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DD 3046



Distr.
LIMITED

ID/WG.77/CP.1
15 November 1971

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Seminar on Industrial Information
(for the ECAFE and ECA regions)

Tehran, Iran, 14 - 25 September 1970

COUNTRY PAPER ✓

ANNEXURE

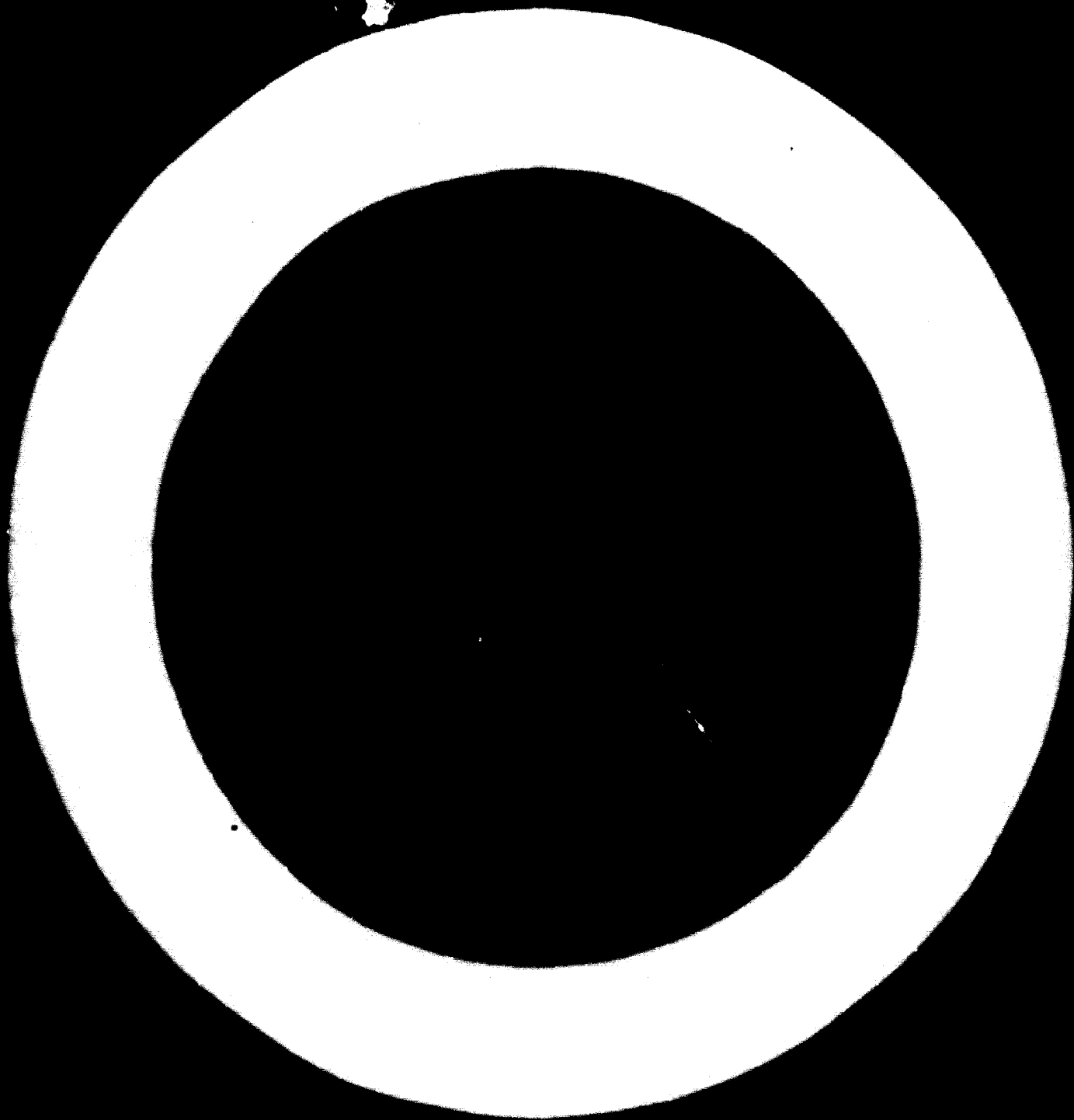
A. A. Samer
Chief of Labour Department
Ministry of Mines and Industries

Organized in co-operation with the Iranian Government

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Id.72-161

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Almost half of the surface area of Afghanistan comprises rocky mountains and hills, the remainder being divided between arable land and desert. Eighty per cent of the population of fifteen million is engaged in agriculture and cattle-breeding.


