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*for a sustainable future*

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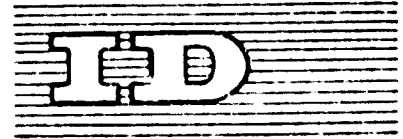
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International Interregional Symposium on the  
Development of the Petrochemical Industries in  
Developing Countries

PET.SYMP.INF/14

Moscow, USSR, 20<sup>1</sup> - 31 October 1969

NOTE ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM UNIDO <sup>1/</sup>

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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.

In his message to the Symposium, Dr. I.H. Abdel-hahman, Executive Director of UNIDO, stated that UNIDO undertakes two basic types of activity: operational activities and supporting activities. I shall try to explain as briefly as possible some of the operational activities.

We have distributed during the Symposium a limited number of booklets entitled "Functions and Activities of UNIDO". I hope you had a chance to study it. If not, may I request you to study this as early as possible as it gives you an overall picture of operational activities under programmes of technical assistance.

UNIDO derives funds from the United Nations regular programme of technical assistance for aid to industry in developing countries. Such assistance under the annual programme has to be requested well in advance - 15 months in advance of the programme year. The assistance can be in the form of services of experts or for training for a period of one year or less. An example of such assistance may consist of a request for services of an expert to advise on the improvement of productivity, quality control, etc. in the plastics industry; fellowships for training nationals abroad in specific fields can also be requested.

Technical Assistance component of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP/TA) provides experts for one year or more at the request of developing countries. Such requests can be made on a continuing basis as needs arise. For example, UNIDO has provided experts to strengthen the research staff of petrochemical research institutes in two countries under this programme. A plastics training course for 15 participants from developing countries is being organized under this programme in Vienna in 1970. The training programme is expected to last three months.

The Special Fund programme of UNDP provides assistance of large magnitude up to 1 million US-dollars for projects lasting one to three years. The components are experts, equipment and fellowships. At present, we have two Special Fund projects - small units - for production of pesticides, one for DDT and the other for pyrethroids. The UNDP contribution for each is around 1 million US dollars and the recipient country's contribution is equivalent to the same amount consisting of land, buildings, utilities, counterpart personnel, etc. In the pipeline we have a project for a polymerization unit for demonstration and training purposes.

A "fire-brigade" type of service is extended on urgent calls for assistance to existing industry or for projects in the planning stage. This is known as Special Industrial Services. Examples of these are expert assistance for a country in Africa for determining the location of a nitrogen complex, the product mix and establishing outlines for international tenders. A country in the Middle East requested for assistance in co-ordinating the construction and erection of a fertilizer complex being built by three different contractors. The same country has requested expert assistance to plan their petrochemical production. Assistance under these services has been given to a country in Latin America for the use of plastics in agriculture. In another country in the same region, a plastic institute is being reinforced by the services of an expert. Yet another example is the request for a petrochemical survey to be undertaken by a team of three experts in a Latin American country.

There are also possibilities of assistance under Funds-in-Trust projects where the entire cost is borne by the country requesting assistance and also assistance by using voluntary contribution which of course are not convertible to hard currencies.

Some of the problems preventing intensification of assistance programmes are as follows:

- a) delay in recruiting and providing experts in time;
- b) difficulties in finding suitable experts;
- c) delays in getting nomination of experts accepted by requesting Governments;
- d) difficulties in finding suitable nationals for training;
- e) unwillingness or lack of appreciation of making requests for certain projects not originated by a country concerned.

On the last item of this list I would like to quote certain examples. The General Assembly had passed a resolution requesting the UN agencies to introduce computer techniques in developing countries where appropriate. The one developing country where at present exists one million tons of nitrogen capacity and many petrochemical plants, a suggestion was made for the use of a computer for design purposes. The computer and expert services as well as training of nationals could have been provided from UNDP funds. This suggestion did not receive support. Similarly, schemes to put up demonstration units for direct applica-

tion of liquid fertilizers, ammoniation and granulation of superphosphates, survey of reasons for underutilization of existing capacities have all been made but requests for assistance in these fields have not developed.

It is in these areas and others that the participants from developing countries, taking part in this Symposium, can influence their Governments to use the assistance which can be extended from UNFIC. If you originate requests of the above nature or others of immediate interest, and see that they are submitted quickly through Government channels, I am sure that fuller utilization of the funds available under the various categories of UNFIC assistance can be envisaged. Nominations for training in various branches of petrochemicals should also receive your attention.

Thank you for your attention.





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