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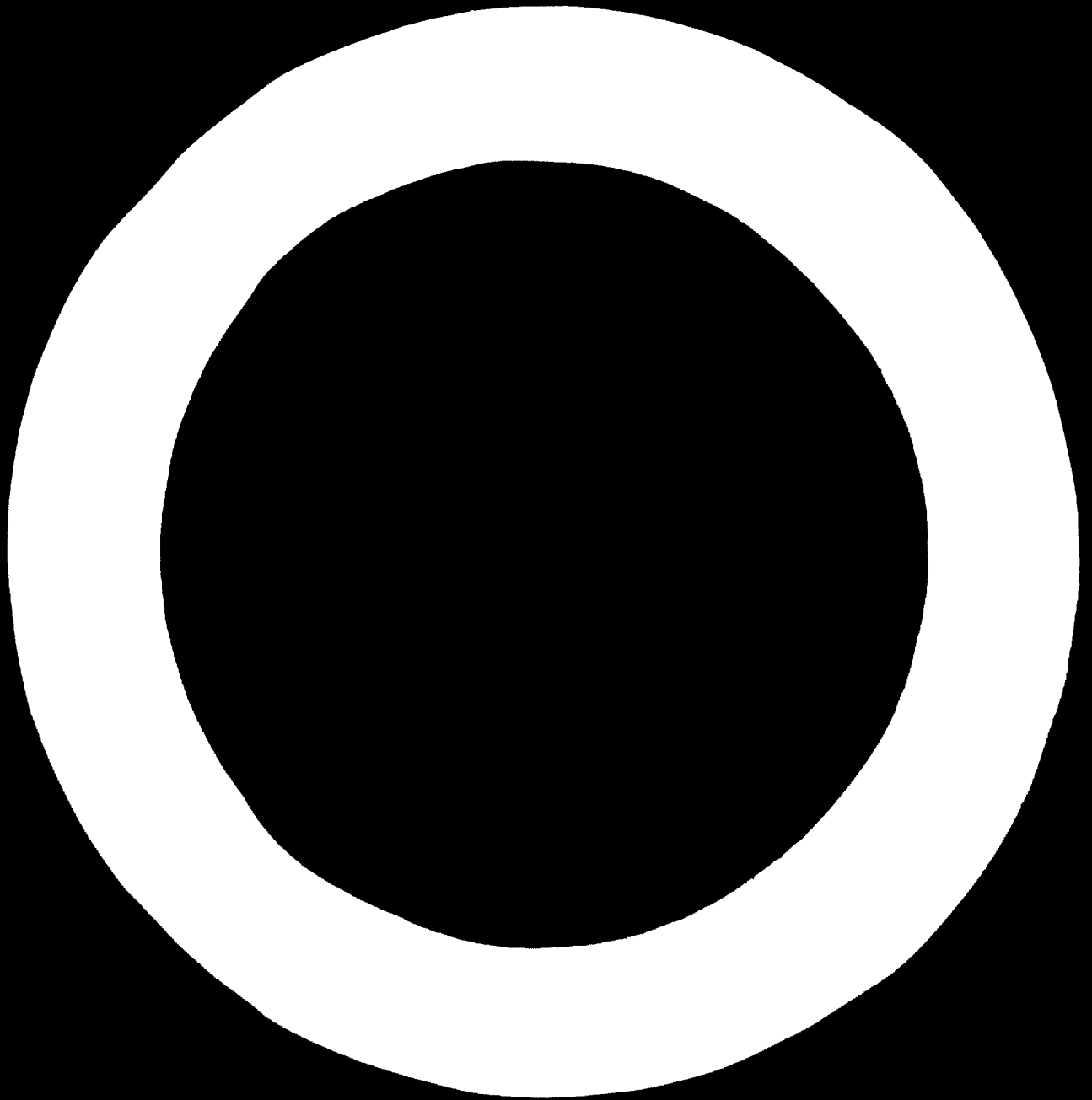
CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE RCD SECRETARIAT

TO THE SEMINAR ON SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRY ^{1/}

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CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE RCD SECRETARIAT
TO THE SEMINAR ON SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY

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The discussions in the Seminar have shown that each delegation agrees with the need of having further cooperation in the field of small scale industry. From the RCD Secretariat, we would like to point out the course for the implementation of this consensus of opinion which may be of help while formulating the recommendations of this Seminar.