The country's still somewhat limited industry has both private and public sectors. Foreign investment is encouraged by the Government, in order to promote further industrialization. Existing industrial operations cover textiles, oilmilling, leather, sugar, cement, fruit packaging and preserving, fertilisers, bicycle assembly, thermal and hydroelectric power plants, metal-working and engineering. New factories are being erected and additional plants are projected. To a certain extent, local demand can be satisfied by these industries. Raw materials and the necessary agricultural products are for the most part locally produced. Afghanistan is also rich in mineral resources, including gold, lapis lazuli, iron, coal, natural gas and salt.

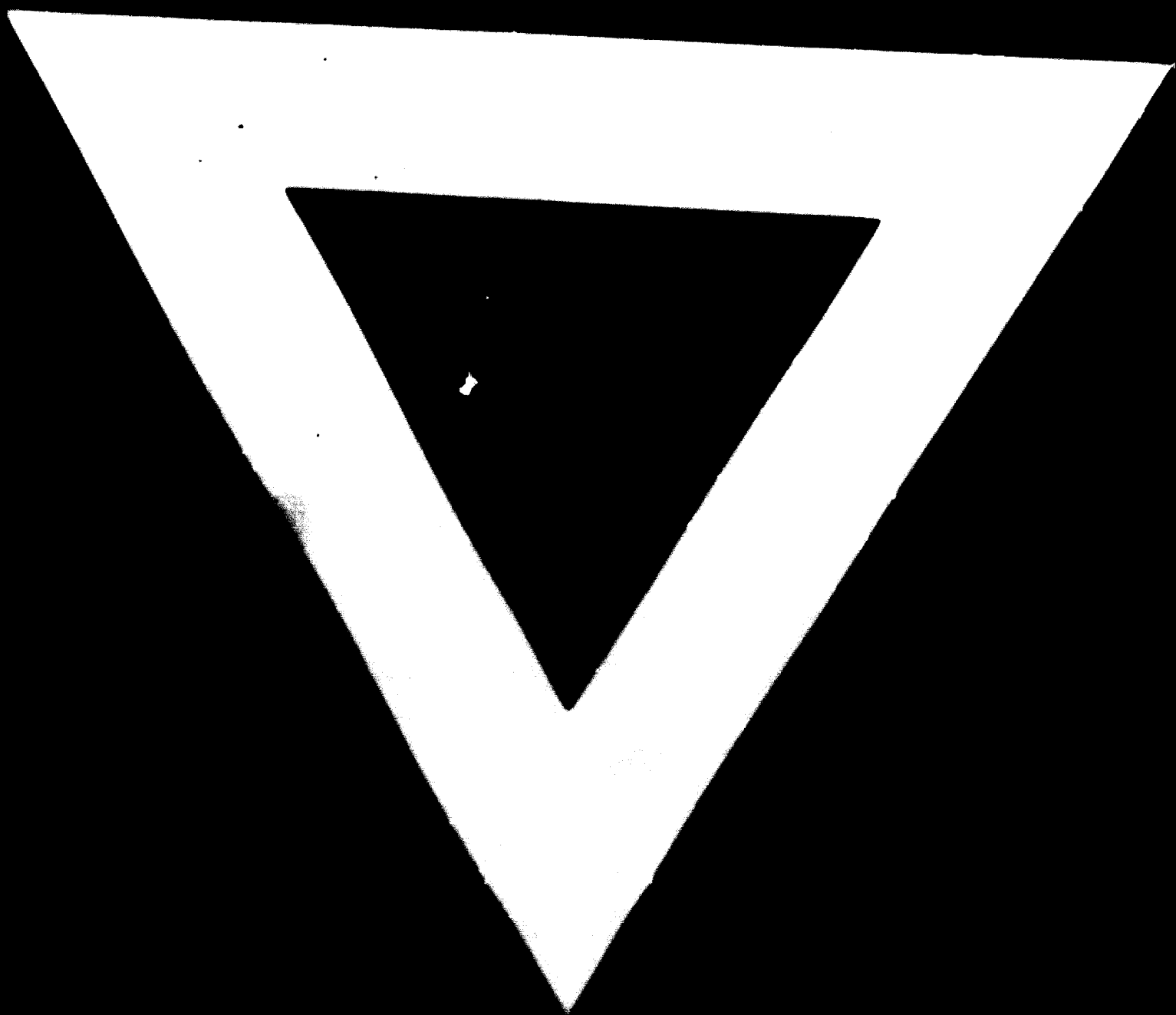
Although there is no organized information service, the organizations and bodies listed below have industrial information holdings.

1. Afghanistan Research Centre, Kabul University.
2. Afghan Institute of Technology.
3. School of Agriculture.
4. School of Commerce.
5. Institute of Education Library, Kabul University.
6. High School Library.

Conclusion

Industry in Afghanistan would benefit considerably from an organized industrial information service that would pool the information sources and data already available in the country and, more important, establish contacts with foreign and international information services. This would give the country access to information on modern procedures and technology which, when applied or adapted to the needs of local industries, would improve efficiency and production and thus favourably affect the economy.





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