

LODEOM DEVICE

THE HOPE OF PUTTING AN END TO THE QUESTIONING



In the style of Martin Parr ... the exhibition that questions

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Risk of War: Air France Increases Freight Prices

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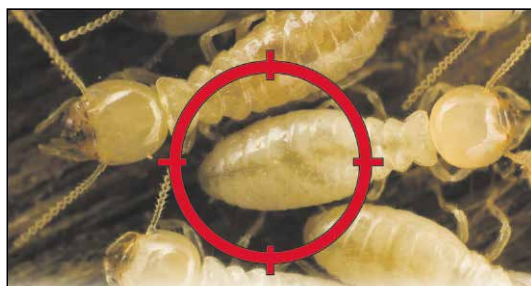
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LODEOM : the hope of putting an end to the questioning

On the ground, a Senate mission is evaluating the LODEOM system. Highly anticipated, the upcoming report could influence government decisions and help secure a mechanism deemed essential for the island's competitiveness.

A social security evaluation and control mission (MECSS) decided on December 17, 2025, to conduct an audit on the exemptions from contributions arising from the law for the economic development of overseas territories (the so-called «LODEOM» system). On January 21, 2026, it appointed Élisabeth Doineau (Union Centriste group, senator from Mayenne) as the general rapporteur, and Solanges Nadille (Rassemblement des Démocrates, Progressistes et Indépendants group, senator from Guadeloupe) as co-rapporteur for this audit. Both were present on the territory this week alongside Annick Pétrus, senator from Saint-Martin, who had ardently wished for this trip so that the realities of the territory would be fully taken into account.

WHY THIS AUDIT?

The LODEOM system costs approximately 1.5 billion euros, of which 0.7 billion euros corresponds to its additional cost compared to standard contribution reductions. For the past two years, attempts at reform within the framework of social security financing bills have sparked significant reactions from overseas senators, deeming this «sawing» logic uncoordinated and potentially jeopardizing the economic stability of certain territories. The available evaluation work, often partial, is also contradictory. Under these conditions, the MECSS wished to undertake a thorough examination of this system and make it less complex. The objective, beyond the necessary reform, is to establish a



Annick Pétrus, Senator of Saint-Martin, Solanges Nadille co-rapporteur, and Élisabeth Doineau, general rapporteur of the evaluation and control mission of social security.

diagnosis to better understand the value of the system in each territory, taking into account its specificities. The mission will therefore strive to present the main conceivable scenarios, indicating their advantages and disadvantages, in a «toolbox» logic. All overseas territories are subject to this audit via videoconference, except for Saint-Martin, which is the subject of in-person meetings. An important trip, because as Élisabeth Doineau points out, in mainland France, far removed from the realities on the ground, senators tend to treat everyone the same, whereas it is unthinkable to address all territories in the same manner.

WHAT ARE THE STAKES FOR SAINT-MARTIN?

The concerned economic stakeholders received a very targeted questionnaire in advance to prepare for the questions posed by the mission. On-site, the three senators met with the services of the Collectivity and the President, the services of the Prefecture and the Prefect, the president of MEDEF - FIPCOM of Saint-Martin, members of CCISM, as well as collection agencies and trade union organizations or business federations. These meetings were all the more important as the territory still lacks statistical data and, to date, it is impossible to estimate the impact of a reduction, even by a few percent, on businesses. In the perspective of establishing a differentiated logic based on the issues and structural difficulties faced by the concerned territories, this allowed them to gather, at the source, information on the economic development of the island.

In Saint-Martin, the double insularity, a legacy still very visible from the 2017 crisis, an economy that relies on small and medium-sized enterprises, the direct competition from the Dutch side or indirect competition from Caribbean islands where labor costs are much lower, make the LODEOM essential, without which businesses would no longer be competitive. The risk in case of elimination, Annick Pétrus reminds us, is that there would be a flight of businesses to the south of the island. The LODEOM is not ancillary; it is necessary because the needs it addressed at its inception are still relevant today.

