# DEPARTMENT OF MINES SOUTH AUSTRALIA

# GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ENGINEERING DIVISION

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
TARCOOLA - ALICE SPRINGS RAILWAY
REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY GROUNDWATER
BORING, N.T. BORDER - ALICE SPRINGS

Progress Report No. 9.

by

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Geologist
Engineering Services Section

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Rept.Bk.No. 77/12 G.S. No. 5841 Eng. No. 76-66 D.M. No. 329/75 Pt. II.

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#### SUMMARY

Six water bores were put down to a cumulative depth of 424 m between the N.T. border and Alice Springs, at sites nominated by the N.T. Water Resources Branch. Successful wells were completed at C58, C177 and C189 km, and preliminary indicated yields vary between 900 and 5000 g.p.h. (1.1 to 3.8 l/sec). Salinity is in the range 1000 - 20 000 mg/l.

#### INTRODUCTION

Following a request, dated 6th September 1976, from the Water Resources Branch of the Dept of Northern Australia (acting on behalf of Australian National Railways) 6 groundwater bores were drilled between the Northern Territory border and Alice Springs, along the proposed alignment of the Tarcoola-Alice Springs Railway. This will constitute the fourth, and final, tender section of the railway, between about 562 and 850 km north from Tarcoola (CO km - C270 km).

This drilling supplements work carried out earlier by the Water Resources Branch (W.R.B.). In the present program sites were selected by Mr. R.E. Read of the W.R.B., and drilled by the S.A. Mines Department. Drilling commenced on November 9, 1976 and was completed on December 9; a rotary and a cable tool rig were employed. Of the 6 holes, three (C58, C177 and C189)

were completed as production wells, and the rest were abandoned and backfilled.

Successful wells were airlifted to establish approximate yield, and pump testing is to be carried out at a later date by the W.R.B. Well salinity was estimated using a portable conductivity meter, and samples submitted to the W.R.B. for full analysis.

A Summary of Well Data is presented in Table I.

### Table I

### SUMMARY OF WELL DATA

Bore No.	Depth (m)	Airlifted Yield(gph)	Approx. Salinity	Drilling <u>Method</u>	Status
C58	124	900	19500	DHH	PW
C125	11	<b>-</b>	15000	CT	AB
C145	120	50	-	CT,DHH	AB
C160	20	dry	-	DHH	AB
C177	81	3000	1670	DHH	PW
C189	68	1500	1080	DHH	PW

## Abbreviations

DHH Downhole Hammer (rotary)

CT Cable Tool

PW Production Well (hole cased and developed)

AB Hole abandoned and backfilled due to poor yield or high salinity.

### NOTE

- (1) Yield based on airlifting only, and is not necessarily the recommended pumping rate, which may be higher or lower depending on the results of future pump testing.
- (2) Salinity is approximately only, based on field conductivity tests. All production wells have been sampled for laboratory analysis.

#### DRILLING METHODS

Both cable tool and rotary techniques were used, the latter with rather more success. The rotary rig was a truck-mounted Mayhew 1000 equipped with a Megadrill Direct Mining (or "downhole") hammer. Air was supplied to the hammer at 700 c.f.m. and 250 p.s.i. by a Holman Compressor. A Ruston 22W Cable tool rig was used to supplement the rotary plant, and for boring in unconsolidated materials which could jam or bury the downhole hammer.

## C58

Borehole C58 was originally rotary drilled to 68 m, but had to be abandoned after a tricone bit fragmented at the base of the hole. The rig was shifted about 6 m and the hole redrilled successfully to 124 m.

## C125

This hole was put down by a cabletool rig on the north bank of the Finke River. Intended as a source of concrete water, the bore was abandoned at 11 m after groundwater was found to be saline (measured as 15 000 mg/l on a field conductivity meter).

# C145

Located a few metres south of the Idracowra/Palmer Valley boundary fence, C145 was initially drilled to 96 m by the cable tool plant, then extended to 120 m by rotary. On airlifting the yield was found to be very poor - about 50 g.p.h. of thin mud - so the hole was abandoned.

# C160

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C160 was rotary drilled to 20 m, and discontinued after repeated caving by loose dry sand threatened to bury the down-hole hammer. It is possible that this site could be productive at depth, but for any further drilling a cable-tool rig is recommended.

