



TOGETHER
for a sustainable future

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The logo for the International Development Organization (IDO), consisting of the letters 'ID' in a stylized, bold font.

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MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL
SYMPOSIUM ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The convening of an International Symposium on Industrial Development by decision of the United Nations General Assembly is both an expression and a symbol of the growing concern of the international community with the problem of development.

In expressing our gratitude to the host country, let us remember that it was here in Greece that the Hellenic genius for systematic enquiry came into its full flower. This venue should therefore provide us with an inspiring framework for dealing with some of the most difficult and complex problems that a majority of nations are facing at this juncture of their development.

While we concentrate our efforts on the problems of today we must remain within full awareness of their historical perspective. Modern technology could probably be traced back, over a gulf of many centuries, to the first sparks of scientific thought kindled in ancient Greece. Its far reaching impact through industrial application over the last century or two is only now becoming fully apparent. We have also come to realize that the many blessings that technology bestowed on those who have been able to make early use of it, have also resulted in a new international barrier which increasingly separates "North" from "South"; developed from developing countries. In a world where the need for bridging all areas of conflict has become a basic imperative of survival, this divisive schism between poor and rich nations cannot be allowed to continue, much less to widen.

An international meeting on industrial development was perhaps long overdue in the light of the hopes which the developing countries have focused on the development of modern and efficient industries as a means of raising

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the standards of living of their populations and providing new and stable sources of productive employment. Whether we consider the historical perspective of the last two hundred or the last twenty years, it is becoming increasingly apparent that the basic social and political problems of the developing countries are not likely to become amenable to effective solutions in a stable environment without the establishment of an autonomous productive capacity based on modern technology. The prodigious possibilities of modern technology must be harnessed through the building of plants and industrial complexes for a large variety of products and to ensure the fullest utilization of the natural resources of the developing countries as well as of their manpower. This may be the most important task in the field of development over the next decade or two.

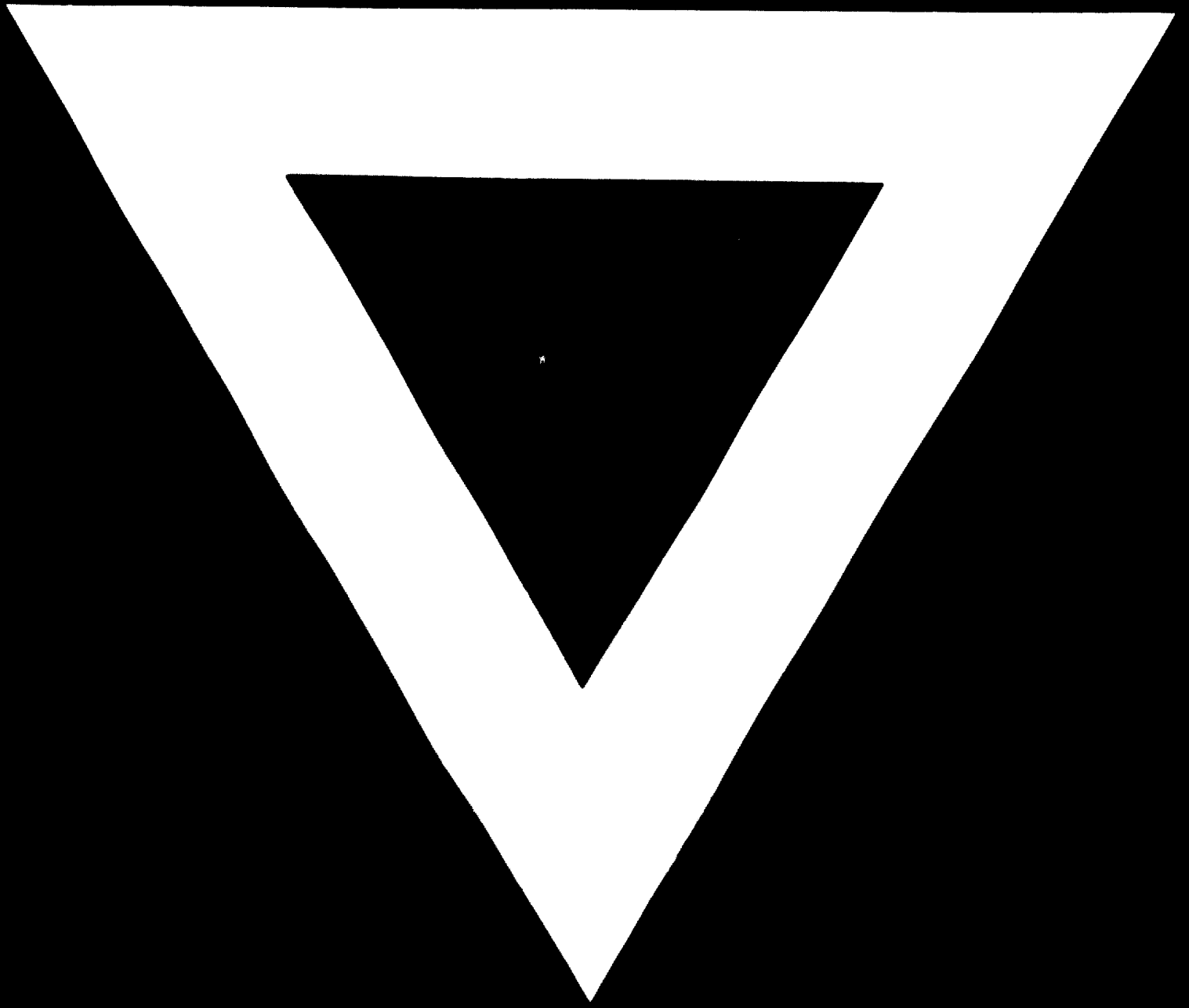
While a large part of the effort will have to come from the less developed countries themselves, international cooperation will remain an important element in any all-out effort to produce meaningful results over a relatively short period of time. It will call for a true partnership between the manpower, market potential and physical resources of the developing countries, and the capital and technological knowhow of the industrially advanced countries. The increasing internationalization of economic operations in our contemporary world is bound to require closer international cooperation in these areas not only for the development of the industrializing countries but also for a more balanced and fuller development of the world economy as a whole. This may be particularly important in the area of new technology. There is now considerable concern, even among the industrialized nations, about the concentration or polarization of technology which followed the vast expansion of innovations and industrial production during recent years. The development of international cooperation in promoting the technological advancement of the less developed countries may facilitate all round accessibility to new technology and its application to industrial production.

The significance of the Symposium can only be assessed in the context of the increasing internationalization of these problems. In providing an opportunity for discussing in depth the many complex problems which must be dealt with in the process of industrialization, the Symposium will contribute to a better understanding of the underlying problems and to the creation of conditions for cooperative approaches to their solution.

Because of the great importance that I attach to this meeting, I deeply regret that the current pressures of office prevent me from joining you personally in your deliberations. I wish however, to express on this occasion my conviction that industrialization has a crucial role to play in the efforts of the developing countries to bridge the gap that has been keeping more than two-thirds of humanity in chronic poverty. It is my sincere hope that the results of this Symposium will give a new impetus to the efforts of the industrializing countries and further contribute to the effectiveness and scope of the activities of the United Nations Organization for Industrial Development.

I wish to express to you my best wishes for the success of your endeavours.





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