The report and its conclusions will be presented at the end of May to the MECSS, then to the Senate's social affairs committee, a report that is as close to reality as possible and can significantly influence the final decision to be made by the government and on which the mission announced by the Minister of Overseas should rely. All of this takes time, but it is the economic future of the island that is at stake in the long term. Because, for the coming year, let us wager that no candidate in the presidential election will dare to touch the LODEOM. **AB**

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On December 14, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 77/161, proclaiming March 30 as «International Zero Waste Day.» It aims to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, support societal change towards circularity, and raise awareness of how zero waste initiatives contribute to sustainable development.



Unsustainable production and consumption practices that continue to prevail today have a devastating effect on the planet. Households, small businesses, and public service providers generate between 2.1 and 2.3 billion tons of municipal waste each year (packaging, electronic products, plastics, food items...).

Consumers could significantly reduce their environmental impact by opting for reuse, repair, and recycling or simply by abandoning «fast fashion» to preserve the resources of our planet.

On the occasion of International Zero Waste Day, the Clean St Martin association is organizing its eco-citizen cleanup this Sunday, March 29, from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, in partnership with the Nature Reserve. This new mission, at the Embouchure Bay (southern part of Galion), is accessible to all, including children (a great opportunity to raise their awareness!). Please bring a water bottle (now is the time to ditch the plastic bottle), good sun protection, closed shoes, and gloves. The meeting point is on the path leading to the beach (after the Surf Club junction, straight for 50 m).

A photograph showing a man and a woman sitting on a red wooden bench in a public area. The man, wearing a flat cap and a green jacket, is holding a cigarette. The woman, wearing a floral dress, is also holding a cigarette. To their left, a shopping cart is overflowing with trash, including plastic bags and crumpled paper. The ground around the bench is littered with various pieces of trash, including plastic cups and paper. In the background, a woman in a light blue shirt stands pointing towards the right. The scene is set against a building with a metal mesh fence and a clear sky.

Martin Parr, a British photographer regarded as one of the masters of vernacular photography, has created a striking portrait of the imbalances of the planet and our lifestyles. The excesses and ravages of mass tourism, the dominance of the car, technological dependencies, consumerist frenzy, junk food... his seemingly light-hearted photos are, in reality, our reality, that of a world in decline. He highlights the grotesque in the mundane and offers through his images a satire of contemporary life with all its excesses. Based on these observations and the work of the photographer, the students of the Daniella Jeffry vocational high school present an original and modern reflection on their island. Their exhibition will be held on Wednesday, April 1st from 5 PM to 7 PM in the hall of the Collectivity of Saint Martin (rue de la mairie in Marigot) and will be open to the public until April 24th.

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An Airbus named Grand Case

Although the airline’s planes do not land at the airport on the French side, Saint-Martin benefits from a symbolic tribute. An Air France Airbus A320 now bears the name «Grand Case.»

The first vice president of the Collectivity, Alain Richardson, welcomed last Wednesday the regional director of Air France-KLM, Lionel Rault, accompanied by the station manager at Princess Juliana Airport, Alcide Richardson. The representatives of the company came to officially announce this to the local authorities. The Airbus A320 registered F-GKXQ, recently out of the paint shop, now displays the name «Grand Case» on its fuselage, in tribute to the territory of Saint Martin. This initiative is part of the tradition revived by Air France since 2019, which consists of naming each of its aircraft after a city or place. With a capacity of 174 passengers, the A320 «Grand Case» is primarily assigned to regional routes from Paris-Charles de



Gaulle to major French and European cities. First vice president Alain Richardson praised this initiative, thanking Air France for this gesture of attention towards the territory and the neighborhood of Grand Case.

Air Transport: Air France-KLM Cargo Increases freight rates due to War Risk

The Air France-KLM group announced an increase in its «war risk» surcharge (code XD), amid a rapid deterioration of the situation in the Middle East. An increase justified by a «greater than expected operational impact.»

