USAMRNL
PHYSIOLOGY DIVISION PROTOCOL

Project No.

3A104501B71R Research in Biomedical Sciences

Task No. 05: Work Unit No. 82:

Metabolic Effect of Altitude

Environmental Medicine

Study No. 4:

Endocrine Effects of Altitude

## I. INTRODUCTION

It has been established that acute exposure of man to high altitude causes the onset of a distressing, incapacitating syndrome, termed "mountain sickness." (1, 2, 3) This syndrome is characterized by impaired physical and psychomotor performance. The transitory effects of high altitude exposure - the most debilitating symptoms - severe headache, nausea and vomiting, extreme fatigue and anorexia usually last up to 5 - 6 days in most subjects. These symptoms are variable in intensity in different people or in the same person at different times.

Various theories have been advanced in the attempt to explain the etiology of mountain sickness. Research has been concerned primarily with the evaluation of cardiopulmonary and acid-base alterations in man. Still, all of the reported, established alterations do not explain the phenomenon of acclimatization that occurs in most subjects within 5 - 7 days. Recently, in the attempt to discover the cause of mountain sickness and the mechanisms of adaptation, investigators have focused on endocrine function, shifts in body fluids, and electrolyte balance in man at high altitude. The following sections summarize the observed alterations of endocrine function, body fluids and electrolytes in man at high altitude. There is a wealth of literature of similar observations conducted on animals which is essentially consistent with the reports on man (4 - 14).

# Body Fluids and Electrolytes in Man at High Altitude

When man ascends rapidly to high terrestrial locations, there is a continuous decrease in plasma volume, a decrease in extracellular fluid volume, and a rise in intracellular fluid volume. Total body water increases (15). Total body potassium obtained from body scanning for K<sup>40</sup> is noted to be increased by one research group (16) but similar measurements made by USAMRNL show that total body potassium decreases (15). Excessive urinary excretion of sodium, potassium and chloride ions has been documented (15, 17). There is a significant rise in salivary sodium to potassium ratio (13) and urinary sodium to potassium ratio (17). In addition to electrolyte changes, urine: volume increases at high altitude (19).

These observed effects of altitude on man resulting in body fluid shifts and electrolyte alterations suggest diminished aldosterone secretion by the adrenal glands. Very recently it has been reported that urinary aldosterone excretion does decrease at altitude, approaching zero within three days of high altitude exposure (19). These findings appear to be consistent with the observed pattern of urinary electrolyte excretion. Additional investigation is necessary in order to establish and correlate the electrolyte changes with aldosterone secretion at high altitude by means of balance studies with human volunteers. If aldosterone excretion is indeed diminished at high altitude in the face of sodium loss, diminished plasma and extracellular fluid volumes, the mechanism is unknown and is contrary to accepted physiological controls of aldosterone secretion.

# Adrenocortical Function in Man at High Altitude

Various investigators using intermittent chamber studies in man (20, 21), or actual field studies at high altitude (17, 22, 23),

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have observed a rise in the 24-hour urinary excretion of 17-ketosteroids and 17-hydroxycorticosteroids during acute exposure. One research group did note a difference in the excretion pattern of 17-hydroxycorticosteroids and 17-ketosteroids. The latter decreased initially. Adrenal function has been studied in a group of high altitude natives, and is the same as a comparable group living at sea level (24).

These studies are generally consistent with the known physiological control of pituitary adrenal function during stress. The correlation of adrenocortical function to "mountain sickness" and the magnitude of environmental adrenocortical steroid secretion and ACTH release during stress require additional investigation. The accurate measurement of these hormones during acute altitude exposure can determine the desirability of a possible therapeutic means of controlling the symptoms of high altitude stress in man.

# Glucose Tolerance in Man at High Altitudes

Studies in man (25, 26, 27, 28) have established that there is a lower fasting blood glucose level and greater utilization of glucose at high altitude. Whether the cause of enhanced glucose utilization is secondary to increased insulin secretion or the effect of adrenocorticosteroids on glucose metabolism, is not known, and should be determined.

