflected that a documentary full-length film, based on the subject's book, will be made in the near future. The article also noted that the film will be under the direction of EMILIE DE ANTONIO and will incorporate some films taken during and after the assassination of President KENNEDY by the American Broadcasting System and the Columbia Broadcasting System. It was pointed out that in February, 1966, the subject and his associates would travel to Dallas, Texas, where they intended to interview witnesses to the assassination. (C)

In part, the above article read: (C)

"This film is also to be shown in the United States where the massive opposition to Mark Lane's views of the Kennedy tragedy has declined considerably. The film may possibly be released by the company 'Allied Artists'; if not, Mark Lane will hire cinemas in New York and Dallas and show the film there, and it will also be distributed to film clubs all over the United States." (C)

On March 29, 1966, Mrs. JEAN LOLLIS HILL, 9402 Bluff Creek, Dallas, Texas, advised Special Agent (SA) ROBERT P. GEMMERLING that during the previous week, she had been telephonically contacted on several occasions by an individual identifying himself as DE ANTONIO, who indicated that he and

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a Mr. BLACK were preparing an educational television documentary concerning the assassination of President KENNEDY and desired to interview her in detail. She stated that she had not consented to such an interview, but on the evening of March 28, 1966, two individuals, identifying themselves as DE ANTONIO and BLACK, appeared at her residence for the purpose of interviewing her. Mrs. HILL stated she questioned them as to the exact nature of their visit and, being a school teacher herself, doubted that these persons were really endeavoring to compile data for an educational television documentary relating to the assassination.

Mrs. HILL stated she had previously talked to an individual named JONES HARRIS, who also desired to interview her in connection with a book he was writing. At that time, HARRIS indicated to her that DE ANTONIO was one of "Mark Lane's men."

Mrs. HILL advised that she subsequently asked DE ANTONIO and BLACK if they were connected with MARK LANE, and DE ANTONIO admitted that MARK LANE was "one of their backers." She stated that DE ANTONIO mentioned that some of the backing for his project originated in England.

Mrs. HILL stated that DE ANTONIO and BLACK tried to convince her that other witnesses to the assassination had talked to them freely, and indicated that former Chief of Police JESSE E. CURRY, of the Dallas Police Department, would be interviewed by them. They also indicated that they had talked to individuals who were on the railroad overpass near the scene of the assassination on November 22, 1963. She stated they inferred that they had someone who had seen everything on November 22, 1963, and specifically mentioned that they had someone who saw the shooting come from some bushes near the Texas School Book Depository building and that some of the people they were interviewing had never previously been interviewed by anyone concerning what they saw on November 22, 1963.

On March 30, 1966, Mrs. JEAN LOLLIS HILL telephonically contacted the Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that she had learned that one of the individuals who

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had been in her home on the night of March 28, 1966, was MARK LANE. She further stated that he identified himself at that time as BLAKE, not as BLACK, the name previously furnished by her.

On April 21, 1966, Mrs. HILL furnished to the Dallas Office of the FBI a copy of a letter she had received on April 15, 1966, from EMILIE DE ANTONIO. In part, this letter read:

"As I told you that night in Dallas, we have you on film from WFAA-TV; and it's good but I still would like the whole story. I'm interested in the truth and whether we make money or not is peripheral. I don't want time and indifference to bury what really happened in Dallas on that Friday in November. We have filmed all kinds of people, most of them from the Report and we have already in process a film which will shoot a lot of holes in the Warren Report, in the official lies and stories; which will fill in the chinks of omission. Only madmen believe they possess absolute truth; what we have is a stab at it, a little letting in of light, a hope that more can be done....."

"My call to you is based on many notes not the least of which is the fact that if all the people I talked to in Dallas you are the only one whose views could be construed as even closely related to my own. All I ask is that you come here when your school is over and look at what we've done. It will not be too late then to add a few minutes of your testimony.

"Mark Lane, of course had to be Bob Blake. Even Earl Warren registered in Dallas under a nom de guerre. In our case Mark was concerned that his true identity would force witnesses to conform to his ideas and Blake seemed obscure and objective enough to elicit truthful and neutral responses which were what we wanted."

Mrs. HILL advised that she did not contemplate acknowledging this letter or contacting EMILIE DE ANTONIO in the future.