On March 9, Air France-KLM announced to its customers that it would implement a war surcharge (code OC: XD) effective March 24. Even before this comes into effect, the group announces that the tax remains valid but that an increase is planned starting March 25! This higher rate now applies immediately to all shipments and on a revised scope; in clear terms, it was initially planned for certain routes, but now it concerns all destinations.

The increase is justified by the growing impact of geopolitical tensions on air operations, namely «increased flight diversions, fuel price volatility, and rising aviation-related costs that significantly affect the cost of maintaining the network and the reliability of schedules.» Specifically for businesses in Saint Martin, it will cost them €0.10 per kilo on goods transported on passenger flights and €0.45 per kilo on those arriving by cargo plane. The group specifies that this surcharge remains temporary and directly linked to the current situation. It will be subject to regular monitoring and may be adjusted based on the evolution of the context. The management of Air France-KLM concludes



its letter with sincere thanks, wishes for the understanding of its customers, and hopes to maintain their trust... but in a territory entirely dependent on imports, do we really have a choice? There is no point in multiplying grand speeches about the fight against the high cost of living if, at the same time, one takes back with one hand what has been granted with the other.

After seeing prices soar amid crises, one can legitimately wonder: are these increases really linked to events occurring at the other end of the world... or are they simply a matter of abuse?

A.B





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Haiti: 800 Chadian soldiers deployed to fight against gangs

According to a report published on March 24 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, at least 5,519 people have been killed and 2,608 injured between March 1, 2025, and January 15, 2026, in Haiti. The capital, Port-au-Prince, and a large part of the country remain under the control of gangs, whose influence has increased since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021.



The majority of the victims are linked to operations conducted against gangs by security forces, as well as self-defense groups and private military companies, some using drones and aerial strikes. The UN mentions violence that could be classified as “targeted killings.” To support the fight against gangs, Chad will deploy approximately 800 soldiers, previously trained in urban combat. A first contingent of 50 engineering soldiers (electricians, plumbers, carpenters) will depart in the coming days to prepare for the establishment of a base. By the end of April, an additional 350 soldiers will be sent, with the rest

of the contingent expected to arrive in June. This intervention is part of the Gang Suppression Force (GSF), a multinational mission authorized by the United Nations Security Council in late 2025. The GSF is to carry out direct offensive actions against armed groups that control almost all of Port-au-Prince. The duration of the mission is set for one year, while the exact presence of Chad will depend on the deployment schedule and operational needs. This contingent will gradually replace the 1,000 Kenyan soldiers deployed in 2024. During their presence, the gangs have not yielded any ground. The uniforms change, but the uncertainty about the country’s fate persists.

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Anchor Powdered Milk 2.5 kilos **\$22.22**

Kellogg's Club Cereals Pack 1.22 to 1.56 kg On selected items **\$9.99**

Cereal Bars Carrefour 125 gr On selected items **\$1.99**

Starkist Tuna in Water or in Oil 142 gr **\$4.99 les 4 !**

Robin Hood All-Purpose Flour Original 2.5 kg **\$5.55**

Santo Domingo Coffee 250 gr **\$4.44**

Prego Pasta Sauces 680 gr on selected items **\$3.33**

5x Chicken Vienna Sausage Libby's 142 gr **\$4.44 les 5 !**

Robin Hood All-Purpose Flour 2.5 kilos **\$5.55**

Heinz Ketchup 397 gr **\$2.22**

Hellmann's Mayonnaise 850 gr **\$5.55**

Wesson Vegetable or Canola Oil 4.73 liters **\$13.99**

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3x Barilla Pasta 500 gr On selected items **\$5.55**