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The objectives of the present proposal to study human subjects at high altitude are (1) to evaluate through balance studies, the nature of electrolyte alterations; (2) to determine the magnitude of the stress response at altitude by evaluation of pituitary and adrenocortical function; (3) to measure and correlate the aldosterone secretion and excretion in relationship to electrolyte changes; and (4) to investigate the mechanism for increased glucose utilization.

The purpose of the study will be to correlate these findings with the severity of mountain sickness symptoms at 14, 100 feet.

# III. JUSTIFICATION

Reports concerning the Indian Army (29) have furnished alarming evidence of incapacitating medical and personnel problems resulting from altitude sickness, when a military force attempts to function on mountain locations. An understanding of the physiological alterations during altitude acclimatization and the relationship of these to various mountain sickness symptoms might lead to successful methods of pre-selecting or preconditioning troops.

Knowledge of the endocrine function in man at high altitude would shed light on the adaptive changes that occur during the stress of hypoxia. Significantly patho-physiological alterations in hormone secretion can be dealt with therapeutically. Recent Army Research Office conferences (30, 31) have pointed to a military need for studies on physiology, pharmacology and performance in high terrestrial environments.

## IV. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

A. The subjects will be ten U.S. Army volunteers (19 to 25 years old) who have signed a volunteer form indicating their knowledge of the scope of the procedures planned, including the intravenous administration of tracer quantities of radioactive ateroid compounds and their willingness to serve as subjects. The radioactive concentration of these isotopes will be recorded in the subjects' Army Health Records. The subjects will be interviewed, examined and selected by a medical officer after review of their health records to exclude cardiopulmonary, renal or endocrine disorders. A medical officer is to be present during the entire study and is authorized to terminate the experiment at any time continuation would be detrimental to the health of the subject.

The study will be conducted for a total period of 21 days beginning 11 September 1967. The sea level test site is to be selected on the basis of available facilities and volunteers. It is imperative that the sea level site be located in a temperate climate. A hot, humid climate would make electrolyte balance studies inaccurate. In addition, heat exposure alters blood volume and this would interfere with studies on aldosterone secretion. Tentatively, Fort Lewis, Washington has been selected as a site meeting these specifications. Other possibilities include Fort Ord, California; Fort Devons, Massachusetts and Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

During the sea level test period, constituting days 1 to 14, the subjects will be started on a constant metabolic diet which will require eight days of equilibration of body electrolytes prior to initiating balance studies. This diet will be continued until the end of the study on day 21. On day 15 the subjects will be flown to Colorado Springs or Denver and transferred by Army vehicle to the Army mobile laboratory on Pikes Peak (14, 100 ft). The altitude test phase will be conducted there with living quarters provided for the subjects.

# B. Clinical Study

- 1. Plan of study
- a. Sea level test period 09:00 hours day 1 to 09:00 hours day 15.
  - b. Travel period day 15.
- c. Altitude test period 09:00 hours day 16 to 09:00 hours day 21.

# 2. Diet

A prepared liquid diet comprising daily consumption of 2,800 calories as 55% carbohydrate, 15% protein, and 30% fat. The daily electrolyte and mineral intake will be 100 mEq. of sodium.

The diet and water content are to be constant and analysed. During the day of travel, the subjects will be maintained on this diet. On days 5 and 19, the subjects will fast from 21:00 hours until 14:00 hours the following day (glucose tolerance test). There will be no smoking during this interval.

## 3. Water intake

Distilled water will be used for drinking purposes. Daily water intake will be measured and recorded. A minimum of 1500 ml of water per subject per day is to be consumed.

#### 4. Medications

- a. Glucose 100 grams in distilled water administered orally on days 6 and 20 at 09:00 hours
- b. 4-C<sup>14</sup>- cortisol (lμc) and 1,2-H<sup>3</sup>- aldosterone (2μc) administered intravenously in 10 ml sterile solution of 10% ethanol in water at 09:00 hours on days 9 and 17.
- c. Sodium chloride 500 mg in gelatin capsules in the event of diminished dietary intake to maintain constant daily sodium intake.
- d. Potassium replacement elixir (5 ml contains 10 mEq. of potassium as gluconate and citrate salts) to maintain constant daily potassium intake if intake of food diminishes when anoretic.
- e. Calcium gluconate tablets 500 mg if food intake diminishes when anoretic to maintain constant daily intake of calcium.
- f. Aspirin and Darvon administered orally at the discretion of the medical officer for headache. The dosage and time of administration are to be recorded.
- g. Intravenous infusions of isotonic sodium chloride and potassium will be administered if severe vomiting occurs in order to maintain electrolyte and water balance.