## C177

Borehole C177 is located about 9 km south of the Hugh River, and was rotary drilled in the Jay Creek Limestone - here dominantly a shaley unit. About 3000 g.p.h. of fair camp-quality water was airlifted, and the hole completed as a production well.

## C189

C189 is similar to C177 in quality, though somewhat less productive (1500 g.p.h. airlifted). It was rotary drilled to 68 m, and completed as a production well.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Bernd Weber of the N.T. Mines Branch and Bob Read of the Water Resources Branch for assistance in the field during this drilling program. The drilling was carried out by Senior Drillers W.J. Boyd (rotary) and L.A. Hausler (Cable tool), and particular thanks are due to them and their crews for their efficient work in trying summer conditions.

G.H. McNally

GEOLOGIST

APPENDIX - BORE LOGS

DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA PROJECT: TARCOOLA-ALICE SPRINGS ENGINEERING DIVISION UNIT												_		
				RAILW		or manual	BORE LOG			UNITY	31 M.	1 6 14	<b>.</b>	
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	2 6 Dark pink to light brown silty m.f. SAND with a little coarse sand and up to 20% of cemented sand											00		
O 2 Orange-brown slightly silty medium/fine SAND.  Dark pink to light brown silty:m.f. SAND with a little coarse sand and up to 20% of cemented sand fragments (silcrete) and white calcrete nodules.  Dark red-brown, with spots and streaks of grey-green, very stiff to hard fine sandy fissured CLAY (or clay-shale). Grades downwards into SHALE, with some siltstone present. Abundant fine biotite mica present.									um.	ocene	, G.L.		- Industrial	
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DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION HOLE NO. C58 UNIT/STATE NO: **BORE LOG** PROJECT: CONTINUATION SHEET WATER LEVEL WATERS CUT HOLE Dia. DEPTH m CASING GRAPHIC LOG UNIT CORE GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE DEPTH (m) սիլունուրուրույում ուրավորակարակարավումուհուրակարևութերի հայտահարհարակարհարակարհայակարակարակարակարակարակարհարա 15 6 100 Dark red-brown CLAY and SHALE, as above. Bend Horseshoe SHEET ... 2 OF ...6...

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PROJEC	Т:		BORE LOG CONTINUATION SHEET			<del> </del>		
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DEPARTMENT OF MINES - SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION HOLE NO. C58 UNIT/STATE NO: **BORE LOG** PROJECT: CONTINUATION SHEET WATER LEVEL NATERS CU HOLE Dia. DEPTH m GRAPHIC LOG AGE A GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE CORE DEPTH (m) սիունույնումարիանակամավայնականականումական և հայտարականականականական արախանակարհականականականականականականականական 6 100 Dark red-brown CLAY and SHALE, as above. 100 111 Fine sandy SHALE, as above, but fresher, stronger and dominantly grey-green rather than red-brown. Some siltstone and a few chips of orange fine sandstone, Sho Horse 1020 111 124 Light red-brown with white specks medium SANDSTONE. Sand is 75% quartz, 25% felspar. About 10% of chips are dark red-brown and grey siltstone (from above?). gra ç SHEET...5 of ..6...

PROJECT			DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION  BORE LOG		<del> </del>	HOL		D. TE NO	C58	}
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DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA PROJECT: TARCOOLA-ALICE SPRINGS RAILWAY DIVISION HOLE NO. C125 UNIT/STATE NO: **BORE LOG** LOCATION OR CO-ORDS: SERIAL NO: EL Surface FOLDER NO. EL ref. point Datum HD. SEC. TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS SUPPLY DEPTH TO DEPTH TO Method of test milligrammes/litre Analysis W. NO. •m³/day STANDING WATER (m) WATER CUT (m) tested not tested about 7.0 5.0 15 000 on site WATER LEVEL WATERS CUT CASING HOLE Dia. DEPTH m DEPTH (m) AGE FIN CORE 507 GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE 11 Light red-brown silty medium and fine quartz SAND with a little gravel. Coarse gravel (cobbles?) 7-8 m. Alluviam 0 d 10 END OF HOLE, 11,0 m. ակավարկակակակակա LOGGED BY: GHMCN DRILL TYPE C.T. \*NOTE: 1000 gals./hr. == 110 m3/day DATE: 17.11.76 CIRCULATION: REMARKS Located about 120 m NE of C125 km peg, north bank of Finke River. Abandoned and backfilled START:: 9,11.76 TRACED BY: due to saline water. FINISH: 11.11.76 DATE: of 1SHEET.