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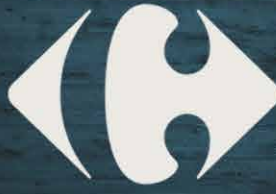
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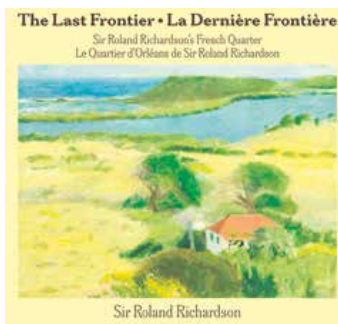
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The Last Frontier: the Orleans Quarter of Sir Roland Richardson

The latest book by Roland Richardson, «The Last Frontier: Sir Roland Richardson's Quarter of Orleans», features 26 paintings and engravings by the artist and some of his memories from the time he lived in this neighborhood. The text, drawn from interviews with Roland Richardson himself, reveals a Quarter of Orleans where traditions still survived on an island in full evolution. The author also shares an insight into his artistic approach. Published by the association Les Fruits de Mer with the support of the Funds for the Development of Associative Life (FDVA), the book will be distributed for free this Saturday, March 28, from 9 AM to 12 PM, at the Amuseum Naturalis (The Old House on the road to Quarter of Orleans).



A Raffle to Save the Puppies

Le Collectif Animaux SXM is organizing a raffle this Saturday, March 28, to raise funds to continue its actions in favor of abandoned or stray dogs: finding a foster family until adoption, providing necessary care, vaccinating, sterilizing, and organizing the departure of some to the Hexagon. You can contribute by purchasing a raffle ticket for €5. The raffle drawing will take place at 4 PM at the restaurant Aux Mets Tissés in Hope Estate, with prizes including a night in a hotel, beauty treatments, a horseback ride, a diving baptism, and many other prizes. On-site, participants can enjoy food or capture the moment at the Photo Booth. Information: 06 90 24 14 98.



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Coastal walking : Saint-Martin Represented at the French Championship

The Friendly Longe-Côte club will participate in the French Longe-Côte Championship in La Baule on June 6 and 7. A nice surprise, following the regional qualifiers in February, where the club ranked 2nd tied with the clubs from the French Antilles.



Created in September 2025, the club participated in its first competition, the Martinique Open in February during the regional qualifiers, and won 14 medals. All the competitors involved have been selected for the French championship, and thus six athletes will represent Saint-Martin in the Hexagon.

AN EXCEPTIONAL ADVENTURE... AND A LOGISTICAL CHALLENGE

The team will take off on June 1 from Saint-Martin, arriving in La Baule on June 2, four days before the start of the events. This time is necessary to manage the time difference, acclimate to the cold water, and adjust the technique according to local sea conditions. The main long-distance events will take place on Saturday, June 6, with the participation of all team members. Sunday, June 7, will be dedicated to the Trail Longe-Côte. While this qualification is a source of pride, it also represents

a real challenge for an overseas club, particularly financially. To raise the necessary funds for travel and preparation, Friendly Longe-Côte is multiplying initiatives with the sale of club-branded items through the « Boutik », organizing tailored team-building sessions for businesses, and setting up an online fundraising campaign.

The club invites partners, businesses, and individuals to come together to support this extraordinary sports and human adventure. Information can be found on the Facebook page « Friendly Longe-Côte, club de Saint-Martin » or at friendlylc978@gmail.com

Cycling: Grand Prix Mad Designs

The Grand Prix Mad Designs, organized by the Marigot Sports Association, will take place this Sunday, March 29, from 2 PM to 6 PM, on public roads (Holland Street, Galisbay area, Hubert Petit Blvd, Liberty Street). Temporary traffic restrictions will be implemented on the affected routes. Officers from the Territorial Police and traffic controllers will be present to ensure the safety of participants and the public. It is recommended that motorists anticipate their travel, respect the temporary signage, and follow the detours in place. This event, organized in collaboration with the company Maddesigns, will bring together many racers and cycling enthusiasts for a friendly and dynamic competition.