# Collections

#### a. Urine

each subject starting at 09:00 hours each day. Each collection d will end on 09:00 hours the following day with the subjects ag at this time and adding this specimen to the previous day's ction. The days of collection are 8 through 14 and 16 through The urine will be stored in large plastic bottles and kept under ceration at all times during collection. At the end of each our collection period, all urine collected will be frozen and will ept in this state until analysed at the USAMRNL. All specimen es will be labeled with name of subject, and the starting and ang dates of the 24-hour collection. Radioactivity labels will be ted to all 24-hour urine samples collected after the administratio ioisotopes to the subjects.

## b. Blood

(1) Plasma insulin and glucose

At 08:30 hours on days 6 and 20, 5 ml of hous blood will be drawn into fluoride-oxalate vacuum tubes. llowing oral glucose administration, similar samples will be cen at 15, 30, 45, 60, 90, 120, 240, and 300 minutes. The res will be labeled and the contents frozen. The subjects are to frain from smoking from the second principle in a smoking from the second principle is drawn.

(2) Plasma ACTH and cortisol

On days 9, 10, 13, 16, 17 and 18, venous lood will be taken at 08:45 hours. Thirty ml of blood will be rawn into a syringe containing heparin and transferred to entringe tubes and centrifuged. The plasma will be transferred opened cap glass hoes and contribute contisol and frozen. Forty ml

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one one blood will be collected through sterile plastic tubing directly into a large centrifuge tube containing heparin. The centrifuge tube will remain immersed in an ice-water bath during the collection, then immediately centrifuged at 12 degrees centigrade. The plasma will be transferred to screw-cap tubes labeled "ACTH" and frozen. All tubes will be labeled with name of subject, time and date.

3) Fifteen ml of venous blood will be taken at 15:00 hours on days 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20. Following centrifugation, the scrum will be transferred to labeled test tubes and frozen.

#### c. Feces

Feces will be collected in plastic bags on days 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

#### d. Vomitus

Any vomitus will be collected in plastic bags for analysis.

#### C. Measurements

## 1. Electrolytes

Concentrations of sodium and potassium in the diet, venous blood, stools and urine will be determined by AutoAnalyzer or flame photometry. Calcium will be measured by atomic absorption spectro-like ometry. Chloride and creatinine will be measured by the Auto-Analyzer. The thickened Subbarow method will be used for phosphate concentrations.

# 2. Nitrogen

Urinary nitrogen content will be determined by the Auto-Analyzer. The macro-Kjeldahl technique will be used for nitrogen in the diet and in the feces.

methods.

# . Glucose and insulin

Plasma glucose will be measured by AutoAnalyzer.

ma insulin will be determined by Captain J. Anderson, Metabolic

sion of the USAMRNL employing the method of Morgan and Lazarow

## 5. Steroids

- a. Plasma cortisol by the Peterson modification (33) thod of Silber and Porter (34) using the Beckman DU Spectrotometer.
- b. Total 24-hour urinary 17-ketosteroids and 17-ketogenic eroids by the Sobel (35) modification of the Norymberski method.

  as-liquid chromatography will be used to determine individual -ketosteroids.
- c. Twenty-four hour urinary aldosterone excretion y a redification of the double isotope technique of Kliman and Peterson 6) using 1,2-H<sup>3</sup>-aldosterone, 1,2-H<sup>3</sup>-tetrahydroaldosterone, and cetic-1-C<sup>14</sup> anhydride.
- d. Twenty-four/urinary cortisol excretion by the method of Erlich (37), using 1,2-H<sup>3</sup>-cortisol and acetic-!-C<sup>14</sup> anhydride.
  - 6. Plasma adrenocorticotropic hormone

ACTH levels in plasma will be determined by the method of Vernikos-Danellis (33) by means of bioassay in hypophysectomized rats.

