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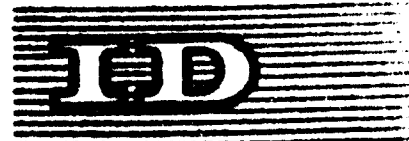
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COUNTRY PAPER 1/

NIGERIA

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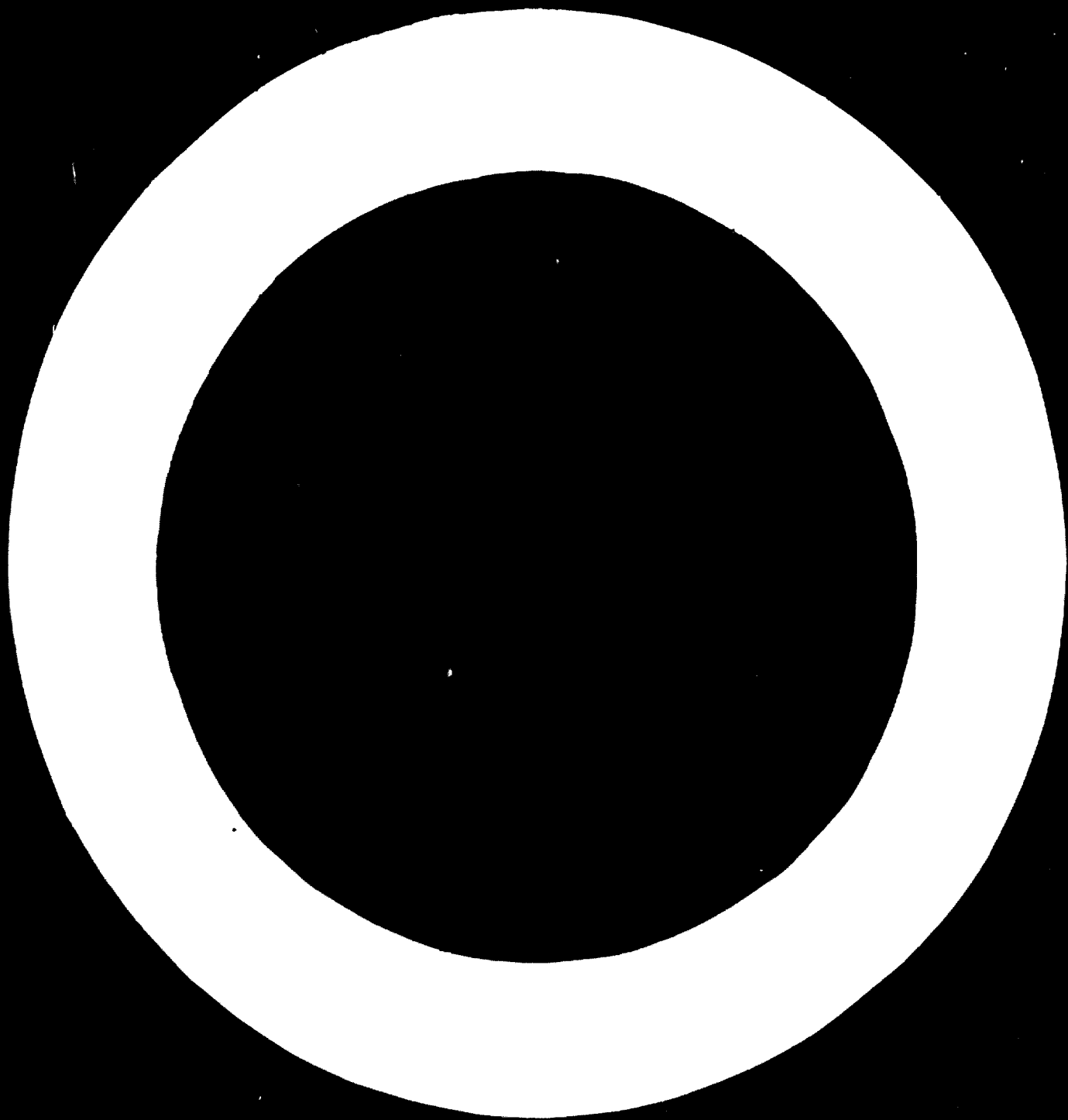
Organized in co-operation with the Iranian Government

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Id.72-180

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Country Paper: NIGERIA

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Nigeria, with approximately 55 million inhabitants, is the most populous country in Africa. Owing to its political structure as a federation of twelve states, matters relating to industry and industrial promotion and development are handled at both the state and the federal level.