Football : a festival for U13

The Saint Martin Football League is organizing the «U13 Pitch Football Festival» this Saturday, March 28, starting at 8 AM at the Thelbert Carti Stadium in Quartier d'Orléans. The program includes football, of course, but in a fun way with challenges, quizzes, and fair play!



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La tournée de Mimi

FOR YOUR GOOD ANIMATED EVENINGS...

AU LAGOONIES (Cole Bay)

The Bistro-Restaurant, which is open from Monday to Saturday for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, awaits you for its musical events: on Friday, March 27, for the 'Salsa Cubana Party' with Havana Deep Power starting at 9 PM, then on Tuesday, March 31, starting at 6 PM with Lee & Rodrigo in 'Alternative Rock-Blues', and on Thursday, April 2, with Amin & Sol 'Groov n' Vibes'.

AU SOGGY DOLLAR (Simpson Bay)



The Bar-Club invites you to its evenings starting at 7 PM, Friday 'Fridazz' with DJ Bossman & EM, Saturday the 'Signature' night with DJ EM, Sunday 'Sunday Session' with DJ Xavoo, Brg, C4, Pye, Sexer, Brukshtot, Strosey, Redpunchdrip, Devon, Clutch, Yam

Man, then Tuesday 'Latin Night' with Latin Sugar Band & DJ Euro, Wednesday 'Ladies Night' with DJ EM, and Thursday 'Throw-back' with DJ EM.

AU NOWHERE SPECIAL (Simpson Bay)



The Rum Bar & Restaurant invites you to its events on Friday, March 27th 'Reggae' night with Rémo & Barbwire Band, Saturday 'Special Saturday' with Royalty & Krg Band & DJs, Sunday 'Sunday Madness' with DJs MJ + MV & XHD as well as Kembe, Sexer, Thonny, Keyzz, Wikker, and Joseph (drums).

MARY'S BOON (Simpson Bay).

The Beach Restaurant offers Lunch & Dinner 7 days a week, with 'Specials Every Day', then on Saturday, March 28, the 'Sexy



Wellington Road, 33-35 Cole bay
(Between Electric & Island Waterworld)



LAGOONIES
Bistro-Bar



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Saturday' starting at 12 PM with DJ Sigma & singer Christine Gordon, and on Sunday, March 29, its 'Beach Party' with DJ Gringo from 1 PM to 6 PM.

RANCHO DEL SOL (Route BO)

The Bar-Restaurant awaits you every Thursday starting at 6 PM for its 'Live Music' night with guest musicians.

LE LIVING ROOM (Porto Cupecoy)



This Bar-Restaurant on the Porto de Cupecoy square is open from Monday to Saturday from 5 PM to 1 AM, offering you delicious Provençal & Catalan cuisine with its excellent chef Stéphane, renowned on the island, as well as numerous events on Thursdays for

'Ladies Night', and on weekends with different DJs. Mark your calendars for April 3/4/5 for the special 'Alice in Wonderland' nights with DJs Lucas & Owlsh.

A SXM TAVERN (Simpson Bay)



This Sports Bar is open every day with its snack menu specials, billiards table, and darts, and it also broadcasts all sports on 4 screens, including Football on Sunday, March 29 at 4 PM Colombia/France (friendly), followed by the Championships and the quarter-finals of the Champions League on April 7/8.

AU HUPPEL THE PUB (Simpson Bay)

The Sports & Music Bar reminds you every

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BEACH MUSIC DRINKS FOOD FUN
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Ladies NIGHT
EVERY WEDNESDAY
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SUN. MARCH 29
NO SLEEP
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La tournée de Mimi

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Friday 'Karaoke' with Greg, Mondays 'Rock-Soul' with the Melting Pot band & its guests, and every day on 3 screens your sports appointments with Football qualifying for the World Cup and the National Championships. Also note on Saturday, April 4th the '3rd Birthday of the Pub' with the return of the Shane Prather Band starting at 7 PM.