7. Plasma and urine osmolality Osmolality Osmolality of the Fiske

- D. Radioactive Steroids as Tracers in Human Subjects
  - 1. Purification

4-C14-cortisol (specific activity SA 15-30 mc/millimole)

H<sup>3</sup>-ardosterone (SA 35 curies/millimole) obtained commercially w England Nuclear Corporation will be tested for purity by ography on three separate systems. The purified isotopes will blved in absolute ethanol, and sterilized rendering them pyrogen-Millipore filtration. The isotopes will be kept as a 10% solution hol in sterile water in a sterile, multi-dose, stoppered vial.

# 2. Dosage considerations and calculations

It has been determined that over 90% of injected radioly labeled cortisol is excreted by human subjects via the kidney
at the first 43 hours (39, 40). Furthermore, no radioactivity
be detected in the body fluids in four days (39). The biological
life of radioactive cortisol in the human bloodstream is 60 - 80
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| Similarly, over 90% of radioactive aldosterone injected
| human subjects is excreted in the urine within 48 hours (42). The
| tion of the tritium and carbon-14 labels in the steroid nucleus is
| h that the labels remain an integral part of the compound in the
| y and are excreted intact as steroid metabolites without degradation.
| This factor has enabled numerous investigators to employ these
| topically labeled steroids in clinical research without the hazards
| critical organ concentration, the random labeling of body water by
| itium, or the expiration of carbon-14 carbon dioxide in human subjects.

Based on knowledge gained from reports in the literature, one an make the safe assumption that the effective half-life (T 1/2) of hese isotopes in man is one day (an over-assumption). The total body burden would be calculated as follows: (44)

1. 4-C<sup>14</sup>-cortisol. 1 μc injected into a 70 kg man assuming total dy distribution with an effective T 1/2 of one day.

1. 4-C<sup>14</sup>-cortisol. 1 μc injected into a 70 kg man assuming total dy distribution with an effective T 1/2 of one day.

 $Eβ \approx 0.050 \text{ Mev. for } C^{14}$   $C \approx 1.0/70,000$   $T \approx 1 \text{ day}$   $Dβ \approx 73.8 \times 1.0/70,000 \times 0.050 \times 1 \text{ rads}$   $Dβ \approx 5.27 \times 10^{-5} \text{ rads}$ 

2. 1,2- $H^3$ - aldosterone. Two  $\mu c$  injected into a 70 kg man assuming total body distribution with an effective T 1/2 of one day.

 $D\beta \approx 73.8 \times C \times E\beta \times T$  rads  $E\beta \approx 0.006 \text{ Mev. for H}^3.$   $C \approx 2.0/70,000$   $T \approx 1 \text{ day}$   $D\beta \approx 72.3 \times 2.0/70,000 \times 0.006 \times 1 \text{ rads}$  $D\beta \approx 1.26 \times 10^{-5} \text{ rads}$ 

During the control period 1.0 µc of 4-C -certisol and 2.0 µc of 1,2-H -aldosterone will be injected simultaneously (6.53 x 10<sup>-5</sup> rads). This will be repeated once at high altitude the following week. The total radiation dose received by each individual will be no more than 1.3 x 10<sup>-4</sup> rads which is considerably below the limits generally agreed upon for an internal emitter - approximately 0.1 rem per week (5 rem per year).

3. Monitoring radioactivity

During the experimental studies, after the administration of radioisotopes all excreta will be collected until levels of radio-activity are equal to background levels. All radioactive waste will be disposed of by the Radioisotope Section of the USAMRNL as outlined in "Procedures for Use of Radioactive Material" (See Appendix E Application for Renewal and Amendment to AEC Byproduct Material License No. 5-46-13 (A66) dated June 1966). Periodic wipes will be

taken of all areas for possible contamination and counted by means of a liquid scintillation counter.

