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Athens, 29 November - 20 December 1967
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

POSITION OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT ON
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS

Submitted by the Government of Switzerland

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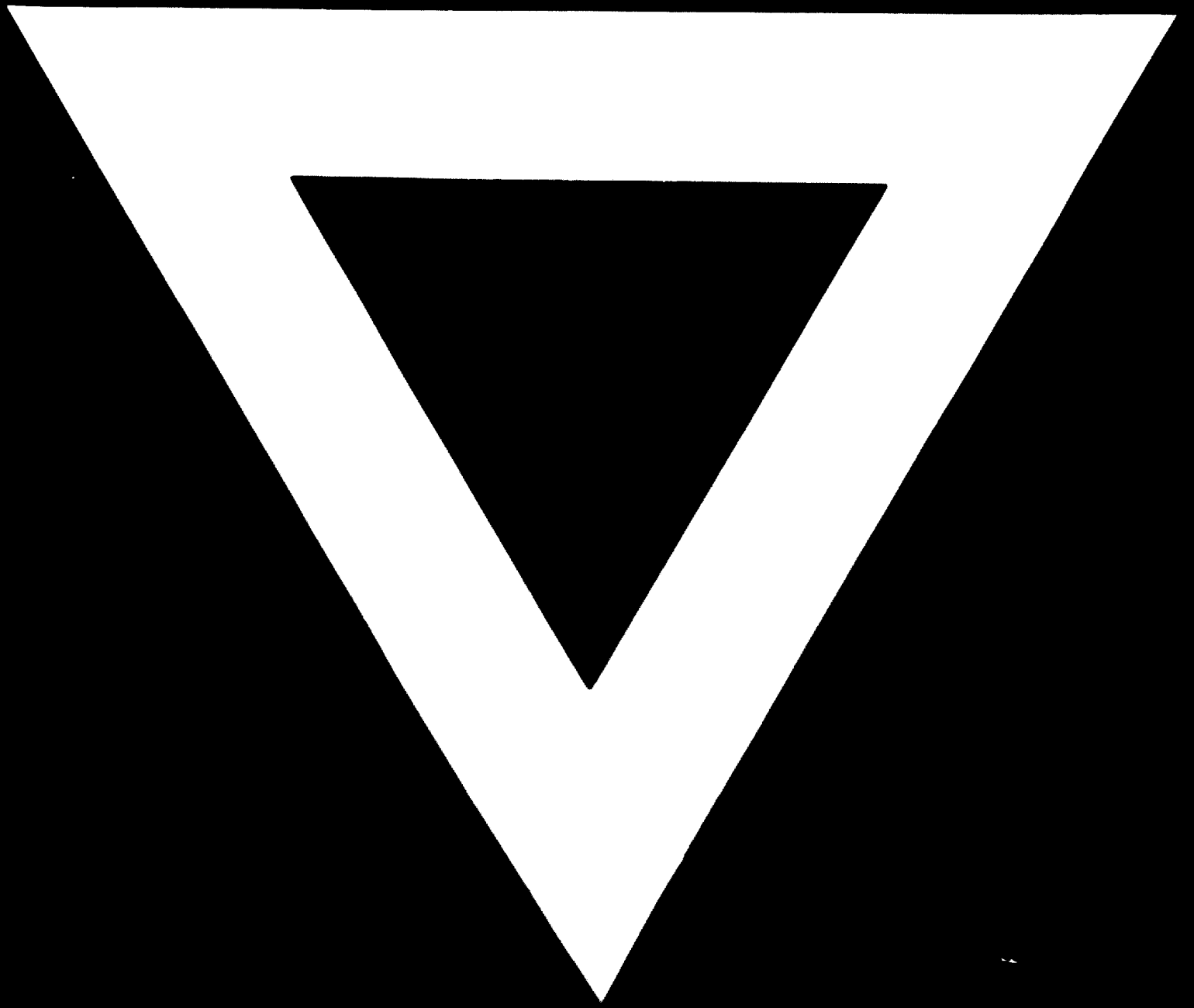
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We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

1. Assistance for development has become a question of continuing concern to Switzerland, where every possible effort is being made, both privately and by the public authorities to help solve the problems which face both the young nations and those older ones which have not yet achieved an adequate level of development. There can be no doubt that industrialization, if properly carried out, will play an important part. The work assigned to UNIDO by the United Nations General Assembly at its twenty-first session, and the International Symposium on Industrial Development to be held towards the end of 1967, should both promote this aim.
2. In the light of past experience both in Switzerland and abroad, the Swiss authorities are of the opinion that industrialization projects to be implemented need to be selected with the utmost care on the basis of strict criteria.
3. In this connexion, the Swiss Government fully shares the view expressed at the last session of the Economic Commission for Africa by the Minister of Development of an African State that efforts should be pooled with a view to promoting wherever possible the establishment of industries directly serving the expansion of agricultural output (chemical fertilizers, agricultural equipment, etc.) and its rational utilization (storage, preservation, processing, etc.). Indeed, in view of the increasing acuteness of the problem of nutrition, it would seem essential to pay particular attention to the search for ways and means of increasing the production of foodstuffs and the quantities of foodstuffs preserved.
4. However, this requirement does not preclude giving close attention to other sectors of production, which in the view of the Swiss authorities should be considered as a means of rationally using local resources if the market is big enough to ensure a satisfactory initial level of profitability. The creation of regional markets seems worthy of consideration as a means of solving this problem.
5. While the Swiss authorities have outlined some features of their conception of industrial development, it is not their intention to enter here into a general survey of the question, which they trust will be dealt with in depth by both UNIDO and the International Symposium.





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