The country has a very large number of mainly small and medium-scale industries which include textiles, footwear, sugar, cement, household goods, tires, sanitation, agricultural and food products, various types of mining, and an oil refinery. As these industries have to be supplemented to a considerable degree by imports, the Government is very much concerned with the expansion of local industry in order to increase domestic manufacture and to further import substitution. One of the measures undertaken in this respect is the encouragement of industrial research and of work on industrial information. There is, however, no single national organization responsible for the industrial research and information services of the country. The following bodies and organizations collect and supply industrial information.

Government Offices

Within the Government, industrial information is handled by the appropriate departments of the Ministries, such as the Ministries of Finance, Trade, Commerce and Industry, Economic Development, Mines and Power, etc. These Ministries maintain close contact with the relevant sectors of industry and are generally equipped with technical libraries containing supporting or background literature and documentation supplementing the information which can be obtained from the offices themselves. These libraries are invariably staffed by professionals, some of whom have spent training periods with similar services abroad.

### Research Institutes

Of the many research institutes and organizations in Nigeria, some are autonomous and some government-sponsored. These institutions provide both the Government and private sector with information derived from their research and are accessible for consultation and advice in their field of competence. These research bodies include:

1. The Industrial Engineering and Geology Committee for Co-ordination of Research between University and Government - which collects and analyses research information from all government research establishments and acts as a co-ordinating, evaluating and advisory body with a view to improving on the efficiency of research services.
2. The National Council of Science and Technology - which was recently established and is expected to play a co-ordinating role in the collection of information and data.
3. The West African Stored Products Research Unit - which operates a number of laboratories in various towns.
4. The Federal Institute of Industrial Research.
5. The Regional Laboratory for Industrial Research.
6. The Nigerian Industrial Development Bank.
7. The Research Division of the Central Bank of Nigeria.
8. The Nigerian Institute for Social and Economic Research.
9. The Nigerian Institute for Oil and Palm Research.
10. The Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria.
11. The Hides, Skins and Leather Institute - which has plans for two special centres located in Sokoto and Maiduguri.

### Industry

Nigerian industrial concerns, either directly or indirectly sponsored by the Government, have access to industrial information held by the various government

offices and they can also contribute to this store of information as they progress and gain experience.

Industries sponsored by foreign concerns benefit from the information accumulated by the parent companies. Their information services are generally well-run and efficient, usually having experienced staff that has in some cases received training in the operation of industrial information services in the offices of the sponsoring company. Such industries tend to retain the information they have secured and there is often a certain reluctance or even refusal to release data and information for general use. Few reports are widely circulated, and many publications, memoranda, feasibility studies, consultants' reports and working papers, in addition to research results, are kept exclusively for internal use.

### Libraries

1. The National Library - which was recently established will provide a certain amount of industrial information and it is possible that an entire section may be devoted to this subject.
2. University Libraries - which can also be consulted for many types of industrial information, as they have realized the importance of serving industry as well as providing for teaching and research. Relations between the universities and industry are good, although some improvement could still be achieved.