All rules, regulations and limitations set forth by Army AEC and local authorities, including those embodied in AR 70-25; AR 40-37; Title 10, Part 20, Code of Federal Regulations "Standards for Protection Against Radiation"; and Handbook 69 of the National Bureau of Standards will be complied with.

Enclosed and attached to this protocol is the Voluntary Consent Statement relating to the intravenous administration of radioisotopically labeled steroid compounds as tracers. (See Appendix I)

- 4. Determination of the Secretory Rates of Cortisol and Aldosterone
  - a. Cortisol secretion rate.

The cortisol secretion rate will be determined by the method of Roginsky, et al. (45) from the combined 48-hour urine collection following isotope injection

b. Aldosterone secretion rate

This will be determined by the method of Kelly, et al. (46) using the double isotope derivative method.

#### V. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The study will be the responsibility of the Physiology Division of USAMRNL.
- B. The personnel and their responsibilities will be assigned as follows:
- 1. Captain A. H. Janoski, MC: Project leader; responsible medical officer.
  - 2. John P. Hannon, Ph. D.: Project Co-leader.
  - 3. J. L. Shields, Ph. D.: Project Co-leader.

- 4. Captain R. P. Carson, MC: Medical Officer
- 5. Captain B. Whitten, MSC: Administrative officer
- 6. George J. Klian, Ph.D.: Technical supervisor
- 7. Major C. G. Liddle, V. C.: Radiation officer
- 8. One NCOIC: Subject control and dietary supervisor
- 9. Four enlisted military technicians
- 10. Two civilian technicians
- C. Continuous physician coverage during the study will be the responsibility of Captains A.H. Janoski and R.P. Carson of the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

# D. Cost

l.	Equipment	800.00
2.	Chemicals, including solvents	\$4,000.00
3.	Per diem for subjects	210.00
4.	Travel for subjects	1,500.00
5.	Diet for subjects	500.00
6.	Air freight (samples collected during study)	700.00
7.	Class A Funds	600.00
8.	Travel for project personnel (7 investigators, 5 enlisted men, 2 civilians). Includes one round trip to Seattle	2,100.00
9.	Rental truck for equipment (30 days)	900.00
10.	GSA vehicles (2 for 21 days) Lab rats for bioassay (250 rats)	400.00 800.00
12.	Per diem for investigators	2,400.00
13	Per diem for enlisted men	•
	a. Sea level site - 14 days (government quarters available, government mess not available).	560.00

14.	Per diem for civilian technicians (21 days)	\$672.00
15.	Three investigators' per diem for three-day site survey	144.00
16.	Three investigators' travel to Seattle for site survey (3 round trips)	450.00
17.	Additional per diem for 3 investigators for four days at sea level site to set up study	192.00
18.	Additional per diem for 4 enlisted men for four days at sea level site to set up study (government quarters available; government mess not available)	128.00
19.	Miscellaneous expendable items	\$1,200.00
	Total	\$18,816.00

# E. Miscellaneous

Since the final approval by the AEC for the use of isotopes in human studies rests on the approval of the protocol and definite site selection for sea level studies, it is requested that final action on this protocol be no later than 5 June 1967. If the protocol is approved at this time, application would then be made to the AEC for action on the license amendment. Furthermore, final action on the protocol at this date would enable the investigators to prepare the isotopes for human administration and to obtain the necessary chemical supplies for the field study.