Discussions have highlighted the need for each country to examine its own policy of its small scale industry so that the development of this sector in each of the individual RCD countries does not suffer. The point was made that apart from its obvious advantages small scale industry could also be used effectively for successfully easing unemployment/under-employment due to its peculiar use of labour intensive methods. A mention was also made of the need for having a list of items within each country for which small scale industry should be made exclusively responsible for. Such a list could comprise of few items initially and additions may take place in due course of time according to needs and requirements. Other incentive measures in regard to the development and protection of small scale industry in each country were also discussed. It was felt that after each of the member countries had examined their policies and decided upon a future course of action they could send information to the RCD Secretariat. The RCD Secretariat would circulate this information so that each member country would become aware of and know better about what is going on in the other two. The exchange of experiences vis-a-vis the operations and results achieved by national institutions dealing with small industries would be very useful and could also be attained in such a way.

A large measure of the success of cooperation or in fact making cooperation possible in this field would depend on the outcome of the discussions concerned with trade liberalisation measures in regard to which a decision is likely to be taken in the near future. Developing small scale industry on a regional basis would be possible if small scale industry caters for a regional market. Cooperation in this sector could by and large cover the same fields that cooperation in the heavy industry sector has already covered. The characteristics of problems and difficulties would tend to be similar. Cooperation in this sector would, therefore, not be completely a new feature and it would not be taking a leap in the dark. Many present proposals before the member governments would be useful for cooperation in this field, e.g., the trade negotiations, negotiations regarding the setting up of an RCD Development Bank for providing credit facilities and proposals regarding industrial collaboration in the region, etc.

RCD

Member Countries can in the next meeting of the Committee on Industry discuss this aspect. We are sure that there will be many common areas for development and inter-dependence that can be explored. The need for regional cooperation can be brought out in this RCD forum which would in effect be preparing ground for a decision in the matter to be taken at the RCD Regional Planning Council and Ministerial Council. The Committee on Industry can on the request of member governments also be entrusted with the task of examining possibilities for the promotion of small scale industry on a sub-contracting basis especially in relation to the joint purpose enterprises which have already been established and those which would be set up in future. As the Committee on Industry is the forum in which joint purpose enterprises and other industrial collaboration in RCD are discussed, it would be appropriate for this Committee to consider regional cooperation in small scale industry as well.

It needs to be mentioned here that the RCD Chamber of Commerce and Industry can be used by member governments for the development of small scale industry on a national as well as on a regional basis. This Seminar has pointed out that it is imperative for information regarding this sector to be fed to the RCD Chamber. The private sector in the region addresses itself to this organ of RCD for information as well as for providing data on marketing, etc. so that investment and other decisions can be taken. Once a decision has been taken to pursue development of small scale industry on a regional basis, the Chamber can always be requested to provide separate services, facilities to feed information, etc., specifically for this sector.