PROJECT: TARCOOLA-ALICE SPRINGS RAILWAYENGINEERING DIVISION C145 HOLE NO. UNIT/STATE NO: **BORE LOG** LOCATION OR CO-ORDS: SERIAL NO: EL Surface FOLDER NO. EL ref. point Datum SEC. HD. TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS SUPPLY DEPTH TO DEPTH TO milligrammes/litre Analysis W. NO. •m³/day Method of test STANDING WATER (m) WATER CUT (m) 39.0 airlifted not tested 64 approx. 50 g.p.h. WATER LEVEL WATERS CUT CASING HOLE Dia CORE GRAPHIC DEPTH ( DEPTH (m) AGE ဗ္ GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE Light brown SAND and sandy CLAY, with fine 5 0 silcrete and siltstone grit. rertiary 5 Red-brown stiff silty CLAY with traces of 120 5 sand (weathered shale). Formation Proterozoic LOGGED BY GHMCN DRILL TYPE \*NOTE: 1000 gals./hr. = 110 m3/day CIRCULATION: DATE: REMARKS Located about 100 m W of C145 km peg. Originally drilled to 96 m by cable tool, START: 14.11.76 TRACED BY: deepened to 120 m by rotary-percussion. 7.12.76 DATE: FINISH: Abandoned due to poor yield. of ..6 SHEET. 1

DEPARTMENT OF MINES -- SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION HOLE NO. C145 UNIT/STATE NO: **BORE LOG** PROJECT: CONTINUATION SHEET WATERS CUT CASING HOLE Dia GRAPHIC LOG FIND AGE CORE GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE DEPTH (m) Red-brown silty CLAY, as above. 5 120 of 6 .... SHEET ... 2

DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION HOLE NO. C145 UNIT/STATE NO: **BORE LOG** PROJECT: CONTINUATION SHEET WATER LEVEL WATERS CUT CASING HOLE Dia DEPTH m GRAPHIC LOG AGE CORE GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE DEPTH (m) 40 120 5 Red-brown silty CLAY, as above. Intact bailer sample of moist redbrown to brown mottled clay, with about 3% ironstone grit (to 3 mm). The clay is stiff and easily bored. SHEET...3. of 6.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION

BORE LOG

HOLE NO. C145

UNIT/STATE NO:

PROJ	ECT	<b>'</b> ;		BORE LOG CONTINUATION SHEET	<u></u>	· <del>,</del>	<del>, , '</del>	<del></del>	
DEPTH m	CORE	GRAPHIC	DEPTH (m)	GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE	TINO	AGE	CASING	WATERS CUT	WATER LEVEL
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DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION HOLE NO. C145 UNIT/STATE NO: **BORE LOG** PROJECT: CONTINUATION SHEET WATER LEVEL WATERS CUT CASING HOLE Dia. DEPTH m CORE GRAPHIC LOG UNIT GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE DEPTH (m) Red-brown silty CLAY, as above. 5 120 Pertataka SHEET. 5.... of 6....

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PROJECT	<b>`</b> :			BORE LOG CONTINUATION SHEET	U	NIT/	STA	ATE (	NO:	
DEPTH m	GRAPHIC LOG	from	DEPTH (m)	GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE		UNIT	AGE	CASING	WATERS CUT	WATER LEVEL
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TARCOOLA-ALICE SPRINGS RAILWAY GINEERING DIVISION HOLE NO. C160 PROJECT: UNIT/STATE NO: **BORE LOG** LOCATION OR CO-ORDS: SERIAL NO: EL Surface FOLDER NO. EL ref. point HD. Datum SEC. TOTAL DISSOLVED SOLIDS SUPPLY DEPTH TO DEPTH TO Analysis W. NO. •m³/day Method of test milligrammes/litre WATER CUT (m) STANDING WATER (m) dry WATER LEVEL CASING HOLE DIA. GRAPHIC LOG DEPTH DEPTH (m) AGE FIN T GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE <u>, մայրակամիակականուհակարությունուհայանակար</u> prent 2 0 Bright orange silty m.f. quartz SAND, weakly cemented in places. ٥Z 2 4 Light pinkish brown c.m.f. quartz SAND, weakly cemented in places. 8 Light dirty yellow clear m.f. SAND with 3% of angular sandstone chips. As 4-8 m, with 10-15% dry grey clay fragments 10 (clay apparently present as partings, not as matrix). 10 10 12 As 8-10 m, slightly pinkish, clay 5%. Light brown silty m.f. quartz SAND with 10% 12 14 sandstone chips. 14 Light pinkish brown loose clean m.f. SAND with 16 5-10% clay pellets. LOGGED BYGHMCN \*NOTE: 1000 gals./hr. = 110 m3/day DRILL TYPE DHH CIRCULATION: Air DATE: 6.12.76 REMARKS Located about 60 m E of C160 km peg. Abandoned and backfilled due to caving START: 4.12.76 TRACED BY: of loose sand at 20 m. FINISH: ; 4.12.76 DATE: 1 of .. 2 SHEET ....

DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION HOLE NO. C160 UNIT/STATE NO: **BORE LOG** PROJECT: CONTINUATION SHEET WATER LEVEL WATERS CU HOLE Dia. DEPTH m CASING GRAPHIC LOG UNIT CORE GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE DEPTH (m) 15 14 16 Light brown clean SAND, as above. Very loose, light dirty yellow c.m.f. quartz SAND. No fines, no rock fragments. NO SAMPLE 20 16 ertiary TAKEN. 18-20:m. 20 Մադես իայլակայացույն արարակայացություն արարակայացույն իայլակայացույն արարակայացույն արարակայացույն արարակայացու END OF HOLE, 20.0 m-

SHEET .. 2...

of 2...

ROJECT: TARCOOLA-ALICE SPRINGS RAILWAYNGINEERING DIVISION  DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA  HOLE NO. C177  UNIT/STATE NO:												
LOCATION OR CO ORDS		BORE LOG										
LOCATION OR CO-ORDS:	EL Surface	•		SERIAL								
SEC. HD.	EL ref. point	Datum	TOTAL DI	FOLDE								
DEPTH TO DEPTH TO	*m³/day	. SUPPLY  Method of test	milligrammes/litre	330242	Analysis							
WATER CUT (m) STANDING WATER (m)	An Juay	Medico di tast										
<b>42.1</b> m	3 000 g;p;h (3,8 1/sec)	. Airlifted, 1 hour	approx. 1 670		ed son							
HOLE Dia.  DEPTH m CORE GRAPHIC LOG LOG (w) HAdad		GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE		TINO	AGE	WATER LEVEL						
1 81 L c 1 1 5 L c 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	alcareous SHA-4 m, mostly -4 m, red-bro -7 m, white 1 -10 m, dark r	ight grey-green and dark ALE with bands of muddy light grey limestone. own shale.	limestone.	Jay Creek Limestone	150 mm I.D. welded casing, G.L - 11.2m	ևուիույիուրուրուրարարարևակարևակարևակարևակարևակարևակարևա						
*NOTE	1000 gals./hr. == 110 m²/day		DRILL TYPE DHH			GHMcN						
REMARKS Located about 10 Completed produc		7 km peg.	START: 2.12.76 FINISH: 4.12.76 SHEET	DAT	CED BY							

DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION HOLE NO. C177 UNIT/STATE NO: BORE LOG PROJECT: CONTINUATION SHEET WATERS CUT CASING HOLE Dis GRAPHIC LOG AGE GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE CORE DEPTH (m) Calcareous SHALE with limestone bands, as above. 81 14-18 m, mostly white/light grey limestone. 18-20 m, dark red-brown shale, non-calcareous. 20-22 m, white/light grey/red-brown shale 22-24 m. dark red-brown shale. 24-26 m, white/light grey/red-brown shale. 26-28 m, mostly white to light grey shale, slightly calcareous. ひとし 28-32 m, mostly red-brown, with minor white shale. Q 32-37 m. as above, light grey shale predominant. 37-40 m, purplish red-brown shale. of 4. SHEET ... 2.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION C177 HOLE NO. UNIT/STATE NO: BORE LOG PROJECT: CONTINUATION SHEET WATER LEVEL WATERS CUT CASING HOLE Dia GRAPHIC LOG FIN AGE GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE CORE DEPTH (m) 40 Calcareous SHALE with limestone bands, as above 81 1 40-42 m, light grey, white, dark red-brown shale 42-50 m, dark purple-brown shale, slightly to non-cal careous 0 50-56 m, mostly purple-brown as above, with 10% white shale fragments. 9 E 56-58 m, white, pink and light grey calcareous shale. 58-60 m, dark purple shale 60-64 m, dark purplish red-brown shale with 10% light grey.