### Conclusion

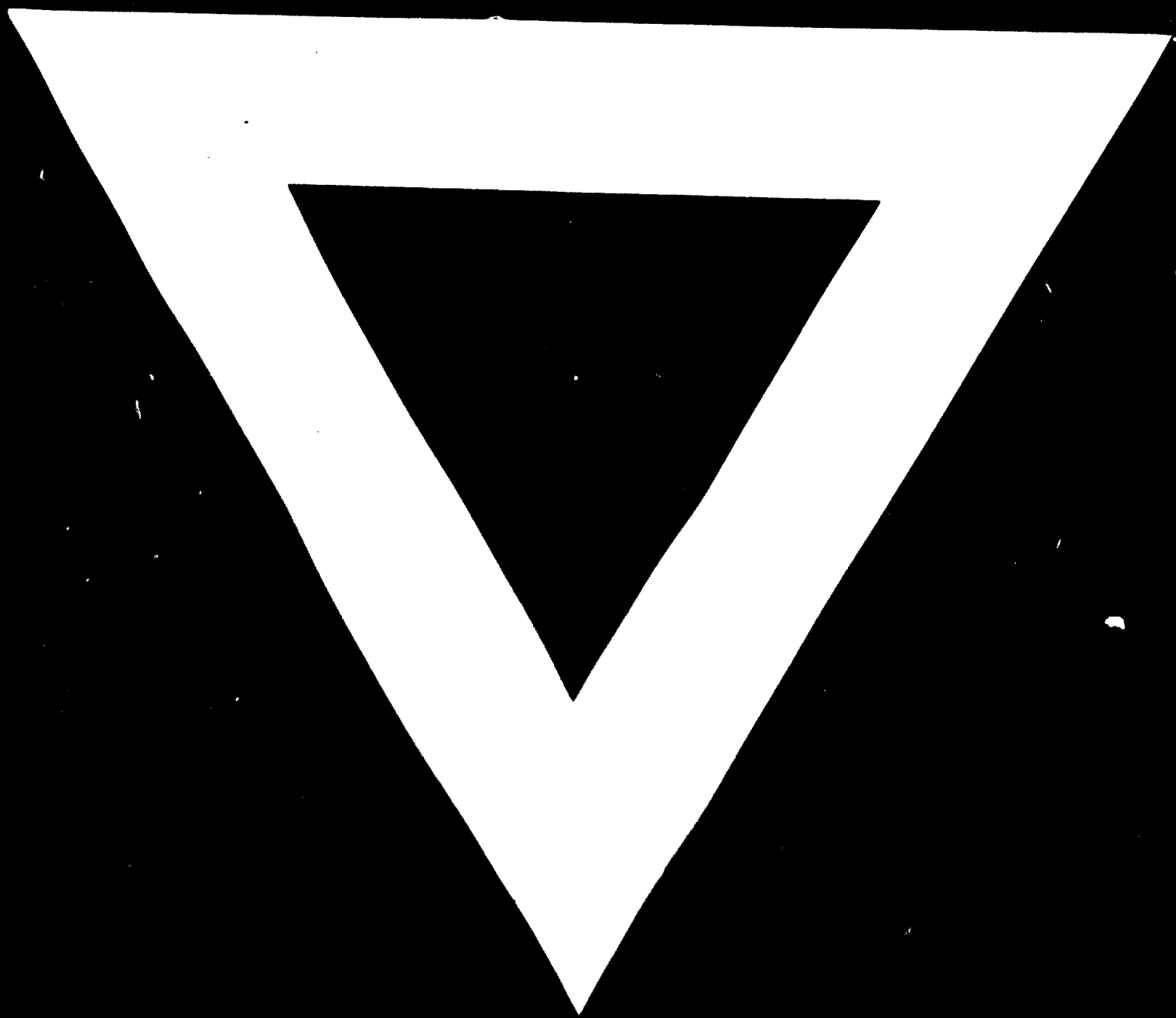
The means of obtaining industrial information in Nigeria are manifold. The individual may choose the direct approach to one of the relevant organisations mentioned above. He may consult government publications such as gazettes, white papers, notices, special announcements, etc., or foreign periodicals and newspapers. Further possibilities open to him include seminars,

conferences, workshops, open lectures and training courses, as well as university research, theses and dissertations. Information is also generated through the co-operation which has arisen among competitive bodies in banking, insurance, cigarette manufacture, and beverage manufacture.

The complexity of the problem facing the individual Nigerian concerned seeking information on a specific subject is amply illustrated by the diversity of the available sources within the country. Information requirements which cannot be satisfied from these sources present a further complication. The mere existence of these problems demonstrates the need for and justifies the establishment of a national or regional information centre, either independent of or attached to, an existing organisation, to pool the available national sources, to exploit international resources, and thereby to simplify the task of the Nigerian user of industrial information and ensure that he is supplied with the optimal information for his purposes and ultimately for the development and progress of the national economy.







**17. 5. 73**