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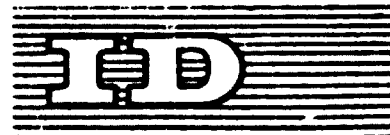
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United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Expert Working Group Meeting
on Modernization and
Mechanization of the Salt Industries,
based on Sea Water in the Developing Countries

Rome, Italy - 25-29 September 1968

Opening Statement

by Mr. N.K. Grigoriev, Director
Division of Industrial Technology
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Gentlemen:

It is indeed a pleasure to welcome you in the name of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to this Expert Working Group Meeting on the Salt Industries, here in Rome, one of the world's most beautiful cities. As the title "Working Group" implies, we are to attack a special problem, and we hope that it can be done within the time we have allocated to it. I have gone over the agenda which is a rather ambitious undertaking, but my associates and I are sure that the results will justify your efforts here.

To some of you, working with UNIDO is a new experience, and we sincerely hope it will be a fruitful one. UNIDO's scope in the United Nations spectrum is to act as a catalytic energy bank, providing assistance to developing countries in their efforts to achieve rapid and successful industrialization in keeping with their future economic planning.

As you will hear during these working sessions, sophisticated systems are not always the answer to rapid industrialization of basic industries in developing countries. Sometime, simple improvements such as mechanization of some steps in the salt production process will enhance the ability of a developing country to produce more, or improve their product, or allow cost reductions to permit them to compete more effectively in domestic and foreign markets. You will hear about the experiences of developing countries where the harvesting of salt is a labour-intensive industry, and those from developed countries where salt production and chemicals from salt is a machine-intensive industry. Somewhere between the limits of these degrees

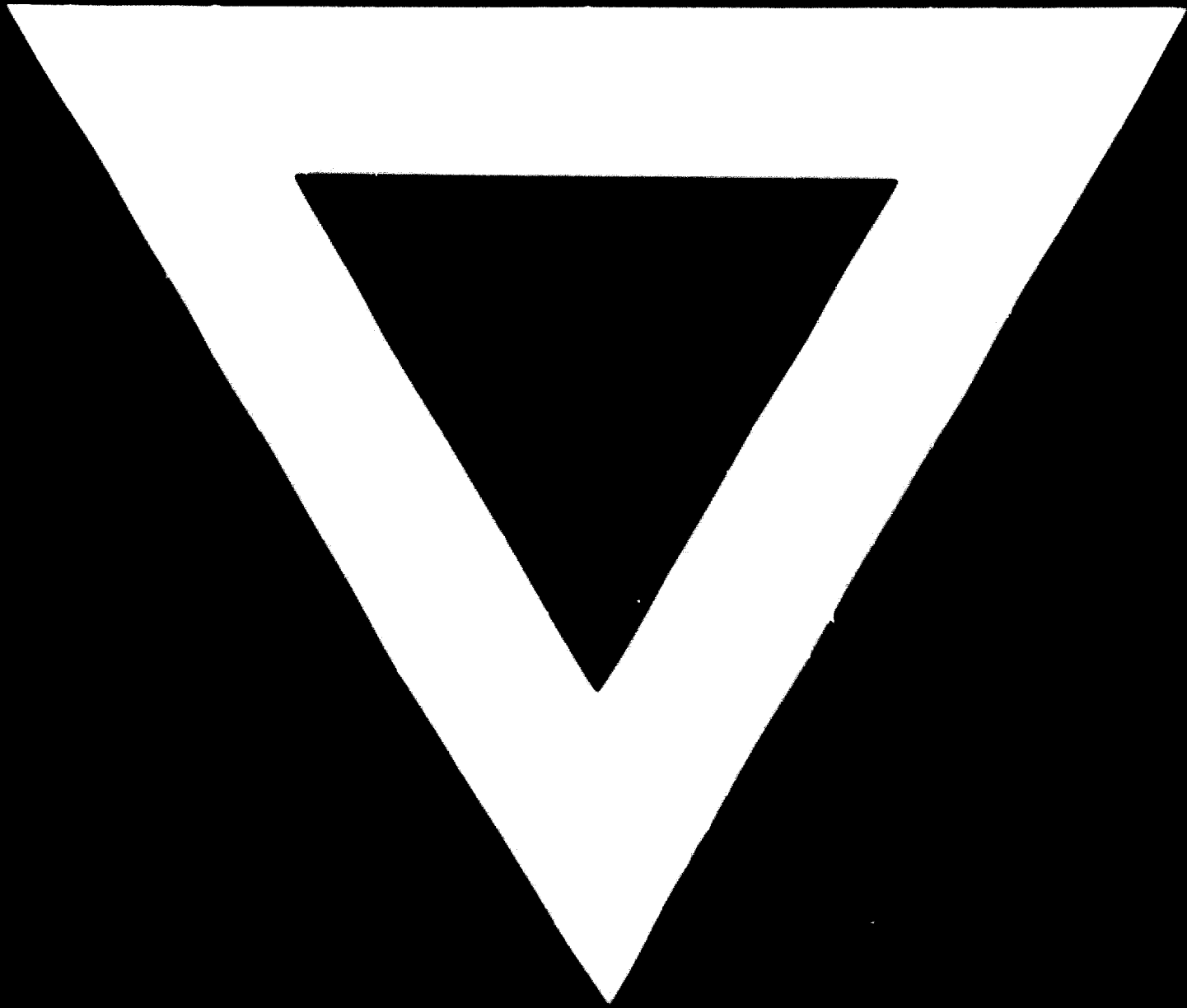
We regret that some of the pages in the microfiche copy of this report may not be up to the proper legibility standards, even though the best possible copy was used for preparing the master fiche.

of sophistication of technology, adaptations to selected developing countries can be rationalized for the modernization and mechanization of their salt industries. A highlight of this meeting will be a visit to the salt plant "La Sabina de Margherita di Savoia" at Barletta, Italy. Here we will view modernized techniques in salt production.

The papers you will present, the discussions you will have, and the action you will recommend for implementation by developing countries will all be included in a conference report which will have wide distribution. Your contributions will be looked upon as guidelines and I would wish to impress upon you the need for solidarity of purpose.

Salt is a common and necessary material in our life, and because of its utility in the food and chemical industries, developing countries having access to this natural resource from seawater can, with your expert guidance, extract from it greater economic and technological benefits for the future.





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