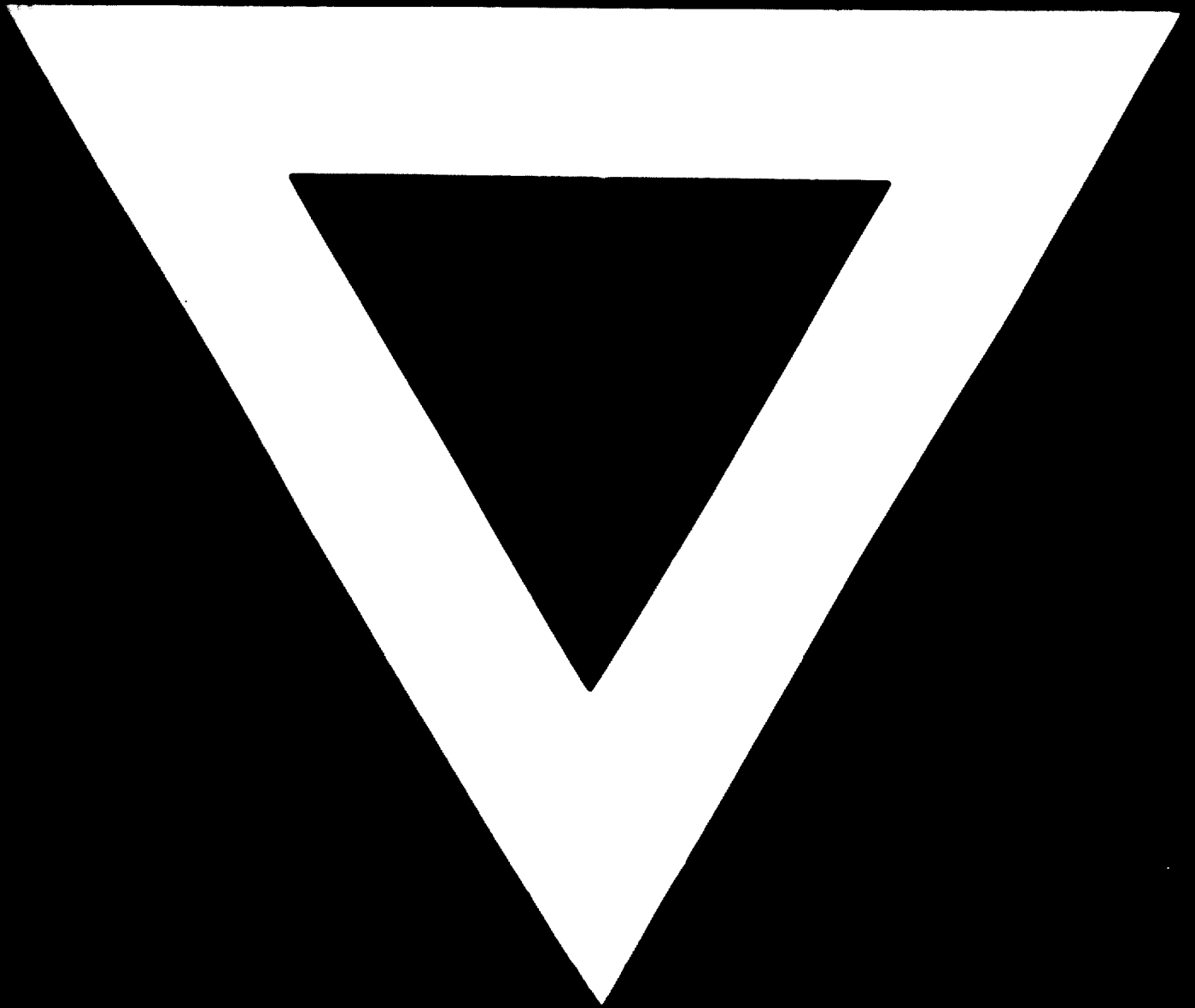
For any development in this sector, it is imperative that all those connected with this sector become aware of each other's presence and activities so that no time is lost on this account. This process can be started right-away with regular exchanges of information regarding policies pursued in each member country based on projections for the future giving broad outlines of future possibilities and requirements.

The indication given by participants that member countries would be willing to offer training facilities in this field in their respective countries to nationals of the other two countries can be actively pursued through the RCD framework. There is a rather extensive ^{RCD} programme of technical cooperation. A provision can be made for a specific number of training and research facilities in the field of small scale industry out of the total scholarships and fellowships offered under this programme.

Cooperation on a regional basis in the development of small scale industry can be effectively pursued if a meeting of the representatives of the three RCD member governments is held on this subject. Such a meeting would have to be organised through the RCD Committee on Industry. A point significantly raised in the course of the Seminar has been the need for a

broad-based survey of the potential for the development of small scale industry in each of the three countries highlighting areas for regional cooperation. UNIDO can provide assistance in conducting such a survey. The Secretariat could initiate action in this regard if member governments would agree for such a survey to be undertaken. Similarly in due course of time, if it is considered appropriate, member countries may request the assistance of UNIDO in setting up a Regional Centre for Small Scale Industry. What we plan in the Secretariat at present is to circulate the recommendations of this Seminar and to convey to member governments areas of agreement and emphasis and in fact the whole outcome of the Seminar. It would be desirable for participants of this Seminar who are associated with this sector to take up the matter within their respective governments. This would ensure that it is not dealt with in a routinised time-consuming way. When information is available with the Secretariat we can apprise the RCD forums concerned and move effectively forward in the matter.





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