SHEET ... 3 ...

OF4....

DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION

PROJECT:

# **BORE LOG**

DOME LOC

HOLE NO. C177

UNIT/STATE NO:

CONTINUATION SHEET HOLE Dia WATER LEVEL WATERS CUT GRAPHIC LOG UNIT GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE DEPTH (m) 1 81 Calcareous SHALE with limestone bands, as above. 64-74 m, dark red-brown shale. 74-78 m, dark purple, white and grey shale, with large fragments of white limestone (to 60 m) 78-80 m, dark purple shale 80-81 m, large fragments (60 mm) of light grey and off-white limestone with shale laminae. Porous (5-10%). minghatadan batadan katadan harambarah OF HOLE, 81.0m 5 . . j e. SHEET....4 OF 4....

PROJECT: TARCOOLA-ALICE SPRINGS RAILWAYENGINEERING DIVISION  HOLE NO. C										
1	ATION OR				BORE LOG		UNIT/STATE NO:			
SEC.				EL Surface	e j		SERIAL NO:			
SEC.	DEPTH TO	HD.	рерти то	EL ref. point	Datum SUPPLY	TOTAL DI	FOLDER NO.			
v	VATER CUT		STANDING WAT		Method of test	milligrammes/litre	Analysis W. NO.			
1										
26	5-52		1 <b>6.</b> 6	1 500 :g;p;h. (1.9 1/sec)	airlifted, 1 ho	ur approx. 1 080	tested on site			
HOLE Dia.	CORE	g from	DEPTH (m)		GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAM	1PLE	UNIT AGE CASING WATER LEVEL			
		01.	8 13	Bright orange n Yellowish white consists of ver sandstone chips	medium/fine SAND, si weathered fine SAN ry silty fine sand w	lightly silty. NDSTONE. Sample with 5% of fine	Drift Recent			
ق material material							Silurian (?) - Devonian  Mereenie Sondstone Recent  [150mm O.D. threaded casing , G.L 12.75m			
g ամարկայացուն		13	<b>33</b>	chips increasing	TONE as above, propo g to 10-20%. Light	ortion of rock grey colour.	15			
REMA	RKS	Loc pro	7	NOTE: 1000 gals./hr. = 110 m²/day  M E of C189.2 km	. Completed	DRILL TYPE DHH CIRCULATION: Air START: 8.12.76 FINISH: 9.12.76 SHEET	DATE: 9.12.76 TRACED BY: DATE:			

			DEPARTMENT OF MINES — SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION						
OJECT	<b>:</b>		BORE LOG  CONTINUATION SHEET						
CORE	GRAPHIC LOG	from	DEPTH (m)	GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE	Fini	AGE	CASING	WATERS CUT	WATER LEVEL
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	• • •								
	· ·	33	46	Orange and light grey fine SANDSTONE, as above		3			
	•			(orange colour may be due to washing down from 0-2 m).				-	<u> </u>
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					SHEET	2		OF .	

DEPARTMENT OF MINES - SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION HOLE NO. C189 UNIT/STATE NO: BORE LOG PROJECT: CONTINUATION SHEET WATERS CUT HOLE DIA CASING GRAPHIC LOG AGE LIND CORE GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE DEPTH (m) սիութակամավագեպիակավարկակարարակակարակարակարակարակարությունութակարութակարակարակարակարակարակարակարակարակար 46 33 Orange and light grey fine SANDSTONE, as above. Mainly light grey, fine SANDSTONE. Fresh t slightly weathered. Chips 50% + of sample, 46 68 Fresh to light to dark grey and dark purple-brown fine, quartz sandstone. Sand 9 Merceni of ...4... SHEET. 3...

	<del></del>			DEPARTMENT OF MINES - SOUTH AUSTRALIA ENGINEERING DIVISION			NO.			-
PRO	OJECT	Γ;		BORE LOG	L				<del></del>	
•	1			CONTINUATION SHEET			(1)	F D	EVEL	
HOLE Dia	CORE	GRAPHIC LOG	DEPTH (m) to	GEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLE		AGE	CASING	WATERS CUT	WATER	
65			46 68	Light grey fine SANDSTONE, as above.			<u> </u>			
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	արտիահայարարությունությունությունությանությունությունությունությունությունությունությունությ									=
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