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Mrs. JEAN LOLLIS HILL, mentioned above, was a witness to the assassination of President KENNEDY and her testimony appears on pages 205 to 223 of volume 6 of the "Hearings Before The President's Commission On The Assassination Of President Kennedy."

On March 28, 1966, Mr. LEE E. BOWERS, JR., 1923 View Crest, Dallas, Texas, telephonically advised Investigative Clerk (IC) STEVE D. ALBRIGHT of the Dallas Office of the FBI that one ROBERT BLAKE had approached him on March 26, 1966, concerning the making of a film on the assassination of President KENNEDY. BOWERS advised that he did not have the time to talk to BLAKE at that point, and BLAKE indicated he would recontact him later.

On March 31, 1966, Mr. LEE E. BOWERS, JR., previously mentioned, advised SA ROBERT P. GEMMERLING that he had consented to a filmed interview with representatives of Judgment Films Corporation, which interview and filming was conducted in Room 21 at the Arlin Motel, Arlington, Texas, on March 20, 1966. He stated that approximately 1,000 foot of film was made in connection with this interview, which was to be an educational documentary film concerning the assassination of the late President KENNEDY. He stated that the man he dealt with was a ROBERT BLAKE. Also present at the filming of his interview was a blonde female, identified as Mrs. BLAKE; EMILIE DE ANTONIO, who was supposed to be the producer; a camera man not further identified; an individual with a clip board; a bearded man operating sound equipment; and another individual not further identified.

Mr. BOWERS advised that Mr. BLAKE indicated he was attempting to put on film what the President's Commission on the assassination had determined with respect to the assassination. He stated that BLAKE indicated he had talked to a number of people to record their interviews on film.

Mr. BOWERS stated that during his filmed interview, considerable time was spent on his testimony before the President's Commission with respect to a place where he was interrupted by the person doing the questioning and BLAKE's

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group desired to know what BOWERS was about to say in his testimony before the President's Commission when he was interrupted. BLAKE's group also dwelled to some extent on the fact that BOWERS, in his testimony, had stated he saw a policeman ride a motorcycle up the embankment on the north side of Elm Street immediately after the assassination. BOWERS stated that BLAKE's group appeared vitally interested in the sequence of shots with respect to whether they could have been fired by one man with one rifle. He stated they also questioned him as to what it was he actually saw that was a "flash" which he apparently mentioned during his testimony before the President's Commission. BOWERS stated that BLAKE's group also appeared vitally interested in his interview with the police immediately after the assassination with respect to certain cars he had observed with political candidate stickers on them.

Mr. BOWERS stated that prior to consenting to the filmed interview, he contacted his attorney, RICHARD W. SMITH, of the law firm Lyne, Blanchette, Smith and Shelton, First National Bank Building, Dallas, Texas, telephone Riverside 1-4871, and had his attorney draw up the following quoted agreement:

"Date: 3-30-66

"Judgment Films Corporation

"Re: Lee E. Bowers, Jr.

"Gentlemen:

"You have requested the undersigned to appear in a documentary television and/or motion picture film regarding the events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy. I agree to participate without compensation in the filming of such production by allowing you to photograph and tape an interview with me concerning my knowledge of events relating to the assassination.

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"In consideration for the appearance of the undersigned in connection with such television and/or motion picture interview or production you agree to indemnify and save harmless Lee E. Bowers, Jr. against any and all loss, damage, costs and expenses of any nature whatsoever, which said Lee E. Bowers, Jr. may hereafter suffer, incur, be put to, pay or lay out by reason of appearance on or in connection with such television and/or motion picture production; and further, you agree to defend at your cost any action or claim of any nature whatsoever which may be brought or asserted against the undersigned in connection with or related to the appearance of the undersigned in the abovesaid motion picture and/or television production, and to pay any and all costs and damages arising therefrom. Also in this connection you agree that, if necessary to enforce this indemnity agreement, suit may be brought by the undersigned against you, and you agree to accept service thereon, in any jurisdiction of the United States and specifically including, but not limited to, the jurisdiction of the courts of or located in the State of Texas.

"If you agree to my appearance in the abovesaid television and/or motion picture production on the foregoing terms and conditions you will indicate such agreement by execution of a copy of this letter in the space provided, returning same to the undersigned.

"Yours very truly,

"/s/ Lee E. Bowers, Jr.