# F. Additional Information

See Appendix Land Appendix Hi

A. H. JANOSKI Captain, MC

# APPENDIN I

VOLUNTARY	CONSENT	STATEMENT
ACFOLATMY	COMPENS	215/1FMF141

Military	Military Patient	Civilian	Civilian Patient
i,		, having th	he capacity to consent,
			n research involving the use
of tracer amoun	nts of radioisotopes. I hav	ve been informed of, a	and understand, the nature,
duration, and p	ourpose of the experiment,	, the method and mean	ns by which it is to be conducted
the inconvenier	nces and hazards to be exp	pected, and the effect	s upon my health and person
which may poss	ibly come from participat	ion in the experiment.	
Specifically	y, Lagree to receive or	ivenously) ally ) a small qua	ntity of
		•	. I also agree to furnish
			able radioactivity is present
and submit to m	neasurements of expired go	ises if Carbon-14 has t	een received.
1 understand	d that I may at any time d	uring the course of the	e experiment revoke my consent
and withdraw fr	rom the experiment withou	st prejudice.	
I do not at t	this time have any physica	al diseases, except for	the following
		lisease, to the best of	
وسياده ومساودت ويرسم وترسوسي		•	
DATE		SIGNATURE	
	: .		
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	- S	IGNATURE OF WITN	ESS
	<b>S</b>	IGNATURE OF WITN	ESS
	S API	IGNATURE OF WITH	ESS
	API	PROVAL	ESS  ing consent is sufficient to
•	API	PROVAL:	
•	API	PROVAL:	
•	API onally ascertained that the nteer to participate in the	PROVAL:	ing coment is sufficient to

## APPENDIX II

## SUBJECT STATEMENT

Dato	

I voluntarily agree to participate as a subject in the asperiment to be conducted an high altitude. I am aware that I may withdraw from the experiment as any time without projudice or penalty of any kind. It has been explained to me that constant medical supervision will be maintained and that neither the exposure to high altitude now the experimental techniques used in this study are unduly heardone. I realize that in some subjects the high altitude may cause any or all of the following symptome: dryness of the mouth and more, excitement, blurring of vision, disciness, tiredness, tremer, lack of appetite, mild examps, thirst, confusion, a conse of well-being, classiness, muscular achee, ringing in my case, pauses, runny nose, headache, hunger, slesplaseness, coughing, rapid heart best, check pains, fatigue, constigution, fover, muscular stiffness, stemach ache, tichles or execute.

The values and perpose of the experiment have been explained to me and I sign this contenant fully understanding the project, may hazards connected with it, and my rights.

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JANOSKI, Alfonso H., Captain, Medical Corps, Physiology Division, U. S. Army Medical Research & Nutrition Laboratory

Date and Place

of Birth:

3 November 1935

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Wife:

Jane Stewart

Children:

Stephen Gregory

Education:

BA, Seton Hall University South Orange, N. J. 1957 MD, Columbia University, N.Y.

1961

Experience:

Internship, Bellevue Hos-

pital, Columbia (First)

Medical Division 1st & 2nd year Medical Residencies, Bellevue

Hospital

Visiting Fellow in Medicine (endocrinology), Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York

1964-66

Publications:

Two

Hobbies:

Photography, hunting, fishing

Member of:

Harvey Society of New York

American Association for Advancement of Science

New York County Medical Society

Form AEC-313 a (1C-6)

United States Atomic Energy Commission

APPLICATION FOR BYPHOSPICT MATERIAL LICENSE SUPPLEMENT A-HUMAN USE

form approved Budget Zurasu Nu. 38-Rûdün

PAGE 3

This page may be completed by the physician's preceptor (if any) in the medical use of radioisotopes. When the intermedian is not furnished by the proceptor, the name and present address of the proceptor (if any) should be shown in item 12 below.

9. (a) USING PHYSICIAN'S MAIAS

(b) MANS AND ADDIESS OF ATTUCANT (It different from P(u))

Alfonso H. Janoski Capt MC USAMRNL

Denver, Colo. 80240

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE OF PHYSICIAN WHO WILL USE BYPRODUCT MATERIAL

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Key to above numbers (column D)

Active Participation and Discussion in the:

1. Examination of patients to determine suitability for radiocatope diagnosis and/or treatment and recommendations on desage to be prescribed.

2. Collaboration in calibration and administration of designs including related measurements and platting of data.

3. Active period of training and experience of sufficient duration to permit followup of patients through treatment and posttreatment period including reavaluation as to effectiveness and complications.

4. Study and discussion of case histories to establish most efficacious diagnostic and/or therapeutic techniques for this radioisatope use.

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11.	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF PARTICIPATION IN CUINICAL	TZAP II. IG Faun

Dr Sergei Feitelberg - ht Sinai nospaller icrk; Dr Sidney Werner - Columbia-Presbyterian Med Center N.Y.; Dr Nicholas P. Christy - Roosevelt cospilal, A

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