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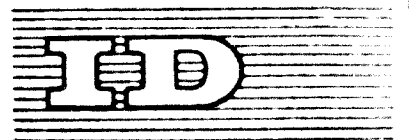
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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Interregional Petrochemical Symposium on the
Development of the Petrochemical Industries in
Developing Countries

PET.SYMP. INF/4

Baku, USSR, 20¹ - 31 October 1969

Message to Symposium
from

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Vienna
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We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I send this message to the Inter-regional Symposium on the Development of the Petrochemical Industries for which you are assembled in Baku. First of all, I wish to thank the authorities of the U.S.S.R. Government and the Azerbaijan S.S.R. for making all the necessary arrangements for conducting this Symposium. UNIDO is grateful to the U.S.S.R. State Committee on External Economic Relations, the State Committee of Science and Technology, the Ministry for Oil Processing and Petrochemicals Industries of the U.S.S.R. and of the Azerbaijan S.S.R.

I should particularly thank the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan S.S.R., Mr. Mikhanov, the Deputy Chairman Mr. Guseynov, and the Chairman of the Baku city Executive Committee Mr. Abdullaev. The burden of all the preparations for the Symposium fell on the organizing committee of which the Deputy Minister of Oil Processing and Petrochemical Industries of the U.S.S.R., Mr. Sorokin, is the Chairman. The efforts of the organizing committee is commendable and I thank them for their efforts.

Next I would like to welcome the participants from the developing and developed countries and thank them for the trouble and effort they have undergone to come to this Symposium. I regret very much that due to other commitments I cannot be present with you in Baku. But I extend to all of you my most hearty greetings and hope your deliberations will be most fruitful and you will have an enjoyable time on the shores of the Caspian Sea in this city of Baku.

When many of you met at Teheran in 1964 for the "First United Nations Interregional Conference on the Development of Petrochemical Industries in Developing Countries", UNIDO did not exist and the

gathering was sponsored by the United Nations Centre for Industrial Development in co-operation with the Bureau of Technical Assistance Operation of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the various economic commissions. In my message then I said that one of the outstanding problems was the need for making available to the developing countries the fruits of scientific and technical advance as a basic tool in the struggle for development. This has been recognized in the formation of UNIDO and today this Symposium is being sponsored by the new organization.

In fulfilling its mandate to promote industrial development and assist in accelerating the industrialization of the developing countries UNIDO undertakes two basic types of activity - operational activities and supporting activities. Supporting activities include action-oriented studies and research, expert group meetings, workshops, seminars and symposia and publications. Under operational activities in the petrochemical field UNIDO is currently making available to developing countries a range of services to existing enterprises as well as for planned future industrial projects. Typical examples are assistance in formulating regional and national petrochemical development policies, the establishment of petrochemical complexes, plastics production, fabrication and utilization, applied technical research, quality control, application and processing of petrochemical end products, utilization of raw materials and evaluation of specific proposals of potential licensors and contracting firms.

The Symposium is particularly timely in view of the decision of the General Assembly to consider the decade of the 1970's as the

Second Development Decade. It is important to make sure that UNIDO's work is planned to carry out this decision with maximum effectiveness. Much planning has already taken place but for many of the details the guidance resulting from the discussions at this Symposium is needed. You will discuss during your deliberations the existing position of the petrochemical industry in the developing countries and will come up with suggestions for the products to be made, the processes to be used, the capital requirements, etc., for developing the industry in the future. These projections will help in planning the needs and resources of the developing countries during the Second Development Decade years.

The need to improve the standard of living in the developing countries continues and we hope that this Symposium will play a significant part in adding to the store of knowledge available in those countries to enable them to take action in the industrial field of petrochemicals, plastics, synthetic rubbers and fibres. As at Teheran we have made sure that technical information has been supplemented by economic information. The proper assessment of the viability of projects is very important and technical and economic factors should not be considered in isolation.

We in UNIDO want this Symposium to be far more than a series of lectures and discussions. We have at this Symposium a unique opportunity for representatives of advanced industries sitting down together with participants from developing countries to see how, by discussion and working together, the development of the petrochemical industry can be accelerated.

We want to hear from the representatives of the developing countries of the problems they encounter in the petrochemical industry so as to find out how UNIDO can best aid them. All sectional Chairmen in the Symposium have been requested to give every opportunity to representatives of developing countries to raise in discussion any requests for aid and advise and in addition in the last day time has been set aside for following on this subject. I wish to convey to you the readiness of UNIDO to assist the developing countries in their efforts for industrialization and I request you to identify areas in which this assistance can best be used.

May I once more express my thanks to the Governments of the U.S.S.R. and Azerbaijan S.S.R. for having acted as host to this Symposium and to all participants I extend my best wishes for the fullest success of their work.





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