AU LOTUS CLUB (Simpson Bay)



The Night Club invites you on Friday, March 27, to its 'About Last Night' party featuring DJs Kembe, Wicked, & Perfect, on Saturday, March 28, 'Hip Hop Party' with DJs Wicked, Blaze & Prince, and every Wednesday its 'Ladies Night Party' with DJs Prince, Blaze & Perfect.

AU BAR-PMU JO (Concordia)

This must-visit spot for horse racing enthusiasts features live races every day on 2 screens, and is also the meeting place for Football with 4 screens showing Colombia/France on 3/29 at 4 PM and World Cup qualifiers.

AU JAVA (Grand Case)

The Bar-Restaurant offers its 'DJ Set' with Tom Valen every evening, with 'Latina Night' on Thursdays, Friday with Scud & Frédo from 6 PM to 9 PM, and on Saturday, March 28, a special with Al Sax starting at 10 PM & Tom Valen.

A LA MAIN À LA PATE (Marigot)

The Bar-Restaurant on the Royal Marina awaits you every Wednesday for its 'Live Jazz' event with guitarist Alban from 7 PM to 9 PM.

AU GRAND ST MARTIN (Marigot)

The Bar-Restaurant welcomes you every day for Lunch, with its many special dishes in addition to the menu, and reminds you of your Football appointments on the big screen with a friendly match Colombia/France on 3/29 at 4 PM, followed by the quarter-finals of the Champion's League on April 7 and 8.

AU RAINBOW CAFE (Grand Case)



The Beach-Bar-Restaurant offers its lively

musical entertainment from 4 PM to 10 PM with DJs Peter Sweet & Soleben and international guests on Saturday, March 28, featuring Nomis, B2B, Vito & Alex Twin as guests + dancers and shows, and on Sunday, March 29, Dennis Ferrer for a highly anticipated House set.

AU CAPTAIN FRENCHY (Grand Case)

The Beach Restaurant invites you to its special 'Beach Party' on Sunday, March 29th from 6 PM to Midnight featuring a 'Live Show' by Pompis and DJs Big Boss, Classy D, Eyedol, Wiwi, Speyenol & Prince.

A L'ASTROLABE (Baie d'Orient)

The restaurant located at the Esmeralda Resort reminds you of its musical evenings on Mondays with 'Jazz Night' for Surf & Turf, and Fridays 'Lobster Party' with Laurence for Live Music.

A LA LOTERIE FARM (Pic Paradis)



Le Bar-Restaurant situé à la Réserve Naturelle vous invite le samedi 28 mars à sa

grande 'Pool Party' de 12h à 20h avec les Dj's Classy D, Blaze, Mathadorr & Leeyo (drums), tous les dimanches à son 'Sunday Funday' avec Dj EM de 13h à 17h et le samedi 11 avril 'Jungle Fest' de 15h à minuit avec nombreux Dj's invités.

AU JAZZ SPOT (Marigot)

This Beer-Bar located on the Royal Marina offers 'Jazz-Soul' with guests every Friday - Saturday starting at 9 PM, and on Sunday, March 29th, 'Open MIC' starting at 6:30 PM with Jessy, Joel, Frantz, Mayree Gold & Dj IKG.

AU RED PIANO (Pelican Key)



The Piano Bar awaits you every evening from 8 PM to midnight with the excellent singer-pianist Debbie Tjong, on Mondays for 'Church on Monday' with singers Roxsy or Royalty & KRG Band starting at 9 PM, then DJ Nachum from midnight to 2 AM.

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SUN. MARCH 29

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29

SHANE PRATHER BAND

SUNDAY MADNESS

LEWIS LIME SUNDAY

DJ MJ + MV | LATEST & XHD

+ SUPRISE SPECIAL GUEST

DJ KING KEMBE DJ SEXER DJ THONY DADDY KEYZZ JOSEPH THE DRUMMER

SPECIAL GUEST DJ WIKKED

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Per kilo



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PER KILO

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EXTRA
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