"AGREED AND ACCEPTED:

"JUDGMENT FILMS CORPORATION

"BY: Emile de Antonio"

Mr. BOWERS continued that on the morning of March 31, 1966, he had determined that the person who represented himself as ROBERT BLAKE was actually MARK LANE. Mr. BOWERS also identified a photograph of the subject as being identical to the person known to him as ROBERT BLAKE.

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Mr. BOMERS stated that as a result of this misrepresentation, he had become concerned over the possibility that the filmed interview permitted by him might be used in a distorted fashion, and that he intended to contact his attorney for legal advice on this point.

LEE E. BOMERS, JR., mentioned above, was an employee of the Union Terminal Company, on duty at the railroad overpass on November 22, 1963, and his testimony before the President's Commission appears in volume 6, pages 284 to 289, of the "Hearings Before The President's Commission On The Assassination Of President Kennedy."

On March 30, 1966, Mr. WARREN ALLEN REYNOLDS, 8707 Mosswood, Dallas, Texas, advised SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY that he had been recently contacted by an EMILE DE ANTONIO, a producer for Judgment Films Corporation, New York City, New York, formerly associated with BBC-TV, New York City (not further identified). ANTONIO advised REYNOLDS that his film company was making an educational film regarding the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. ANTONIO indicated they were staying at the Arlin Motel, Arlington, Texas, telephone Circle 5-2626. He offered REYNOLDS \$300.00 for a filmed interview of his participation in the activities that occurred that day. REYNOLDS stated that ANTONIO and his associates had an appointment with him for later on March 30, 1966.

WARREN ALLEN REYNOLDS, mentioned above, was a witness to the shooting of Dallas, Texas, Police Officer J. D. TIPPIT on November 22, 1963, following the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY on that date. REYNOLDS' testimony appears on pages 434 to 442 of Volume XI of the "Hearings Before the President's Commission On The Assassination of President Kennedy."

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IV. MISCELLANEOUS

The "New York Post" newspaper, issue of March 8, 1966, page 12, contained an article entitled, "Draft Foe's New Lawyer; Mark Lane." This article noted that DAVID H. MITCHELL III, an objector to the draft provisions of the Selective Service laws, had retained the subject as his attorney for his trial to be held in the USDC at Hartford, Connecticut, on March 15, 1966. This article stated that the subject had been recently in London, England, but had promised to defend MITCHELL if he, the subject, returned to the United States in time for the trial.

The "New York Herald Tribune" newspaper, issue of March 16, 1966, page 5, contained an article entitled, "The Second Trial." This article reported that the subject, acting as the attorney for DAVID H. MITCHELL III, on March 15, 1966, requested that the USDC, Hartford, Connecticut, allow him to bring two American servicemen from Viet Nam to testify that American actions there had been "inhuman." According to this article, the subject identified these persons as a Navy lieutenant commander shot down over North Viet Nam, and a Marine private from South Viet Nam. In part, this article read:

"Mr. Lane said he had been informed that Ho Chi Minh, president of North Viet Nam, had agreed to allow the Navy flier and several North Vietnamese officials to come to the U.S. to testify. Mr. Lane added that he also wanted to call former Special Forces Sgt. Donald Duncan, a Green Beret who saw action in South Viet Nam.

"Mr. Duncan, who quit the Army last September after 10 years service, has received wide publicity because of a magazine article in which he denounced the American involvement in Viet Nam."

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V. FOREIGN TRAVEL

On December 31, 1965, NY T-1, previously mentioned, advised that on December 12, 1965, the subject departed England en route to Toronto, Canada, in the company of RALPH SCHOENMAN of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation. NY T-1 stated SCHOENMAN returned to England on December 19, 1965, but no information concerning the return of the subject at that time was received. (S)

On February 24, 1966, Inspector WALTER AUSMAN, INS, John F. Kennedy International Airport, Queens, New York, advised subject arrived in New York that date at 3:30 p.m. as a passenger on Trans-World Airlines, flight number 703, which originated in London, England. Inspector AUSMAN advised subject travelled under United States passport number E067352, and gave his United States address as 75 Montgomery Street, New York City.

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SECRETUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

May 11, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

Bureau 100-409763
New York 100-117844**X**

Title

Mark Lane

Character

Security Matter - C

Reference

is made to report of
dated andSpecial Agent [REDACTED]
captioned as above.

b7✓
All sources (except any listed below) whose identities
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable
information in the past.

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[REDACTED] (C) [REDACTED] who was in a position to furnish
reliable information. (C) LW
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